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## A CONCISE INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

A Concise Introduction to Islam

The Prophet said: "None of you will have faith till he wishes for his brother what he likes for himself" (Al-Bukhari, volume 1, Hadith no. 1)

ISLAMIC CHALLENGES TO GOD

The New Testament Epistle of James states that if a person will only come close to God, God will come close to him.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

So much more dramatic manner, similar sentiments are expressed in the following statement of the Prophet Muhammad:

The Prophet said: "God says: 'I am with him (you) if he remembers Me. He remembers Me in himself. I then remember him in myself and he remembers Me in a group of people. I remember him in a group that is better than they, and the nearest group (least right) to me is such near to Me. I go near such (about 40 miles) near to him, and if he comes one mile nearer to Me, I go a distance of two miles (about 40 miles) near to him, and if he comes to his walking, I go to him running.'" (Al-Bukhari, volume 1, Hadith no. 1)

CONTRASTING

Consider one final example of the commonality to be found between Islam and the Judeo-Christian tradition. The New Testament author of the Epistle of James warns man against taking himself too seriously.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." And so you must hasten to your entrance of each breathing soul. (James 4:13-15)

The Quran also warns against this type of arrogance.

Never say of anything, "It is mine," without adding, "If God wills." (QSurah Al-Baqarah)

DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS

All of the above is not to say that there are no differences among the three Abrahamic faiths. The differences among Judaism, Christianity and Islam are very real, are important and

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