

God in the Jukebox

“One of Us” by Joan Osborne

If God had a name what would it be?
And would you call it to his face?
If you were faced with Him in all His glory
What would you ask if you had just one
question?

And yeah, yeah, God is great
Yeah, yeah, God is good
And yeah, yeah, yeah-yeah-yeah

What if God was one of us?
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryin' to make his way home?

If God had a face what would it look like?
And would you want to see if, seeing meant
That you would have to believe in things like
heaven
And in Jesus and the saints, and all the
prophets?

And yeah, yeah, God is great
Yeah, yeah, God is good
And yeah, yeah, yeah-yeah-yeah

What if God was one of us?
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryin' to make his way home?

Just tryin' to make his way home
Like back up to heaven all alone
Nobody callin' on the phone
'Cept for the Pope maybe in Rome

And yeah, yeah, God is great
Yeah, yeah, God is good
And yeah, yeah, yeah-yeah-yeah

What if God was one of us?
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryin' to make his way home?

Just tryin' to make his way home
Like a holy rolling stone
Back up to heaven all alone
Just tryin' to make his way home
Nobody callin' on the phone
'Cept for the Pope maybe in Rome

*Songwriters: Eric Bazilian / Eric M. Bazilian
One of Us lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc*

1. “If God had a name, what would it be?” _____ (Matthew 28:19)
2. “If you were faced with Him in all His glory?” Where does Jesus display His glory? _____
3. “What if God was one of us?” _____ (John 1:14)
4. “What if God was ... just a slob like one of us / just a stranger on the bus / trying to make His way home?” Would God visit us as just a stranger? _____ (Acts 1:11)
5. Could God be lost? _____ (Psalm 139:4)
6. “If God had a face, what would it look like?” _____ (John 14:8-11; John 10:30)
7. “And would you want to see...?” What would it be like seeing God in all His glory?
_____ (Exodus 19:16; Exodus 34:29-35)
8. “If, seeing meant that you would have to believe...” What does Romans 14:11 say?

9. “Back up to heaven all alone.” Is Jesus alone in heaven? _____
10. What do you think this means: “Just tryin’ to make his way home ... nobody callin’ on the phone / ‘cept for the Pope maybe in Rome”?

Charts

Billboard: #4 (1995)

Background

"One of Us" was written by Eric Bazilian (guitar/piano/backing vocals) and originally released by Joan Osborne. Released in March 1995 on the album titled "Relish", it became a Billboard Top 40 hit in November of that year.

The song was used as the theme song for the television show "Joan of Arcadia."

In an interview, Bazilian said, "I wrote ['One of Us'] one night — the quickest song I ever wrote — to impress a girl. Which worked, because we're married and have two kids. But we were in the middle of writing Joan's album, which was a group effort with Rick Chertoff and Joan and Rob and I, and I did a demo of 'One of Us,' this wacky little demo which I ended up putting as a hidden track on the CD of my first solo record, and I played [it] for them. And it really hadn't even occurred to me that it was something that Joan might do, but Rick, in his wisdom, asked Joan if she thought she could sing it. And I think it was better that he asked it that way rather than 'Do you want to sing it?' Because the answer to that might not have been yes. But she definitely said she could sing it, and we did a little live demo of a guitar and her singing it. And when I got into my car and popped the cassette in, I started practicing the Grammy speech that I should've gotten to give."

Says Bazilian, "For me, the song was more about what happens to you when you look at something that has completely changed your world view, which could be meeting God, it could be meeting an alien, it could be a near-death experience, it could be anything like that. Just how everything you know is wrong, or everything you know is right, and you didn't know it."

The song deals with various aspects of belief in God by asking questions inviting the listener to consider how they might relate to God, such as "Would you call [God's name] to his face?" or "Would you want to see [God's face] if seeing meant that you would have to believe in things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints and all the prophets?"

Theology

If God had a name what would it be? Father, Son, Holy Spirit

If you were faced with Him in all His glory – Jesus is glorified with His death and resurrection.

*What if God was one of us? **John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

Just a slob like one of us

Just a stranger on the bus

Tryin' to make his way home? – God knows everything. He's omniscient.

If God had a face what would it look like? Jesus.

And would you want to see if, seeing meant

That you would have to believe in things like heaven

*And in Jesus and the saints, and all the prophets? – **Romans 14:11 "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."***

Just tryin' to make his way home

Like back up to heaven all alone

Nobody callin' on the phone

'Cept for the Pope maybe in Rome – Denying God's Power, Saying nobody praying, except maybe the pope.