

## Trusting in the Word of God

Where is God when I (*we*) need Him? People have posed this question from the beginning of history. The question is valid; the answer reflects more of people's views (*and expectations*) of God rather than God's responses over the course of time.

The chosen people had lost sight of God and were slaves in Egypt when God used **Moses** to lead them to freedom and the **Promised Land**. They soon grew weary of the way God was doing this, so they reverted back to building an idol (*golden calf*) and worshipping it. The price they paid was an extended wandering through wastelands. They grumbled about being hungry and thirsty, testing God: "Is the Lord in our midst or not?"

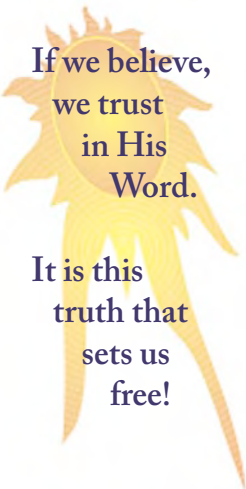
Such wonderings about God's presence and activity fill the pages of **Scripture**. Seeking acceptable answers has led to many views of god, some horrendous, others magical and fantastic! God will be Who God is! This truth doesn't change; it is people who change. God's Word is true: when people's expectations and distorted understanding of God prevail, the true God gets lost in the confusion. Ever was it thus. Only hindsight and reflection bring people back to the realization, power and conviction that: "God was always with me, and God helped me even when I thought otherwise." This produces true faith, the conviction: God loves me and is ever with me!

This truth is beautifully extracted from the lengthy conversation between Jesus and the woman at

the well (*John 4:4-42*). She will go from suspicious to curious, from dropping her guard to being friendly, from puzzled to an awareness which leads to Jesus affirming rather than condemning her.

It leads to an uncertain belief and acceptance of Jesus. Her telling the townspeople about Jesus leads them to open themselves to what Jesus does. They come to believe in Him because of His word (*teaching*).

Can it be otherwise for you and me? If we believe, we trust in His word. It is this truth that sets us free!



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