

Footstep #5 Burning Questions

“If you have true faith that Christ is your Savior, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see our grace and overflowing love. This is to behold God in faith that you should look upon his fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger nor ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see him rightly but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across his face.” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*, p. 50)

As Luther’s theology developed as a young professor his view of God in the suffering Redeemer, Jesus Christ was powerful and convincing. This was a change from the medieval view of God as a judge and tormentor to justify the existence of good people from the eternal fire of hell in Dante’s *Inferno* to a new Renaissance view of a loving God who saved people from their sins. The new view of God is one where Luther will write the common table prayer thanking God for our food. What a revolutionary idea!

Luther still struggled with questions about the continuing conflict between God and Satan. Luther would ask if God was really all powerful or if God was impeded by the power of the Devil. This was a burning question for Luther about the colossal battle between good and evil.



To complicate matters of faith for Luther, in 1512 the Fifth Lateran Council of the Roman Catholic Church decreed “The Immortality of the Soul” as an official dogma (teaching).