

God's Open Secrets



Heaven & Hell

What is this?





Recap – Worship

Worship is Powerful.

It puts **God** in the right place, it centres us on **God**.

It brings us back to what it is all about; **God**, our source of strength, our refuge, our everything

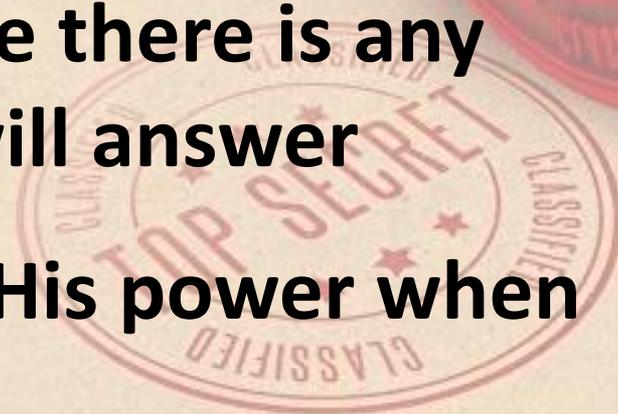
Real Power

True faith looks beyond our circumstances directly to our God

It steps forwards in Praise and Worship even before there is any evidence our God will answer

...and God releases His power when we do this

When we do this it brings great delight to our God



Are Heaven and Hell real?

- It's okay to talk about Heaven
- Just don't mention Hell
- And if you want to make people think you have really lost the plot just pretend you think Satan is real!
- The very strong response we see to something that is so 'absurd' tells us something about it's very truth.

We don't believe in all that spiritual stuff...

- ...but Horoscopes are still incredibly popular
- Superstitions widely revered
- Lucky charms used
- Supernatural pervades entertainment and cult followings
- Even wishing someone 'good luck' is second nature.

<https://youtu.be/r5LtFnmPruU>



Davos 2019: Historian Rutger Bregman.

The annual World Economic Forum brings together global leaders, corporate titans, academics and thinkers.

Is Evil real?

Is Pain real?

Is Suffering real?

Why do they exist?



John 1

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome or understood it...

... ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who trusted in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Light and Dark

- God did not create Evil
- God made a Creation where Evil could emerge and exist from a free will - Light and dark
- God remains somewhat hidden so that we have true free will
- It is our freedom to choose to accept or reject God



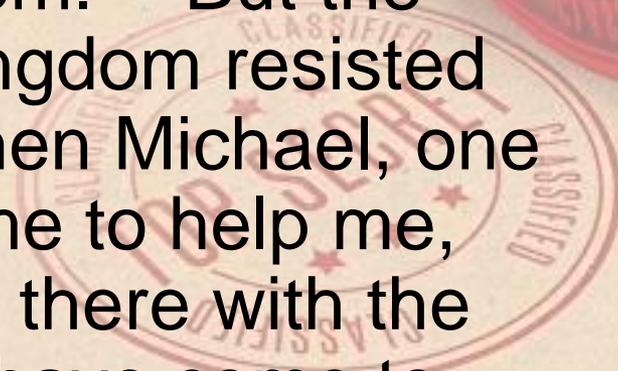
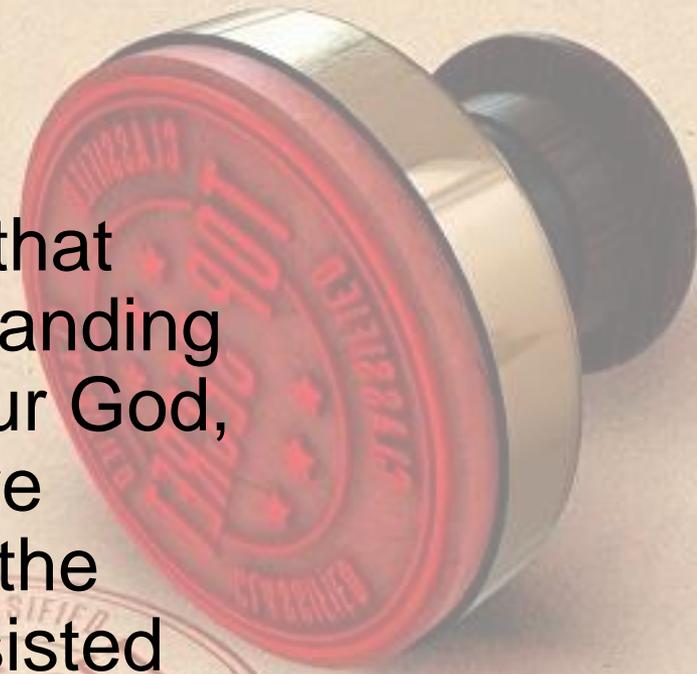
Ephesians 6

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

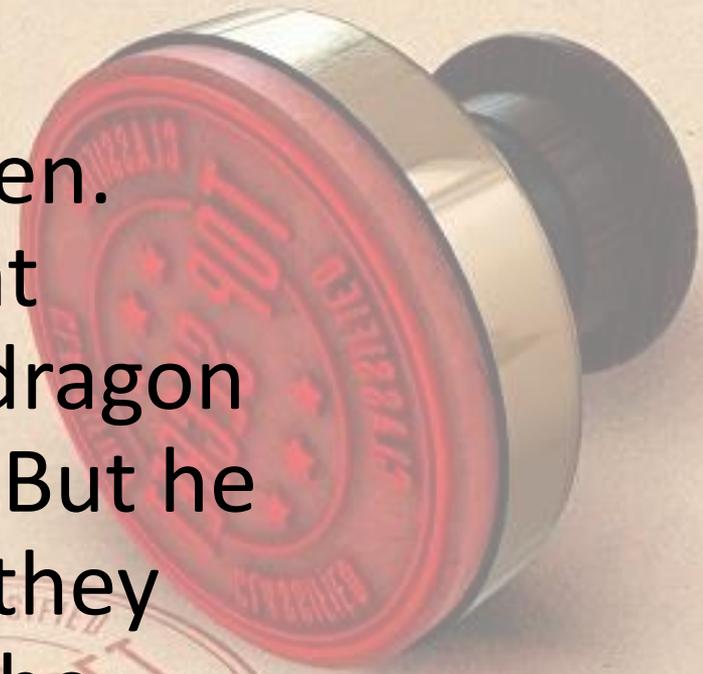
Daniel 10

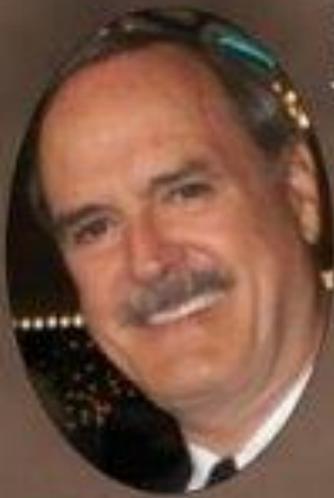
¹² Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”



Revelation 12

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who **leads the whole world astray**. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.





Read by
John Cleese



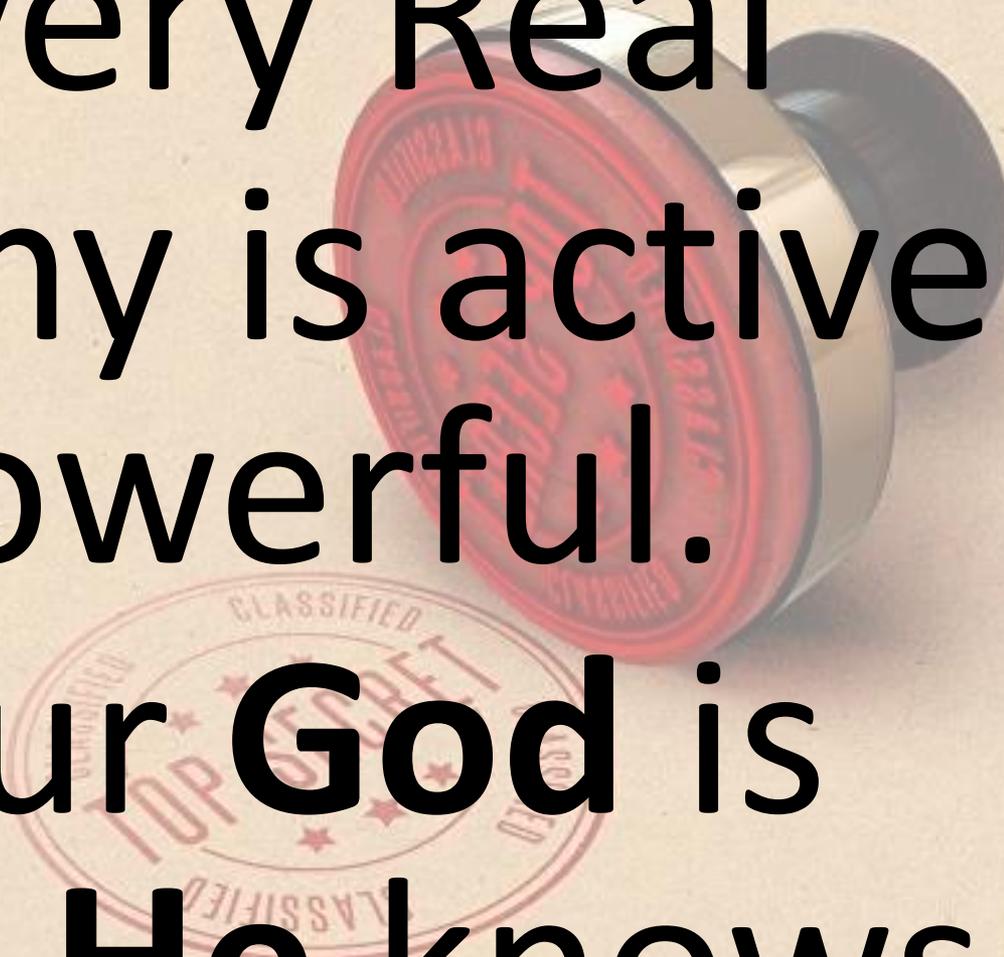
The Screwtape Letters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBxpcGfznos>

First 4min 27sec

C. S. Lewis.

Evil is very Real
The Enemy is active
and powerful.
...but our God is
greater – He knows
what He is doing

A red circular stamp with the words 'TOP SECRET' and 'CLASSIFIED' is visible in the background, partially obscured by a silver padlock. The stamp is oriented vertically, with 'TOP SECRET' at the top and 'CLASSIFIED' at the bottom. The padlock is positioned diagonally across the stamp.

Job 1

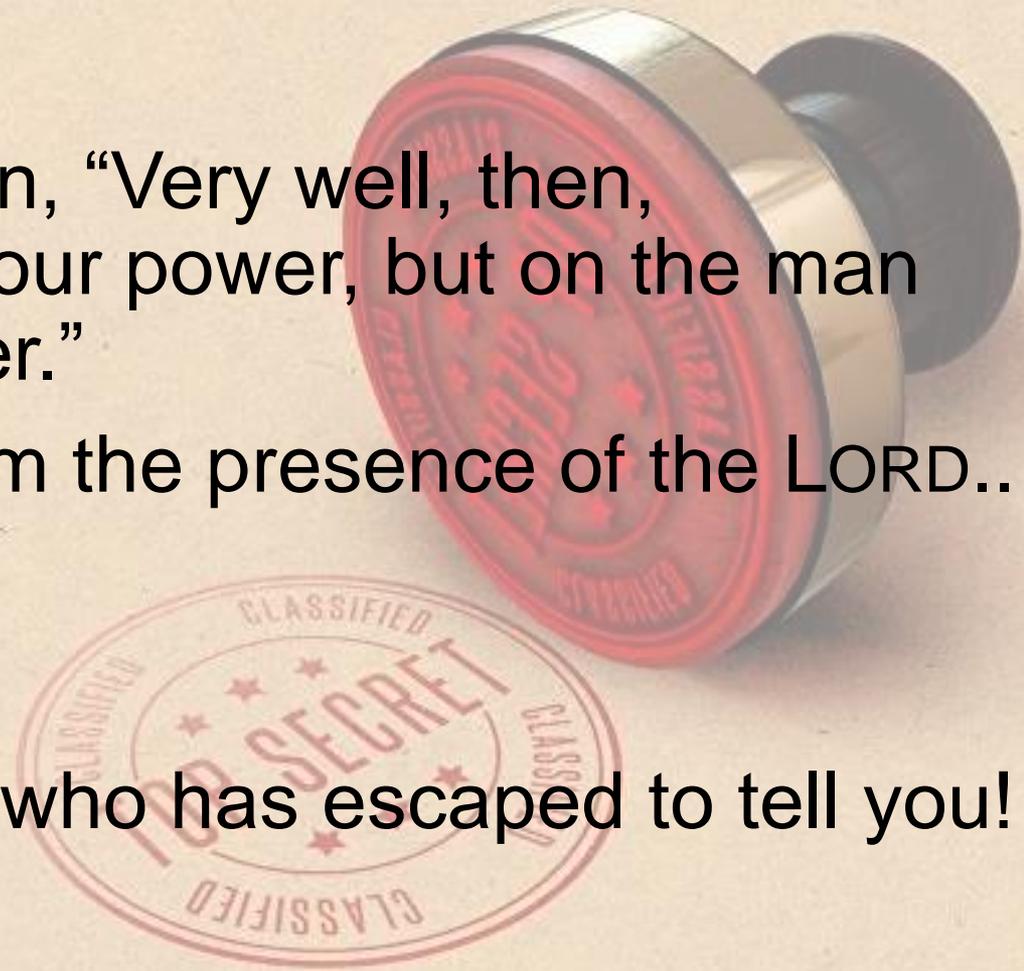
¹² The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD..

4 x

...and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!

Job: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised.”



Revelation 20

¹ And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

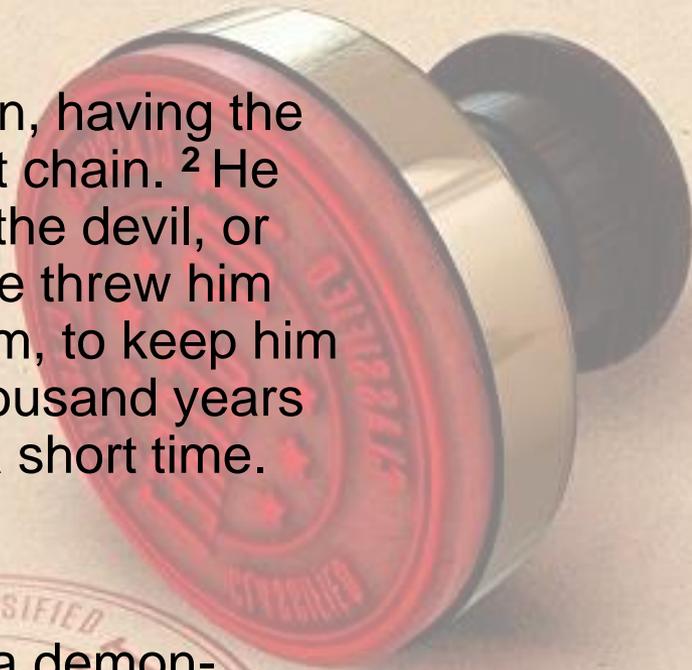
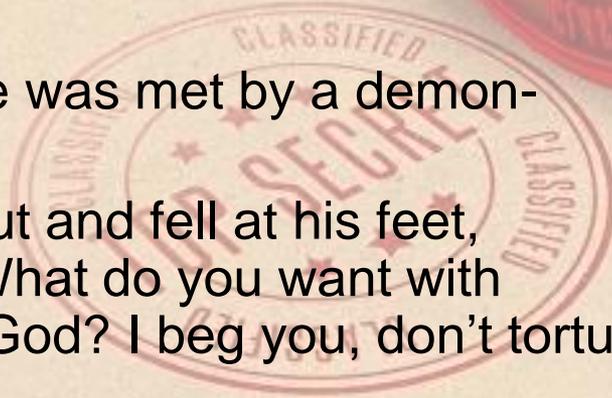
Luke 8

²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town.....

²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!”

³⁰ Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.



Hell, the Abyss, Lake of Fire

- We are told some things to help us open our eyes to the **Real**
- It is **God's** great story
- We simply have to look to **Him** for the part he has for us to play



Luke 10

- ¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”
- ¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”
- ²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

Putting into Action

- **Look and see how the Enemy is attacking you**
- **Pray for Wisdom in how to Pray and fight back**
- **...and keep praising till faith emerges victorious**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FrhDJa3XCM>

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY
WHO WAS, AND IS,
AND IS TO COME