

# **George MacDonald Study Guide**

## **George MacDonald by C. S. Lewis**

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# Sections 1 - 24

## Sections 1 - 24 Summary

Section 1 states that it is at the point when a man is without feelings or emotions yet can still say that God is his refuge that his faith is perfect. Section 2 describes the attributes of perfect love. Section 3 describes the consuming fire of God. This fire cleans out from followers of God all that is not pure and holy. Section 4 states that fear is the beginning of godly wisdom. In Section 6 MacDonald suggests that God is ready and willing to burn the sinfulness out of people with the intent of making them better, less sinful people. It is the sin, however, and not the people that God so dislikes.

Section 8 states that anything mortal or destructible in man will be destroyed by God; it is God's law of nature. In section 9 it is stated that just because someone fears God, does not mean that God will save them from His divine burning. Section 10 indicates that the role of the Bible is to lead men to Jesus. In Section 11 MacDonald states that if anyone, even a child, knows they have committed a sin, no matter how trivial, they should not be told not to worry about it, they should be told they are not condemned, but they should sin no longer. Section 12 indicates that it is more sinful to kill a person's spirit than to murder their body.

Section 13 explains how impossible it is for a man who has not received the forgiveness of God to understand how to forgive those in his own life. In Section 15 MacDonald writes of the born again man being given a white stone which will bear his new name and new character. In Sections 17, 18, 19 and 20 MacDonald writes of the unique way that each man interacts with God, and the unique way God interacts with each man. He indicates that God see all men as individuals, each having his own exclusive personality and being.

In Section 22, MacDonald writes of a moth-eaten, offensive heart that is often hidden under the façade of a beautiful exterior. In the next section, MacDonald indicates that one day each person will be required to experience the depravity of their own heart. Section 24 deals with the idea that anyone who worships something other than God, whether it is the praise of man or the joys of Earth, will suffer the pains of this depravity.

## Sections 1 - 24 Analysis

This book features a collection of quotes taken from sermons and books written by George MacDonald. These quotes were selected and arranged by C.S. Lewis, a Christian writer best known for his collection of children's books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In a general sense, these quotes either define or describe the role of the Christian man. They address several themes including man's relationship with God, God's relationship with man, and man's relationship with other men. Other topics such as forgiveness and salvation are also discussed.



In the first ten sections of this book, the selected quotes address the way in which God "burns" the impurities out of men in order to make them more like God. This is not a literal "burning" but instead an allegorical portrayal of the way God will remove from man the things that separate him from God. In the process of this "burning" God allows man to go through circumstances that remove un-Godlike characteristics such as selfishness, hate and unwillingness to forgive.

In sections 22, 23 and 24 MacDonald writes about a moth-eaten heart. These verses are reminiscent of verses found in the sixth chapter of the book of Matthew in the Christian Bible. In these verses the writer speaks of the need to work to earn treasure in heaven instead of on earth. These verses indicate that if one seeks earthly treasures, these stores can be stolen or destroyed by natural means such as rust or insects, such as moths. In the same way a heart tuned to the cares of the world appears to God as being eaten by moths.



# Sections 25 - 49

## Sections 25 - 49 Summary

Section 25 indicates that God may have modified the Word as it is found in the Bible so that humans can understand its message. In Section 26 MacDonald gives his opinion of Jesus' miracles. He explains that Jesus could not change one thing into another, but only sped up processes that would have usually taken hundreds of years. In sections 27 and 28 MacDonald explains that the Christian man cannot live his life based on his feelings. Even when a man can no longer feel the truth of God, he continues to live because he remembers these feelings. In section 29 MacDonald cautions his readers about testing God. He states men should be concerned with what God wants them to do, not attempting to determine what God will do.

In Sections 31 through 34 MacDonald writes about Jesus' crucifixion and the experiences Jesus had while on the cross. He writes that during this time Jesus was probably in more emotional pain because of His nature. Jesus also suffered with the feelings of abandonment when He was left by His Father while He was on the cross. MacDonald explains these feelings caused Jesus to be even more understanding of those who do not know God. In Section 35 MacDonald indicates men would be better Christians if they concentrated on God instead of themselves. In Section 37 MacDonald indicates that it is God's gift of freedom to man that ultimately binds men closer to God.

The text of Section 39 indicates that even when man's soul is troubled and does not feel the presence of God, God still loves man. Man should not stop working because he no longer feels God's presence. In Section 42 MacDonald explains that man cannot fully understand the love of Jesus until he understands the love of his fellow men. In Section 46 the necessary intertwining of love and the law is described. MacDonald explains that it is only through God that man is truly able to love other men as he loves himself.

## Sections 25 - 49 Analysis

In Section 26 MacDonald refers to the miracles of Jesus. More specifically, MacDonald indicates that Jesus could not say that an item was other than what it was. He specifically refers to the instance where Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. According to the Christian Bible, Jesus had been without food for forty days. It was at this point that Satan came to Jesus and tempted Him to turn some nearby stones into bread so that Jesus could eat. For Jesus to turn these stones into something that God had not made them to be would have turned Son against Father.

MacDonald addresses man's tendency to test God in Section 29. MacDonald indicates that by testing God they put themselves in a very dangerous situation. Instead of attempting to determine what God's reaction will be to their actions, men should concentrate on doing what God has given them to do. In another section MacDonald

indicates that even when man no longer feels God's presence, he should continue to do the work that God has given him to do.



# Sections 50 - 74

## Sections 50 - 74 Summary

In Section 50 MacDonald writes about the fading humanity that should connect each person to the other despite their unlovely characteristics. MacDonald states that without this bit of humanity people would be like animals and kill each other. In Section 51 MacDonald indicates that without love, no man should attempt to dispense justice to another person. Section 52 discusses the purpose of the human body. He indicates this body is made by God, just as the person's spirit is created by God.

Section 54 describes how God cares most for the good deeds that come from a good heart. He does not cherish good thoughts or intentions, or isolated generous actions, but instead a life of love. In Section 56 MacDonald writes that it was the intention of the commandments to draw man to God once man realized he could not follow these rules on his own. In Section 58 it is suggested that in every person's life there will come a point that he must either accept God or willingly and knowingly reject God. Section 59 states that man cannot keep the laws of God in his own power. He must have the strength of God's love to help him achieve this goal.

Sections 63 and 64 speak of the smallness of the satisfaction of man. In Section 63, for instance, it is noted that many men are satisfied with only being saved, they have no desire to try to perfect themselves. In the same way in Section 64 it is noted that some are so satisfied with the way their present selves are that they have no desires for anything better. The writer notes that God has no use for people such as these in His kingdom. In Section 65 MacDonald writes that those who are glad God has not asked them to give up their riches are to be pitied.

In section 67 MacDonald indicates that things are given by God so humans can use these things to please God. Humans, however, have determined that it is the things that need to be sought after, not the pleasure of God. In Section 69 MacDonald addresses the necessity for men to lose their desire to accumulate earthly things. In Section 71 MacDonald notes the poor can be held captive by things also because the poor are unhappy about the things they do not have.

## Sections 50 - 74 Analysis

This portion of the text includes one of MacDonald's first quotes about miracles. MacDonald expresses the view that Jesus' miracles were simply fast forward versions of God's ordinary works. This idea that Jesus did no more than increase the speed of ordinary occurrences in order to perform His miracles is an interesting and often unheard interpretation of these phenomena.

In this section MacDonald also addresses the idea that God sees and knows man's purposes for his actions. It is more important to God that a man live his life ruled by love



that he try to perform isolated good deeds. MacDonald also indicates that this ability to love and be fair to one another despite their flaws is what separates people from animals. He indicates, however, that this characteristic of love is dying away.

The trap of allowing one's life to be ruled by things is another topic that MacDonald discusses in this section of quotes. MacDonald indicates that it is not only the rich that allow themselves to be consumed by things, but also the poor. The poor are ruled by things when they allow themselves to be unhappy because they do not have the things that they want.





# Sections 75 - 98

## Sections 75 - 98 Summary

In Section 75 MacDonald indicates that God will forgive a man for forgetting something. If a man forgets something because he puts it off, God will blame Him for this action. In Sections 77 and 78 MacDonald encourages his readers not to worry either about tomorrow's troubles or things they cannot alter. Instead of worrying, man should pray, MacDonald writes. In Section 80 MacDonald addresses the idea that a man should be concerned about small things, or truths, as well as the big ones. In Section 81 MacDonald states that man should not fill his time worrying about small things. Section 83 indicates that man should take every trouble, no matter how small, to God in prayer.

MacDonald writes in Section 84 that God is a polite God. Although He may rebuke a sinner repeatedly, God will not force His way into their life or their heart. In Section 86 MacDonald addresses the unintelligent people who try to guess when Jesus will come back to Earth. MacDonald indicates these people should be sure they are not attempting to forecast the second coming and ignoring the things that they should be doing for God while they are on Earth. In Section 87 MacDonald indicates that a man will feel incomplete if he does not have an intimate relationship with God.

Section 88 addresses the need for people to tell God their troubles. Section 89 indicates that God does answer prayers. In Section 91 MacDonald addresses the reasons why men need to pray to God. In Section 97 MacDonald indicates that God is able to change His mind and His will in response to His children's prayers, thus prayer does change circumstances.

## Sections 75 - 98 Analysis

Prayer is a predominant theme in this section of quotes. It can be extrapolated from his quotes that MacDonald believes very strongly in the power of prayer. MacDonald believes there is no need so small that it cannot be taken to God. MacDonald also writes that he believes that God can change His plans and His will for a person's life based on their prayers. It is these prayers that connect God's children to God himself. Without this personal relationship MacDonald indicates that each person will feel an emptiness or loneliness in their life. Although God does desire to have a relationship with His people, He will not force his way into their lives. Section 84 indicates God will wait until He is invited into a person's life before He will enter.

Another topic that is addressed in this section is the idea of wasting time by worrying. Information in Section 77 indicates that all worry does is give man a headache and cause him to have trouble sleeping. Instead of worrying, man should be busy doing the work he has been given to do. If he has no work, then he should pray.



## Sections 99 - 124

### Sections 99 - 124 Summary

In Section 99 MacDonald indicates that he believes the natural miracle of growing grapes is more of a miracle than the act of Jesus turning water into wine. Section 100 deals with the idea that Jesus could change His plans in order to please His mother yet not spoil His Father's plans. In Section 103 MacDonald addresses the idea that even some atheists believe that the act of prayer is beneficial to them. In Sections 104 and 105 MacDonald writes that those who are in the close will of God will always have their prayers granted. Likewise, even those who do not have this close relationship with God may also have their prayers answered with something better than they expect.

MacDonald addresses the vengeance of God in Section 107. The vengeance of God, MacDonald writes, is to have the sinner learn to hate his sins. In Section 109 MacDonald writes that it is to the practical man, and not the most intelligent, to whom Jesus revealed His truths in the form of parables. In Section 112 MacDonald writes that as a Christian one must get rid of all of their devilish tendencies. In 113 he writes that it is God's intention that as Christians, men grow to the point that they will use His righteousness to fight against sin.

In Sections 116 and 117 MacDonald indicates that he believes the worst prison to be in is to wake after death and find that one is without God. He writes that if a man finds himself in this situation he will wish for even the most vile creature to keep him company. In Sections 120 and 121 MacDonald writes that despite how bad his actions are, he is still a child of God. MacDonald indicates in Section 124 that it is only through Jesus Christ that man is able to love God as sons.

### Sections 99 - 124 Analysis

MacDonald again addresses the topic of miracles in this section. In Sections 99 and 100 MacDonald focuses his attention on the time when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. MacDonald again points out that this miracle was simply the speeded up process of grapes growing and being turned into wine by human hands. He makes a parallel between the actions of Jesus pouring the water into the pots and the grape vines drawing water up through their roots. MacDonald also indicates that since this miracle was performed at the request of His mother, before Jesus was ready, this means that Jesus, and God likewise, is capable of changing His plans.

MacDonald addresses various topics in the remainder of this section. First he notes the loneliness and desolation a man without God will feel when he wakes after death and finds himself completely alone. Other sections discuss the blame MacDonald feels when he considers how bad he is. He writes that it is only through this blame, however,

that he is allowed to be called a son of God. Since animals are blame free, they cannot be considered sons of God even though they are creations of God.



# Sections 125 - 149

## Sections 125 - 149 Summary

In Sections 125 and 126 MacDonald refers to the process of the new creation. He indicates the completion of this new creation is a slow progress, but that once it is finished these sons of God will sit in God's glory. It is this glory that the sons of God work for while they are tormented and troubled on earth. Section 128 deals with the difficulty MacDonald believes God must have in separating Himself for His creation. Although His created people are totally dependent upon God, they are also completely individual from Him. In Section 129 MacDonald explains that the conclusion of God's separation of Himself from His creation is the development of a relationship of oneness with this same creation.

In Section 133 MacDonald discusses the idea that too many people lose the joy of life with love of self. This love of self, he explains, will eventually become like death to the man. In Section 134 MacDonald warns against succumbing to life and its troubles. MacDonald explains in Section 140 that God's creative will forms one side of the eternal round while man's obedience finishes and closes the round. In Section 142 MacDonald explains that fear is the beginning of wisdom. This fear must remain, MacDonald writes, until it can be cast out by the love of God.

In Section 144 MacDonald describes the divine power of God that burns hotter the farther one is from God. MacDonald continues in Section 145 to write that each person should, when they feel the fear of God, run toward the Father and His salvation. In Section 145 MacDonald writes that any man willing to make demands of God in ignorance or arrogance should expect to be made by God to repent.

## Sections 125 - 149 Analysis

Many of the quotes in this section deal with the fear that those who do not know God personally feel toward their maker. These quotes deal with the idea that God has created His people to be individuals, yet at the same time, He has created them to be dependent upon Him. The further a man wanders from God, the more severely he will feel the burn of God's fire. Although it makes sense that men in their fear of God would want to run from Him, MacDonald suggests the actual cure for the man's fear is to run toward God.



# Sections 150 - 174

## Sections 150 - 174 Summary

In Section 150 MacDonald discusses the reasons behind the beauty of nature. MacDonald indicates that the beauty of nature was created for man to enjoy, not to analyze. It is better, he writes, to know nature than to understand nature. Similarly, it is better to know God than it is to understand all that He is about. This idea is continued in Section 151 when MacDonald explains that as soon as humans begin to dissect things to understand them, they cease to exist as God created them. In Section 152 MacDonald explains that doubt is the first step on the road of gaining a new, deeper understanding of God.

In Section 153 MacDonald indicates that when Job actually sees God, he forgets all that he wanted to say to him. In Section 154 MacDonald states that when Job actually sees God face to face, he realizes, as we all would, how vile he actually is in the presence of the awesome God. Section 155 simply indicates that God is the way to freedom and peace. In Section 156 MacDonald indicates that even the man with the highest degree of self-control will fail in his desires without the all-powerful control of God in His life. MacDonald continues this idea in Section 157 when he writes that man should strive to desire what God wants them to do with their lives, not what they want to do with their lives.

In Section 162 MacDonald writes that many men spend much time trying to find a balance between self and God, even though God says that man must lose himself. Section 163 indicates that men do not thank God for the gifts they receive, however, they do grumble to God when things do not go their way. In Section 165 MacDonald defines faith as doing the will of God despite influence of other people and outside influences. MacDonald writes in Section 166 that too many people push themselves into despair by trying to determine if they are really believers. Section 167 indicates that people should determine if they believe in God by determining if they have done as He asked.

## Sections 150 - 174 Analysis

This section of quotes addresses the idea that in order to be a true child of God, one must make up his mind to follow God. God expects his followers to figuratively give up their own lives to follow Him. Just as Jesus died on the cross to save people from their sins, God expects His followers to give up their own desires and wants and allow God to be in control of their lives. Another idea that MacDonald shares in this section of quotes is that if a person were to actually come face to face with God, they would be overcome with their feelings of unworthiness, just as Job did during his interview with God.



# Sections 175 - 199

## Sections 175 - 199 Summary

Section 175 addresses the initial pain of salvation but tells of its coming joy. In Section 176 MacDonald writes that it is because of God, and the relationship between God and the Son that all things in the universe exist in unity. In Section 178 MacDonald notes that in order to truly live, a man must give up his life, just as Jesus gave up His. MacDonald explains in Section 178 that God has not given us a record of His exact words because He wants man to worship God, not God's words. In addition, God could not express the full extent of His meaning in man-created words. MacDonald indicates in Section 181 that the Epistles, a section of letters included in the Christian Bible, should be read from the practical point of view, not the intellectual. Section 182 describes what it means for Jesus to come into a man's heart.

MacDonald explains in Section 184 that it is through nature that God gives us a visible way to understand the magnitude of and the unchanging nature of His self. Natural science, MacDonald writes in Section 185, takes man away from God's true intended revelation of nature. He continues this idea in Section 187 where he writes that God intends the flower to stand for itself. The joy and beauty should come from the flower, not the action of breaking down the botany of the flower into scientific facts. MacDonald delves deeper into this idea in Section 188 where he explains that the wonder of water is not found in man's ability to divide it into its fundamental elements, but the simple fact that it exists and was created by God.

Section 191 discusses the idea that a man who chooses to do his duties because he knows them to be true will eventually find these things are not duties but joys. In Section 192 MacDonald discusses the idea of free will. Without free will MacDonald states that man would just be a "holy animal." Section 196 indicates that even though a man may strive to be loving and truthful, these traits come from God, not the man himself. In Section 198 MacDonald writes that although God gives us the will and power to be like Him, we must also do our part. In Section 199 MacDonald indicates that a man who is right with God will be happy even if he finds himself in undesirable circumstances.

## Sections 175 - 199 Analysis

There are two main topics in this section. First, MacDonald deals with the idea that God did not create in order for man to tear apart and analyze his creations. God intends for the truth of his creation to be grasped through its beauty and wonder as a whole. When man begins to break down these creations, he moves away from the true wonder of creation and away from the God who made everything. Second, MacDonald deals with the idea that in order for a man to be truly happy he must accept the duties that God has given Him to do. Eventually man will find that even if he is in undesirable circumstances, he is still happy because he is at peace with the God who created him.



Also in this section of quotes MacDonald makes some interesting points about the nature of God. For instance MacDonald writes about God being in unity with the universe. Generally one thinks of a oneness in relation to unity. However, MacDonald points out the fact that in order for there to be unity there must be more than one, and there must be an intentional joining of these separate entities. In this way, the Father (God) and the Son (Jesus) are united with each other and with the universe. In Section 177 the title includes the Latin phrase "ipsissima verba." This phrase is translated to mean "the very words."



# Sections 200 - 224

## Sections 200 - 224 Summary

In Section 201 MacDonald discusses the idea of having one's own way. He makes the point that we as humans do not know when we truly are having our own way and when we are doing the things God intends us to do, or things that the devil wants us to do. In Section 205 MacDonald writes that he is not afraid of making a mistake in his writing, his fear comes from being seen as one who argues the truth of Jesus. In Section 207 MacDonald underscores the idea that it is more important to do God's will that it is to be able to explain His being.

In Section 209 MacDonald writes that Jesus did not die to save us from punishment deserved as a result of sins committed, but from the sins themselves. In Section 210 MacDonald writes that those who obey Jesus are brothers, however, MacDonald has the option of refusing to believe what he knows to be a lie even if his brother in Christ does believe it. In Section 211 MacDonald warns against refusing to believe in God until one has found a theory about God that he believes to be acceptable. MacDonald insinuates this practice is both foolish and dangerous. Section 213 describes the purpose of the Holy Spirit. It is the duty of this spirit to help believers know what they ought to do. In Section 215 MacDonald addresses the religions that see God not as creator but as a ruler. MacDonald indicates these religious leaders take all of the joy and purpose out of life on earth.

Section 216 is a warning for believers not to accept as true something they know not to be of God. This action is worse, MacDonald says, than not accepting something as true that is actually true. In Section 217 MacDonald indicates that man is condemned by God because he does not change his evil ways. In the same idea, Section 219 indicates that any man who refuses to leave his evil ways can be forgiven by God. In Section 223 MacDonald writes of the feelings of loss that all must suffer before they will come to know Jesus. Without Jesus, the miseries of life on earth would eventually become unbearable. In Section 224 MacDonald indicates that it was faith that was given to Abraham as a result of his righteousness.

## Sections 200 - 224 Analysis

Quotes in this section deal with the relationship between God and man, more specifically, the idea that man can act independently of God. MacDonald writes that even in instances where man feels he has acted independently, he may have acted at the will of the devil, or another man, or even God. Just because a thought pops into a man's head and he follows it does not mean he has gotten his own way, he has just followed a prompting coming from some undetermined source.





In this section of quotes, MacDonald also warns his readers against accepting a thought as true if it is not true. MacDonald writes that this blind acceptance is worse than denying something that is actually true. He also warns his readers against thinking a thing is true just because another brother believes it is true. He insinuates that it is better to disagree with a brother on an aspect of God's truth than to believe something that is false.



# Sections 225- 250

## Sections 225- 250 Summary

In Section 226 MacDonald writes that man's first duty is to God. Man does not realize this at first, he writes, and will often learn the importance of duty to God through the doing of other jobs. In Sections 228 and 229 MacDonald writes that a man who desires to have a relationship with God must start in journey in which he comes closer to the perfection and righteousness of God and turns away from his own evil nature. In Section 231 MacDonald describes the full-grown Christian. This man's joy comes from God and being what God has created him to be.

MacDonald insinuates in Section 232 that children and those of childlike faith not only find it easy to believe in God, but are also more adept at recognizing evil. In Section 235 MacDonald encourages his readers to be patient while God does His work of creating a perfect being in them. In Section 237 MacDonald writes that God will hear prayers at any time, not just in church. In Section 238 MacDonald indicates that it should not matter if others treat and critique a believer in an unjust manner. The main thing is the believer not return this treatment to others. Again in Section 240 MacDonald indicates that listening to gossiping tongues will cause believers to have trouble loving others.

Shame is the topic of Section 242. MacDonald indicates that only those who do not want to appear wrong are those who are afraid of being ashamed. Shame, he writes, is a healthy and holy emotion. It is an indication that one is being cleansed by the truth. In Section 243 MacDonald describes the horror that the unsaved man will feel when he sees himself one day the way God sees him. In Section 244 MacDonald writes that the rich will one day be damned by the way they treated the poorer people around them, even though the rich felt at the time they were being kind to the poor. In Sections 245 and 246 MacDonald writes about the coming judgment for those who believe others worse than themselves even though they harbor some sort of hidden crime.

## Sections 225- 250 Analysis

In this section of quotes MacDonald offers practical advice on how to live a Christian life in an unholy world. He indicates that the Christian's first and most important duty is to do the work of Christ. Next, MacDonald writes that Christians should not pay attention when others speak badly of them. It is more important to the Christian that he control himself and not talk about others. What others have to say, even if these things are untrue or hurtful, is unimportant. In addition, the Christian should ignore what is being said about him because knowledge of these thoughts will make it more difficult for him to love others as he should.

Also, according to these quotes, particularly Sections 245 and 246, man should guard himself from judging another man's sins as being terrible when he himself may be guilty

of similar actions. For instance, MacDonald points out that all men have in them the same kernel of evil that Judas had.



# Sections 251 - 274

## Sections 251 - 274 Summary

In Section 252 MacDonald explains that all things, including darkness, come from God. There is no way to explain a place without God, MacDonald states in Section 253, because there is no place that God is not. Section 254 explains that it is not until men become complete in their sonship that they will be able to understand each other and other creatures completely. MacDonald states in Section 255 that each soul is unique and each has some uniqueness that others do not. It is each person's responsibility to share their uniqueness with others.

Evil is defined as all things that come from man and not from God in Section 257. Likewise, it is explained that whatever does not come from faith is sin. Section 258 refers to the emptiness of heroism. It is more important for a man to be rightfully humbled than to be wrongfully proud. True men are those who do their work with no thought of heroism. Section 259 indicates that it is only by loving that one can come close to another human soul. In Section 263 MacDonald defines love as an emotion that makes everything beautiful while one who hates cannot see anything except that thing that he hates. In Section 264 MacDonald insinuates that it is not acceptable to God that we are hateful to others in an attempt to spend time with God.

In Section 266 MacDonald uses a quote from one of his novels to illustrate that men are always looking for something. They just do not always know that what they are looking for is God. Section 270 discusses the idea of forgiveness. MacDonald indicates in this quote that it is easier to forgive a big sin than a small one. In Section 271 MacDonald explains that it is all right to tell a friend you are busy and do not have time for them if you are truly busy. MacDonald encourages his readers to tell them of their business, though, and not just ignore them. If a man believes a lie will keep him out of hell, then hell is where he should go, MacDonald states in Section 273. In Section 274 MacDonald indicates that a large portion of contentment lies in being happy without certain things.

## Sections 251 - 274 Analysis

One of the more interesting points that MacDonald makes in this section of quotes involves a parallel between poetry and prose presented in Section 272. In this section MacDonald writes of the emotional deepness of poetry. He writes that "prose is only broken-down poetry" indicating that prose is much less beautiful and desirable than poetry. MacDonald then parallels life to the beauty of poetry. He indicates, however, that some people read, or interpret, their lives in such a way that no one would recognize the beauty in their life. This indicates that each life is beautiful, but the determination of the beauty depends on the interpretation.



## Sections 275 - 299

### Sections 275 - 299 Summary

In Section 275 MacDonald indicates that those who follow the advice of psychics will come to find they have followed the wrong advice. In Section 276 MacDonald writes that if God decides to forget a sin, He will do it. However, it would be terrible if He were to forget our sins before men were free of their sins. Coincidence is ruled by God, just as everything else is, MacDonald writes in Section 278. The only way to follow the will of God is to throw oneself fully into it, as MacDonald states in Section 279.

MacDonald explains in Section 282 that it requires two parents to create a child so that this child can benefit from the balancing action of the opinions of the two parents. In Section 283 MacDonald addresses the idea that some of the work that God gives His people to do is easy. Even if work is easy, however, the man should put his full mind to it and not let his thoughts wander to the next day. In Section 285 MacDonald indicates that just in the same way flowers and other things of beauty only last a little while, Jesus stayed on earth only for a little while. However, He left so that something more beautiful, the Holy Spirit, could come. In Section 286 MacDonald encourages parents to have a holy respect of their childrens' spiritual development.

In Section 287 MacDonald indicates that man was not intended to be greedy with his heart, but to enjoy things as they pass in and out of his life. Information in Section 288 indicates that people often do not see the differences between today and yesterday because they are not looking at these days on a heavenly level, but instead on an earthly level. In Section 292 MacDonald writes that persecution comes from the inability of a person to defend their faith. Man has no obligation to himself, MacDonald writes in Section 294. In Section 295 MacDonald insinuates that it is during sleep that the soul is refreshed by the father. Likewise, in Section 296 MacDonald indicates that there is "such a thing as sacred idleness." In Section 299 MacDonald writes that the main idea of prayer is a soul yearning for God.

### Sections 275 - 299 Analysis

In this section of quotes MacDonald includes important aspects of what God expects of His believers. First, His believers are not to believe in or follow the advice of psychics. In order to follow God, a man must throw himself fully into the challenge. This requirement is depicted in Section 279 where an old man is described as uncovering a well with no ladder leading into it. The only way to reach the bottom of the well is to jump in. Additionally, followers of God are to do the work that God has given them wholeheartedly even if they see this work as being easy. Although this work may be easy, man is to put his whole being into it and not waste time worrying about tomorrow.



Also in this section MacDonald gives advice about raising children. He writes that the reason God gave each child two parents is so that the extreme opinions and behaviors of each parent can be balanced out by the other. Also MacDonald notes in Section 286 that parents should have a respectful role in their child's spiritual development. The child's relationship with the heavenly Father is one that the parent should not try to encroach upon.



# Sections 300 - 324

## Sections 300 - 324 Summary

In Section 300 MacDonald writes about the sickening feeling that he gets when he sees Himself. The only cure for this sickness is to live for God. In Section 301 MacDonald explains that one should not believe in visions, but instead must have God living in his soul. Section 303 deals with the idea of a garden not taken care of because of its oldness. Only one gardener cares for the garden who does not learn the new ways. It is his stupidity and not his cleverness that has kept the garden tended. In Section 306 MacDonald writes that many who seek God do not find Him because He is not what they expected Him to be. Some less schooled men, however, discover God and recognize Him immediately.

Section 307 describes the way men push aside truisms and forget them instead of making these truisms part of their lives as they should. In Section 308 MacDonald points out that people often ask advice with the intent of having someone agree with their own opinion. Judging one's own sins is the topic of Section 310. MacDonald advises his readers to let Jesus judge their sin and render punishment. In Section 313 MacDonald discusses the impact that information about the afterlife might have on the opinions and faith of the religious population. In Section 314 MacDonald writes about how happy the animals are because they live in the present moment alone.

MacDonald indicates in Section 320 that the only way to forget oneself is to find their self that exists in God. Thankfully, it is not the image of God that we pray to who answers our prayers, MacDonald writes in Section 322. MacDonald indicates that if this were so, our prayers would be answered in meager ways representative of the God we thought we were following.

## Sections 300 - 324 Analysis

Section 303, about the garden, is one of the most thought provoking sections in these quotes. It is obvious this quote does not refer to a literal garden but instead maybe the soul, or the central nugget truth of Christianity. The family, which might refer to mankind, does not care for this garden because they see it as old-fashioned. The gardener, who might represent one with a simple faith in Christ, cannot unlearn the way his father, obviously God, had taught him. It even indicates in the quote that God took pains in teaching the slow man what he had taught him. The quote indicates God took pains in teaching the man and that the learning was difficult. The section concludes that it is these dull people who keep the simple, real Christianity alive. It is the smart people who abandon the old garden who are the death of the true Christian faith.



## Sections 325 - 349

### Sections 325 - 349 Summary

Section 325 indicates men often need to clean their insides, or internal thinkings, in order to keep bad words or deeds from coming out of him. In Section 326 MacDonald states that only God can fully understand evil. In Section 328 MacDonald indicates that in the spiritual realm someone who has done a good deed in an attempt to copy someone else is considered to be just as bad as someone motivated by greed. Section 331 indicates by attempting to become the success he wants to be, a man actually punishes himself in the process.

Section 333 includes a prayer in which a preacher speaks to God about the way in which he has failed God. In Section 334 MacDonald discusses the idea that deeds are a way to God. Prayer, and the mechanics of prayer, is the topic of Section 335. The idea of hoarding spiritual things is discussed in Section 337. It is indicated these things are given to man as needed; if hoarded, these things will turn bad and useless.

In Section 342 MacDonald writes that there are more good things to do than most men realize. Through a quote from one of his novels MacDonald indicates in Section 343 that if he were to give man an icon of himself, they would worship this image and never try to learn to know the true God. In Section 345 MacDonald discusses the idea that even if a man were to spend his whole life doing good works, he would never be able to make up for the neglect of past ages.

### Sections 325 - 349 Analysis

In this section of quotes MacDonald continues to discuss the necessities for living a Christian life. Spiritual hoarding is discouraged in this section. Also this section gives the reason why God does not give man a visual image or representation of Himself. God indicates that if man did have a true image of God, given by God, they would worship this image instead of the true God.





## Sections 350 - 365

### Sections 350 - 365 Summary

In Section 350 MacDonald indicates that it is because people are not close enough to God that they seek a freedom other than the one He offers. Hospitality and the idea that it is only the poor who know how to be hospitable are the two ideas discussed in Section 352. In Section 353 MacDonald speaks of the restless, wandering of souls that he refers to as boredom. MacDonald indicates the lengths men will go to avoid this lifeless feeling. MacDonald writes of the immense nature of self-abandonment that must take place in order for him to follow Jesus. He indicates that faith in Jesus when things are going well is perhaps more difficult than keeping faith when things are hard.

In Section 356 MacDonald attempts to define the word avarice. He writes that it is not important what things a man has, but what they can exist with. In Section 357 MacDonald compares nature to a lobster pot. In Section 358 MacDonald writes that the first meeting with God is often uncomfortable. MacDonald describes the wearying work of attempting to carry burdens God has not given us to carry in Section 360. MacDonald's anthology of quotes is concluded with an excerpt from a story including the characters Lilith, Adam and Eve. In this clip, Lilith refuses to open her hand to give up what is not hers. Instead, she has Adam use a sword to cut her hand off.

### Sections 350 - 365 Analysis

Many of the quotes in this section appear to be taken from MacDonald's novels, especially quotes 351, 356, 357, 358, 360 and 365. Unlike MacDonald's other quotes, these quotes are not written in the first person point of view. Instead they are in the third person point of view or written from the point of an omniscient narrator. Many of these quotes include undefined and undeveloped characters. Like the other quotes included in the book, however, these quotes still contain some nugget of truth about Christianity and the Christian life.



# Characters

## Man appears in Various Sections

It is to men in general that MacDonald addresses his quotes. In addition to his role as audience, however, man is also a regular character in these quotes. Many types of men are included in these quotes. They include the non-Christian, the beginning Christian, those with questions about God and religion, and seasoned Christians. MacDonald writes to these men in hopes of teaching them about the basics of Christianity. MacDonald's goal is to convince the men that he writes about to embrace a relationship with God and accept their duty to Christ.

One of the groups of men that MacDonald addresses specifically is the group that studies natural science. Although these men attempt to understand science by unraveling the things the God created, MacDonald indicates that these men actually move further away from God in their study of science. By dissecting and analyzing the intricacies of God's creation, these men miss the main reason behind God's creation.

Vile men, or those who are unsaved, are another group of men included in these quotes. These vile men are the ones who will be surprised to learn exactly how God views them when they are awakened. Christians should also be careful of being grateful they are not like these vile men because they have the same germ of evil in them that the vile men have.

## God appears in Various Sections

God is a frequent character in these quotes. He is described as being the creator of everything. It is indicated that God created all things that exist including darkness, which is portrayed as being the opposite of God's character. God's most important creation, however, appears to be humans. Although God is part of these humans because he created them, God must intentionally separate Himself from these humans. God's intention is that men will respond to their innate desire to return to God and then initiate and maintain a relationship with Him.

In addition to creating humans, God is also the Father of Jesus Christ. God allowed Jesus to come to earth, and then be murdered as a way to redeem humans from their sins. Jesus was an earthly example of God's qualities and personality. Like God, Jesus was capable of changing His plans without messing anything up. This is shown by Jesus' decision to change water into wine at a wedding at his mother's request. Similarly, God is also able to change His plans when he hears the prayers of His children.



## **Jesus appears in Various Sections including 10, 14, 120, 196**

In Section 10 the Bible leads us to Jesus. In Section 14 Jesus is the opposite of Balaam. In Section 32 MacDonald indicates that even when Jesus is farthest from God, his faith is most strong. Jesus still cries out in faith to His father even though He has no feelings on which to base his faith. In Section 53 MacDonald indicates that although Jesus was completely good, He did not even recognize His own goodness. In section 209 it is mentioned that Jesus died to save people from their sins, not keep them from punishment. In Section 322 it is mentioned that Jesus is the son of God. In Section 120 MacDonald encourages his readers to live as Jesus lived while He was on earth. Jesus is described as being the live truth in Section 196. In Section 322 Jesus is described as the son of God.

## **Balaam appears in Section 14**

Balaam is a character mentioned in Section 14. Balaam is presented as being the opposite of Jesus.

## **Job appears in Sections 153 and 154**

Job is a character from the Bible who was persecuted by the devil despite the fact that Job was a just man. In the end of the book of Job, Job is allowed to see God face to face. Instead of asking God the questions that he had wanted to ask, all Job can think about in the presence of God is how vile he is.

## **Judas appears in Section 246**

Judas is a character mentioned in Section 246. Judas is well known as the man who betrayed Jesus Christ to the Roman soldiers who wished to betray him. In this section of the book MacDonald indicates that every person has a little bit of Judas in him.

## **Pharisee appears in Section 316**

The Pharisee is mentioned in Section 316. In this section the Pharisee is pictured as praying, but his prayer is compared to the "weary beating of the surf of hell." This comparison indicates the shallowness, and uselessness of the Pharisee and his prayer. The cries of the person in hell bring more pity than those of the Pharisee.



## **The Hebrews appears in Section 4**

The Hebrews are a group of people studied in Section 4. The Hebrews became fearful of God after they were discovered worshiping a golden calf they had created as a god for themselves.

## **Paul appears in Sections 181, 225**

It is indicated in Section 181 that Paul was one of the writers of the epistles. In Section 225 MacDonald writes that Paul said that, "faith in God was counted righteousness before Moses was born." It is also indicated that Paul's idea of righteousness was a much more pure righteousness than that had by Abraham.

## **Moses appears in Section 225**

In Section 225 MacDonald uses the Biblical character of Moses to describe men in whom long faith in God has been regarded as a good thing. Moses is one of the first saints mentioned in the Bible.

## **Lilith appears in Section 365**

According to legend, Lilith was Adam's first wife. In the legend, Adam's wife Eve, as recorded in the Bible, was his second wife. In Section 365 Lilith is begged by Mara to give away the thing that is not hers, probably either her soul or her life. Lilith instead begs Adam to cut off her hand so that she can sleep.



## **Objects/Places**

### **The Golden Calf appears in Section 4**

The Hebrews made a golden calf and worshiped it in place of God. MacDonald indicates the fear the Hebrews felt when God discovered their idol worship was better than the worship of this manmade idol.

### **Sinai appears in Section 6**

Sinai, the title of the sixth section, is the name of a mountain located in Egypt. Judeo-Christian tradition indicates that it was from this mountain that God gave Moses stone tablets containing the law.

### **The Bible appears in Section 10**

MacDonald writes of the Bible in Section 10. MacDonald indicates this collection of religious writings is not intended to be a substitute for Jesus, but instead to lead the believer to Jesus and the knowledge of Jesus.

### **The White Stone appears in Section 15**

The White Stone that MacDonald writes of in Section 15 comes from the book of Revelations in the Christian Bible. In the book of Revelations the writer indicates that God will give each believer a white stone on which will be written a new name that only the receiver will understand.

### **Stones Made into Bread appears in Section 26**

In Section 26 MacDonald explains the reasons why Jesus could not command stones to be made into bread. MacDonald indicates Jesus could not tell a thing to be something that God had made as something else.

### **The Passion appears in Section 31**

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is referred to as the passion of Christ.

### **Beatific Vision appears in Sections 32 and 38**

The Beatific Vision refers to the sight of God.



## **The Word appears in Multiple Sections**

The term "The Word" refers to the word of God as recorded in the Christian Bible.

## **Tophet appears in Section 144**

Tophet is a term that often refers to hell.

## **Garden of Gethsemane appears in Section 160**

The Garden of Gethsemane is the place where Jesus prayed and was betrayed by Judas the night before He was crucified.

## **Serpent appears in Section 330**

In Biblical imagery, the serpent is the embodiment of evil. According to the Christian Bible, it was in the form of a serpent that the Devil appeared to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

## **The Beam and the Mote appears in Section 330**

This beam and mote are referred to in a parable told by Jesus recorded in the Christian Bible. In this parable Jesus asks His listeners why they remove the mote from their friend's eye while they ignore the beam in their own eye.



# Themes

## What God Requires of His People

One of the more prominent themes in this collection of quotes is the idea that there are certain things that God requires of His people. Generally, MacDonald stresses the idea that if a man knows he has been given a job by God, he should do it. This idea is expressed in Sections 29, 54, 226, 239, 283, 304. However, it is also noted in Section 29 that if a man does not know what he is to do next, he should wait on God. In Section 35 MacDonald tells his readers that they should keep their eyes on God instead of allowing themselves to become engrossed by the faults they have or the wrongs they may have committed. Instead of allowing their sins and wrongs to draw them away from God, man should let his shortcomings draw them closer to God. This idea is supported by the quote in Section 44 when MacDonald states that the law is set up to bring man closer to God. Section 56 also echoes this idea that the intent of the law is to draw men closer to God.

Another aspect of a man's job is that he should strive to be as close to perfect as he can be. Although no man can ever be perfect, God is not satisfied with a man being happy to simply be saved, according to Section 63. In Section 114 MacDonald also indicates men should come to an agreement quickly with any person who holds anything against them. In Section 115 it is noted that a man should be more cognizant of his debts than of the things that others owe him.

## Unbelievers

Another theme that MacDonald deals with quite often in this writing is the way in which unbelievers interpret the actions of God. For instance, in Section 5 MacDonald indicates that God's desire to burn His believers clean does not appeal to unbelievers because they do not understand God's intentions. Therefore, the idea that God loves unbelievers does not soothe these people because they believe this love will only cause them pain. In Section 211 MacDonald addresses the consequences of the action of evading God. In this quote MacDonald indicates this action of putting off God is like refusing to take the medicine a person knows is best for him, while going in search of a different kind of treatment.

Condemnation is a topic that MacDonald addresses in Section 217. In this quote MacDonald indicates that condemnation is set aside for those who continue to do wrong and refuse to turn to God. In Section 358 MacDonald discusses the feelings that an unbeliever has the first time they meet God. He indicates this first meeting is often filled with doubt and fear.

In Section 219 MacDonald indicates the only sin that cannot be forgiven is a person's refusal to turn from his evil ways. God cannot forgive a person who refuses to turn from



sin. Finally, in Section 243 MacDonald writes of the horror that the unsaved would feel if they could see themselves as God seems them. MacDonald believes these unsaved would be horrified if they saw themselves from God's viewpoint.

## Gifts of God

In Section 92 MacDonald indicates that a good gift must possess some essence of the giver. In this way God gave the greatest gift as He gave Himself to His people. Similarly, God wants to give man only the best. However, it is indicated in Section 130 that man will not accept the best that God has to offer. According to Section 163, man has the habit of not giving God credit for the gifts He does give. When bad times come their way, however, man is quick to blame God. Salvation is God's greatest gift to His people. Section 209 indicates that many believe this salvation means that men are saved from the punishment their sins require. However, MacDonald states that God came to save man from his sins, not from punishment.

## Miracles of Jesus

There are several sections in which the miracles of Jesus are mentioned. MacDonald makes his first point about miracles in Section 26. In this section he indicates that Jesus could not use His ability to perform miracles to turn one thing into another. For instance, even though He was hungry, He could not turn stones into bread. MacDonald indicates that he believes the miracles of Jesus were simply naturally occurring processes that were speeded up. MacDonald uses an example where he indicates that the multiplication of the fish and loaves to feed a multitude was simple a quickening of processes that would have occurred naturally over the course of thousands of years.

In Section 99 uses the instance of Jesus turning water into wine as another example of a miracle in which natural processes are sped up. Although MacDonald indicates he believes the natural process of grapes growing is more miraculous than Jesus' act of turning water into wine, he indicates the opportunity gave Jesus a way to show His compassion for those in charge of the wedding celebrations.





# Style

## Point of View

The quotes are written solely from MacDonald's point of view. Therefore, the majority of the book is the first person point of view. Occasionally MacDonald will refer to himself and his audience in a quote. In this case the point of view becomes first person, plural. In only a few of his quotes, mostly those which come from his novels, MacDonald writes from the third person omniscient point of view. Examples of this third person point of view can be found in several sections including Section 343, 346, 347 and 348.

Since it is MacDonald's intention to share with his readers his opinions and views of frequently questioned truths of the Christian faith, it is appropriate that he should write in the first person point of view. Also, it should be remembered that many of these quotes were taken from MacDonald's sermons. In these sermons, MacDonald would be speaking to his audience from his own point of view, the first person point of view.

## Setting

It is difficult to assign a setting to this collection of quotes since the majority of these quotes are MacDonald's ideas. While there is no specific "setting" there are locations mentioned in the text of the book. These settings include the Garden of Gethsemane, the garden where Jesus prayed the night before he was killed and Sinai, the mountain where Moses met with God to be given the Ten Commandments. Hell is another setting mentioned in this book. It is largely believed that hell is the place where non-believers of Jesus go when they die.

Many places that MacDonald addresses in his quotes are not literal but figurative places. For instance, in Section 84, MacDonald speaks of God not forcing any door, but that he will send a tempest to batter the house. In this quote MacDonald refers to the person as the house, while the "door" is the way in which God will enter the man's life or "heart." Also, MacDonald often refers often to "eyes of understanding." These eyes are not literal eyes but instead a figurative way to describe they way in which men can understand the meanings of Jesus' parables.

## Language and Meaning

MacDonald's writing is very difficult to understand. This difficulty is not attributed to the words or wording that MacDonald chooses but instead to the topics with which he deals. For readers without a background in Biblical knowledge, some of MacDonald's quotes are impossible to understand. For instance, in Section 246 MacDonald mentions Judas. Judas is the man in the Bible who betrayed Jesus Christ to the Roman soldier who wanted to kill Him. Without knowing who Judas is, the reader cannot fully understand the point that MacDonald is trying to make. Although Christian society considers Judas



to be the most evil of all people, each one of us has a little of the evil that motivated Judas' actions.

In addition, MacDonald's quotes are very deep and thought provoking. It is often necessary to read a quote more than once to fully understand the point that MacDonald hopes to make. One must also take into consideration that these quotes are parts of a larger work. Writer C.S. Lewis put together this collection of quotes in an attempt to highlight MacDonald's work and ideas.

## Structure

This book is an anthology of George MacDonald's ideas compiled by C.S. Lewis. These ideas were taken by Lewis from sermons, books and novels written by MacDonald. The ideas are divided into individual sections with each quote given its own number and title. The titles, which were added by Lewis, indicate the topic of each quote. The sections appear to be loosely arranged by topic. Topics include man's relationship with God, prayer, riches, and the duties of man.

Since this book is a collection of quotes, there is no plot or subplot. The quotes, however, are very thought provoking. In fact, these quotes sometimes need to be read twice in order to be properly understood. There is no dialogue in this book. The quotes are generally written in prose form. A few of the final quotes, however, are written in the form of poetry.



## Quotes

"The worship of fear is true, although very low: and though not acceptable to God in itself, for only the worship of spirit and of truth is acceptable to Him, yet even in His sight it is precious." Section 4, pg. 3.

"It may be an infinitely less evil to murder a man than to refuse to forgive him. The former may be the act of a moment of passion: the latter is the heart's choice." Section 12, pg. 7.

"What is usually called "forgiving the sin" means forgiving the sinner and destroying the sin." Section 13, pg. 8.

"There was in these miracles, and I think in all, only a hastening of appearances: the doing of that in a day, which may ordinarily take a thousand years, for with God time is not what it is with us." Section 26, pg. 15.

"Faith is that which, knowing the Lord's will, goes and does it; or, not knowing it, stands and waits..." Section 29, pg. 16.

"The immediate end of the commandments never was that men should succeed in obeying them, but that, finding they could not do that which yet must be done, finding the more they tried the more was required of them, they should be driven to the source of life and law-of their life and His law-to seek from Him such reinforcement of life as should make fulfillment of the law as possible, yea, as natural, as necessary." Section 56, pg. 30.

"You do not indeed sell Him for thirty pieces of silver, but you are glad not to buy Him with all that you have." Section 65, pg. 35.

"The Son, then, could change His intent and spoil nothing: so I say, can the Father; for the Son does nothing but what He sees the Father do." Section 100, pg. 53.

"All things are possible with God, but all things are not easy..." Section 128, pg. 67.

"Man finds it hard to get what he wants, because he does not want the best; God finds it hard to give, because He would give the best, and man will not take it." Section 130, pg. 68.

"The worst heresy, next to that of dividing religion and righteousness, is to divide the Father from the Son;...to represent the Son as doing that which the Father does not Himself do." Section 131, pg. 68.

"The careless soul receives the Father's gifts as if it were a way things had of dropping into his hand...yet is he ever complaining, as if someone were accountable for the checks which meet him at every turn." Section 163, pg. 84.



"Christ died to save us, not from suffering, but from ourselves; not from injustice, far less from justice, but from being unjust." Section 202, pg. 103.

"No man is condemned for anything he has done: he is condemned for continuing to do wrong." Section 216, pg. 109.

"The one thing that cannot be forgiven is the sin of choosing to be evil, of refusing deliverance." Section 219, pg, 109.

"It is by loving and not by being loved that one can come nearest to the soul of another." Section 259, pg. 125.

"I do not think that the road to contentment lies in despising what we have not got. Let us acknowledge all good, all delight that the world holds, and be content without it." Section 275, pg. 131.

"The bliss of the animals lies in this, that, on their lower level, they shadow the bliss of those—few at any moment on the earth—who do not 'look before and after, and pine for what is not' but live in the holy carelessness of the eternal now." Section 314, pg. 149.

"Even the damned must at times become aware of what they are, and then surely a terrible though momentary hush must fall upon the forsaken regions." Section 315, pg. 149.

"It is the heart that is not yet sure of its God that is afraid to laugh in His presence." Section 319, pg. 150.

"It is not the hysterical alone for whom the great dash of cold water is good. All who dream life instead of living it, require some similar shock." Sections 355, pg. 165.



## Topics for Discussion

Do these excerpts from MacDonald's works make you want to read more of his writings and sermons? Why or why not?

Do you agree with MacDonald's view of miracles? That they are simply natural processes in fast forward? Why or why not?

Consider the way in which C.S. Lewis puts together the quotes from MacDonald. Do you believe they are well organized? Why or why not?

Locate MacDonald's quotes about science (these include Sections 185-189). Consider his view of human science. Do you agree or disagree with his views? Explain your answer.

Explain MacDonald's views and opinions of prayer.

Compare/contrast the good deeds of a righteous man versus those of a wicked man based on MacDonald's quotes.

Describe the relationship between God and man based on information from MacDonald's quotes. Do you agree with his opinions? Why or why not?