GET LAUNCHED

THE TOP 10 QUESTIONS SEEKERS & NEW CHRISTIANS ASK
(“How do I answer that...”)
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By nature, a question jumpstarts thinking! Jesus asked a bunch of questions that were purposed to adjust a person’s outlook and prepare them for greater understanding.

For example, Jesus asked:

“Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26)
“What do you think about the Christ?” (Matthew 22:42)
“Do you love Me?” (John 21:17)
“What do you want Me to do for you?” (Luke 18:41)
“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37)

The Lord not only raises the right questions, but He is more than willing to answer the questions that we have!

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you.” (James 1:5)

#1 “Isn’t it enough that a person just believes in God?”

Quick Answer: “No.”

The Bible says, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and tremble.” (James 2:19, John 1:12)

This tells us that even Satan actually recognizes the existence of the true and living God, but still refuses to do what is right.

This tells us there is a big difference between just believing that God exists verses knowing God in a personal relationship.

When the issue of “believing in God” arises, we need to ask, “What God is being talked about?” The term “God” is one of the most general terms used today.

The reality is, that the question “Who is God?” will either be answered by revelation (God revealing Himself) or by human imagination (man making up an answer).

When the term “God” is used by someone who does not have a personal relationship with Jesus, more often than not, their concept of God is often a figment of their imagination.

In the Bible, God revealed Himself as the True and Living God, and Jesus is the ONLY way to having a personal relationship with Him—the “only true God!”

“And this is the way to have eternal life—to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth.” (John 17:3)

Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except it be through Me.” God has revealed Himself in Jesus!

#2 “Doesn’t God love everyone? After all, the Bible says, “God is love.”

Quick Answer: Yes, “God is love!” (1 John 4:8) And yes, He loves everyone! (John 3:16)
What is love? Who defines love?

Today, we’re in the midst of a cultural redefining of what love is—based on the worldview of naturalism (that everything came from nothing) that defines love as merely chemical reactions in the brain, nothing more.

Our world promotes the idea that love is defined by what two consenting adults mutually agree on—so long as their actions or their lifestyle doesn’t hurt each other or hurt others. This assumes that two adults know the full understanding of their actions!

In this series, we’re going to take an in-depth look at what love is. But for now, a good start is to consider what God’s love in action looks like in the following verse.

Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

What is God saying here?

#1 God’s love values every human being. “For God so loved the world…”

#2 God’s love is sacrificial, self-less, and other’s oriented. “He gave His only begotten Son”

#3 God’s love fights social breakdown, disintegration and decay—both now and eternally. “whoever believes in Him should not perish”

#4 God’s love is nourishing, healing, edifying, and redemptive. “…but have everlasting life”

We learn that true love values others, is selfless, fights for what is good, and is a nourishing, healing and redemptive influence!

God loves every human being enough not to leave them the way they are!

And, ultimately, He gives us the choice whether to have a relationship with Him, and receive His unconditional love. He won’t force Himself on anyone. Ultimately He leaves the choice up to you! God is a gentleman!

#3 “I just received Christ as my Savior, what just happened?”

Quick Answer: You experienced a miracle!

How so? The Lord God Almighty took residence in your life immediately when you accepted His gift of salvation through Jesus. It is a miracle!

Think of a child at conception. God puts the DNA structure of that child immediately at conception—life begins. The DNA determines the life and growth of the child!

Similarly, the Bible says that at the moment of salvation, we are “Born Again” of an “incorruptible seed”—the Word of God.

“…having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever…” (1 Peter 1:23)

Now, you have God’s DNA!
The Holy Spirit indwells you. You are a child of God! You are becoming the person God created you to be in Christ.

“…as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him…” (2 Peter 1:3)

When did the miracle take place? It took place the moment that you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord!

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

“…if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

“…because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” (Galatians 4:6)

“…if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.” (Romans 8:9)

The reason that becoming a Christian takes place in a moment is because it is a gift (i.e. grace) received by faith.

It’s been said that the term, “grace” could be defined in acronym form as “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense!” (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

Jesus came to give His life on the cross to pay the debt of the sin of the world and because He paid that debt in full, He now offers us His righteousness.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Once the miracle of becoming a child of God takes place, it begins a process of a lifetime in growing as a child of God! If you have turned to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are in that process. You are becoming the person God has already made you to be in Christ! That’s what these classes are all about—to help you grow in relationship with the Lord.

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

In conclusion, becoming a Christian is a miracle of the moment that takes place in the snap of a finger, but growing as Christian is a process of a lifetime!
#4 “Doesn’t becoming a Christian require a kind of ‘blind faith?’”

**Quick Answer:** No! You don’t check your brains at the door when coming to Christ. You do not commit intellectual suicide in becoming a Christian!

Yet, faith is essential. The Bible says …

> “Without faith it’s impossible to please God…” (Hebrews 11:6)

> “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

> “You are Saved by grace through faith…” (Ephesians 2:8)

> “Above all, take up the shield of faith…” (Ephesians 6:16)

However, faith is not unreasonable!

There are two kinds of faith: one we could call general faith, which every person on planet earth knows a lot about. And the other is biblical faith.

Most decisions that we make on a daily basis are under the category of general faith.

Everybody knows about this faith because it is based on trust rather than full disclosure or understanding of a matter.

For example,

We take prescription medication from a doctor who has identified an illness we’ve never heard of, gives a prescription that we can’t read, sends us to a pharmacist who gives us a bottle of liquid that tastes like poison—and we go back for more!

We drive a car without having a full understanding of how it works! (Who checks their brakes before driving?)

99% of the decisions that we make each day (some 35,000 of them) are based on general faith.

Then there is Biblical faith, which is when a person is being informed by the One who does know everything—Almighty God!

> “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

> “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.” (Psalm 147:4-5).

Biblical faith, has a Person that it trusts in—the True and Living God!

> “Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

> “It is not the strength of your faith, but the object of your faith that actually saves you.” (Timothy Keller)
Now, the opposite of faith is **doubt**!

Doubt is having a lack of assurance and confidence that God will keep His **promises**.

Doubt is not believing what God will **do**.

It is therefore a **choice** to live in **uncertainty or by faith**.

Everything that God has said is true and will come to pass!

The Lord wants us to believe this and when we do, it’s called faith and faith becomes the funnel through which God blesses our lives.

So, what are some of the promises God has given us that He wants us by faith to believe and accept to be true? Let’s boil down some great “**God-Guarantees**” for you…

#1 He will **provide** your needs. “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

#2 He will **prosper** us for our highest good. “No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly…” (Psalm 84:11)

#3 He will bless you with His **presence**. “…how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)

#4 He will hear the **prayer** of the heart that turns to Him. “…everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

#5 He will work out His **plan** in your life, making lemonade out of lemons. “…we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Trust the Lord! Believe Him today. Accept His Word as true! Stand on His guarantees —His promises!

As you do, it will impact your thinking, your outlook and the way you live. When you believe Him and His word, you will “please” the Lord and experience His approval and blessing.

**Question #5** “Is there evidence that God exists—that there is an intelligent being behind the creation of all things?”

**Quick Answer:** Yes.

There are essentially two camps of thought! One is **supernaturalism**, and the other is **naturalism**.

#1 **Supernaturalism**: is the idea that behind the beginning of the cosmos is intelligence, a Creator, which would imply that there is intention, purpose and a divine plan.

#2 **Naturalism**: is the idea that behind the cosmos is mindless nature (random chemical realities), which would imply randomness, mindlessness, and purposelessness.

In short, there are two options every person must choose from:

Either **God** created us or **nothing** created us. (A “Big Bang”)

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How do we know which one is right? Are we a by-product of mindless nature, or a creation of an intelligent Creator? This is where it’s important to have perspective on the sciences.

“Operation Science” studies the present, is repeatable, and examines how things work. It deals with the way things normally operate (i.e. like for example, examining an engine).

“Origin Science,” on the other hand, operates more like forensic science, in which the past is reconstructed on the basis of evidence that remains in the present.

SUPERNATURALISM:
Deeper Question: Is there any “forensic evidence” to support supernaturalism? Is there any evidence that we see today that supports an intelligent creator? Answer: Yes, we see evidence in the following four “C’s”

**Creation:** the complexity of life.
Where there is a creation, there is a Creator! Our complex universe shows evidence of a Creator. Sensory input from the physical world provides knowledge that there is an intelligent Creator behind creation. Sometimes called general revelation, these are things God reveals about himself through nature to everyone (Romans 1:20).

**Conscience:** the fact that man has a moral apparatus that accuses or excuses one’s actions. The moral law written on human conscience points to a Moral Lawgiver (Romans 2:14-15).

**Christ:** The overwhelming evidences that Jesus is who He claimed to be!
Jesus said, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:46-49)

**Communication:** The divine communication called special revelation; these are the things God told to specific people at specific times in history.

NATURALISM:
What are the implications of naturalism? (It’s not a pretty picture!)

If there is no God, and everything in this world is the product of “an accidental collection of atoms” (as Bertrand Russell famously put it), then there is no actual purpose for which we were made—we are accidents. If we are the product of accidental natural forces, then what we call “beauty” is nothing but a neurological hardwired response to particular data.

If, as the evolutionary scientists say, what our brains tells us about morality, love, and beauty is not real—if it is merely a set of chemical reactions designed to pass on our genetic code—then so is what our brains tell us about the world. Then why should they trust them?

C.S. Lewis puts this vividly:

“You can’t, except in the lowest animal sense, be in love with a girl if you know (and keep on remembering) that all the beauties both of her person and of her character are a momentary and accidental pattern produced by the collision of atoms, and that your own response to them is only a sort of psychic phosphorescence arising from the behavior of your genes. You can’t go on getting very serious pleasure from music if you know and remember that its air of significance is a pure illusion, that you like it only because your nervous system is irrationally conditioned to like it.”
A French scientist penned to a Christian friend...

“I don’t know why it’s so hard to live without a permanent commitment. My scientific understanding of man is that we are the result of chance happenings in the universe. Our desires are the results of genes and instincts and hormones, so love is actually an illusion. But I never realized my ideas had drained life of its joy. My lover, Francois, and I cannot live on the basis of these views even though we’re sure that they are correct. It’s almost as if we don’t understand who we are.”

A leading Christian leader in a debate with atheist Sam Harris...

“Sam, what interests me is not so much that you don’t believe in God, but why you don’t believe in God. I don’t have enough faith to not believe in God. It takes far more faith to believe this is all an accident than to believe that there was a design and creator behind it. You can’t prove it, and I can’t prove it, so we’re both living by faith. I believe it by faith. You doubt it by faith.” He continued, “I asked Sam, ‘If you were to believe in God, would you have to change your lifestyle?’ When he said, ‘Yes,’ I responded, ‘So that’s the real issue. The issue is not that you can’t believe in God. It’s that you don’t want to believe in God. The truth is that you just don’t want a boss. You don’t want a sovereign Lord who tells you, ‘This is right and this is wrong.’ You want to make it up yourself. You want to be God.”

#6 “Can the Bible be trusted?”

Quick answer: Yes!

Jesus authenticated the truthfulness of the Bible and there is not a greater authority than Him! Jesus gave His life on the cross and resurrected from the grave, ascended to heaven and is coming again!

Jesus said, “Until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18)

Jesus said of HIS words that they were divinely inspired, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35) “It shall not return to Me void...” (Isaiah 55:11)

Luke 24:44 records Jesus saying, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”

In the weeks to come we’ll look more in depth on the subject of “God’s User Manual for Life: the Bible!” It will be an exciting, enlightening, and life transforming experience.

#7 The skeptics says, “There are so many contradictions in the Bible...”

Quick Answer: Not even one contradiction!

Below is an example of what may appear to be a contradiction but actually is not!


If Matthew stated that only one angel was present, the accounts would be in disagreement.
In this case, differing accounts aren’t necessarily contradictory.

At times, the Bible writers report the same event but do not choose the exact descriptions of the event.

It could be for all kinds of reasons.

But what it doesn’t say is that what they are reporting is mutually exclusive or contradictory.

At times, you will face a passage in the Bible that is difficult to understand, but it is never because of the inspiration of God, but the interpretation of man.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 reads, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

“Inspiration” speaks of the Word of God being “God breathed.”
“Doctrines” tells us what is right.
“Reproof” tells us what is not right.
“Correction” tells us how to get right.
“Instruction” tells us how to stay right.
“Equipped” for every good work” tells us that God wants to transform our life!

Ultimately, the Bible gives us the wisdom for salvation in Christ—pointing us to Jesus Christ. And ultimately, it is Jesus who authenticates the authority and inspiration of the Bible!

#8 “Isn’t religion the reason why we have the problems in our world today?”

Quick Answer: No!

“What is religion?”

“It is a set of beliefs that explain what life is all about—who we are, and the most important things that human beings should spend their time doing.”

A religion is a “worldview”/ It is a “narrative identity”

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)

#9 “Is there an original design for sexual relations?”
“What about same sex attraction and same sex marriage?”
“What does the Bible say about Homosexuality?”

Quick Answer: God has given His perfect original design for a man and a woman in marriage.

We need to think this through.

“Should there be lines drawn in having sex with the opposite sex? For example, should age be a consideration? Should marriage be a consideration?”
“Should there be a line drawn between having sexual relations with the same sex? Should age be a consideration?”

“It is true that we are to love everyone, but are we to have sex with everyone, or anyone?”

A respected author and pastor said ...

“I’m naturally inclined to have sex with every beautiful woman I see. But that doesn’t mean that it’s the right thing to do. And why should I reign in my natural impulses. And you say, ‘Well, because I have natural impulses towards the same sex, I shouldn’t have to reign them in.’ Well, I disagree. I think that’s part of maturity. I think it’s part of delayed gratification. I think it’s part of character!”

What is the biblical response to “I was born this way!”

Below are nine realities to absorb:

1) We live in a broken world that Jesus came to fix.

2) God deeply loves all people.

3) God offers redemption to all people through Jesus.

4) We all need Jesus, no matter what our inclinations. We all need Jesus who is the Savior and Lord.

5) There is no basis to demean others, because we are all dependent on God’s free grace in Christ.

6) There is such a thing as original design, what is right, what is blessed and consequences to choices that are made in life.

7) It is God’s will that we are holy, no matter what a person’s dispositions or attractions may be.

8) This means that under no circumstances, would God ever bless or approve sexual relations outside of original design (which is marriage between a man and a woman)

9) We are all for equality, but not for immorality, and neither is the Lord, who knows the full ramification of it!

If you have same sex attraction be encouraged...

One’s identity is more than sexuality.

Avoid allowing sexuality to destroy your objectivity.

Many who have experienced same sex attraction have concluded that Jesus is the Son of God. In doing so, they have chosen to make their identity Christ!

When you become a Christian, your identity first becomes Christ. Then, all other things become second.

If you make that identity shift, your feelings will change.

Those attracted to same sex are not the only ones needing to reboot.

Your sexual desires are more malleable than you may think. You do not know what is going to happen in the future. Don’t lose objectivity. Get Jesus! Make Him your identity. See what the Lord will do!!
Second, if you have same sex attraction—keep yourself pure. If you are unmarried, you should practice abstinence from all sexual activity. God is asking you to do is pretty much the same thing that he requires of all single people. That means not only keeping your body pure, but especially your mind.

Just as heterosexual men should avoid pornography and fantasizing, you, too, need to keep your thought-life clean. Resist the temptation to rationalize sin by saying, “God made me this way.” God has made it very clear that He does not want you to indulge your desires, but to honor Him by keeping your mind and body pure. Many have found great help from professional Christian counseling. With time and effort, you can come to enjoy normal, heterosexual relations with your spouse. There is hope.

The New Testament is very clear on the subject of homosexual behavior.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul wrote, “Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Conclusion: Sin is sin—no matter what form it takes. We are to depart from evil as believers! We are to live holy lives for His glory!

#10 “Isn’t it narrow thinking to believe that Jesus is the only way?”

Quick Answer: Absolutely! And it is a good thing...

Go deeper: This is perhaps the greatest criticism of Christianity. Yet we all can appreciate narrow thinking (i.e. a pilot landing on a runway, a doctor operating on our bodies, a chef preparing food properly). To follow Jesus as the Messiah is in fact an exclusive belief (any belief really is), but it produces an inclusive love and care for all people.

Christianity came into a Greek and Roman world that was tolerant of various views. It was a world where everyone had their own god. It was a brutal world. There was a huge difference between rich and poor. Women were suppressed and oppressed! Following Jesus as Messiah was a light in this darkness. Jesus was creating in Himself a community from the rich, the poor, the black, the white, the Jew, the Gentile, etc. It was Christians who were valuing and loving those who didn’t even agree with them.

Timothy Keller asks, “Why would such an EXCLUSIVE belief system lead to behavior that was so open to others?”

“It was because Christians had within their belief system the strongest possible resource for practicing sacrificial service, generosity, and peace-making. At the very heart of their view of reality was a man who died for his enemies—praying for their forgiveness. Reflection on this could only lead to a radically different way of dealing with those who were different from them. It meant that they could not act in violence and oppression toward their opponents!”

In life, there are facts. Facts are fact. For example, food is necessary to live. We need air to breathe. These are “just facts!” They are not narrow. They are not bigoted views. They are not insensitive views. They are just facts. Similarly, the fact is that Jesus is the Son of God. And this really good news! He not only accomplished radically wonderful things, but made radical claims backing them up by His own resurrection from the dead!
Jesus said that He alone was the “Way, Truth and Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me!” (John 14:6)

Next week, the most important study in life: “Who Is Jesus?”