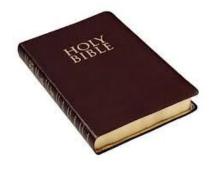


Our Questions





Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

(Matthew 7:7)

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THE BIBLE

Who wrote the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God....."

2 Peter 1:20-21 "Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Can the Bible be understood by the ordinary follower of Jesus?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Psalm 119:130 "The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."

Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

What is needed to understand the Bible?

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

James 1:5-6 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Is the Bible old and obsolete?

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Will the Bible ever change?

Psalm 119:160 "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Can we always trust the Bible?

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

Why is it important to read and study the Bible?

Deuteronomy 8:3 "....that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

Psalm 119:11, 105 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.....Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

John 6:68 "Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"

John 8:31-32 "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

JESUS

Who is Jesus?

Matthew 1:16-17 "....and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations."

John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'"

John 8:12 "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'"

Colossians 1:15-20 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

Is Jesus God?

John 1:1, 14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 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."

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Hebrews 1:1-3 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Hebrews 1:8 "But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."

Does Jesus change?

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross?

Hebrews 9:22 "....without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

Hebrews 9:26 "But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 2:9 "But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone."

Matthew 20:28 "....even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 2:4 "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious."

1 John 4:9 "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

Did Jesus bodily arise from the grave?

Matthew 28:5-6 "But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.'"

John 20:27-29 "Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

Is Jesus the only way to heaven?

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

SALVATION/ETERNAL LIFE

How can a person enter the kingdom of heaven?

John 3:3, 5-6 "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.....Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Why did Jesus say we must have a second birth to enter heaven?

Romans 3:23 "....for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

How serious is our sin?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death...."

How did God make it possible for us to be forgiven of our sin and receive eternal life?

Romans 5:8-9 "....but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

How does a person receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus?

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out."

John 1:12-13 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our

sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 10:9-10 "....if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Will God really hear me if I confess my sin and ask Jesus to come into my life as Savior and Lord?

Romans 10:13 "...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

Is it God's desire for me to be saved from my sin?

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Can anyone be sure of eternal life?

I John 5:11-13 "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

Can a person possibly be good enough to receive eternal life?

Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Galatians 2:16 "....yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

Is Jesus the only way to heaven or are there other ways?

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5-6 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."

What happens to those who die without knowing Jesus as their Savior and Lord?

1 John 5:11-12 "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

2 Thessalonians 1:8 "in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

SIN

Has everyone sinned?

Romans 3:23 "....for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Are all sins serious?

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

What is the consequence of all sin?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death...."

How did God make it possible for our sin to be forgiven?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:9-10 "We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin.

so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

How can I be set free from sin and death?

John 1:12 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out."

Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

What does true repentance of sin look like?

Psalm 51:1-2 "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!"

Psalm 51:9-13 "Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you."

Psalm 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

What happens if a person refuses to confess and turn from sin?

Psalm 32:3 "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Can we ever hide our sin from God?

Psalm 44:20-21 "If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart."

Hebrews 4:13 "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

HEAVEN/HELL

Is heaven a real place?

Psalm 33:13 "The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man."

Psalm 103:19 "The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all."

Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

What is heaven like?

2 Corinthians 5:1 "For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

1 Peter 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

1 Corinthians 15:54 "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Philippians 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."

Is hell a real place?

Matthew 10:28 "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment."

What is hell like?

Matthew 25:30 "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:41, 46 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels'.....then they will go away to eternal punishment."

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

What are God's commandments?

Exodus 20:3-17 "You shall have no other gods before me.' 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth....' 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain....' 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 'Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 'You shall not murder.' 'You shall not commit adultery.' 'You shall not steal.' 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.' 'You shall not covet.'"

Matthew 22:37-40 "And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Did Jesus do away with the commandments?

Matthew 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Why should a Christian still be concerned with obeying God's commandments?

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

John 14:21 "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

John 14:23 "Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'"

John 14:24 "Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

1 John 2:3-5 "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him.'"

1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Is the Holy Spirit God?

Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...."

Acts 5:3-4 "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.'"

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit "

What are some other names for the Holy Spirit?

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

Romans 8:2, 9 "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death....You, however, are not in the flesh

but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

1 Corinthians 2:10 "These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

Philippians 1:19 "For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance."

Hebrews 9:14 "....how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

Is the Holy Spirit also in the Old Testament?

Genesís 1:2 "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Exodus 31:2-3 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God...."

Psalm 104:30 "When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."

Zechariah 4:6 "Then he said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

How does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

Galatians 3:13-14 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us- for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree' - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith."

Ephesians 1:13-14 "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Do all true believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:9 "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

Why are Christians given the Holy Spirit?

John 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 8:11, 16, 26 "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.....The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God....Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

2 Thessalonians 2:13 "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

What are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Romans 12:6-8 "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 "To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."

Ephesians 4:11-12 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Why does the Holy Spirit give gifts to Christians?

1 Corinthians 12:7 "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Who determines what gifts of the Holy Spirit a Christian receives?

1 Corinthians 12:11 "All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

FORGIVENESS

If God is just and righteous, how can He forgive sin?

Romans 5:8-9 "....but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

Romans 6:10 "For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Once we become a follower of Jesus, will God continue to forgive us when we sin?

I John 1:7-9 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Does God require us to forgive others?

Matthew 6:12, 14 "....and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors....For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Matthew 18:21-22 "Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'"

What happens if we refuse to forgive others?

Matthew 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

LOVE

What does true love look like?

I Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Where does true love come from?

1 John 4:8, 16, 19 "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. We love because he first loved us."

Romans 5:5 "....and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

How do I know that God loves me?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 5:8 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

How am I to love God?

Matthew 22:37-38 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

How do I know if I truly love God?

John 14:15, 21, 23 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments....Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.....If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

Is it possible to love God while still hating another person?

John 4:20-21 "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

FAITH

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

James 2:18-22 "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe- and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works."

Does my faith matter to God?

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him"

Why is faith so important?

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Galatians 2:16 "Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 3:11, 24 "Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'....So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Ephesians 6:16 "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one."

Can I ask Jesus to help me with my faith?

Mark 9:21-27 "And Jesus asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.' And Jesus said to him, 'If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.' And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose."

What else can we do to increase our faith?

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

PEACE

How can a sinful person find peace with a Holy God?

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:19-20 "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

Can a Christian have peace in today's world?

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

What is a Christian's responsibility regarding peace?

Isaiah 26:3 "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you,

because he trusts in you."

Romans 8:6 "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

Romans 12:18-19 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"

Romans 14:19 "So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

TRIALS/SUFFERING

Will followers of Jesus still experience trials and suffering?

Psalm 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

John 15:18-20 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

1 Peter 4:12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

If God loves us, why does He allow us to suffer?

James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

1 Peter 1:6-7 "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, as was necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:19-21 "For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer

for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

What should a follower of Jesus do when being treated unjustly?

1 Peter 2:23 "When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."

1 Peter 4:16, 19 "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name....Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

What does God promise His children in the midst of their suffering?

1 Peter 5:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

JUSTICE/JUDGMENT

Why do I see so many wicked people prospering?

Psalm 94:2-3, 21-23 "Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve! O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?....They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death. But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge. He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out."

Psalm 96:11-13 "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness,

and the peoples in his faithfulness."

Psalm 97:2-3 "Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around."

If people worship other gods, but are sincere, will God still judge them?

Exodus 20:3-6 "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Psalm 96:5 "For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens."

Psalm 97:7 "All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!"

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Where is judgment day mentioned in the Bible?

Matt. 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and vou welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hangry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"

Romans 12:19-21 "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 14:10-12 "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

Matthew 11:23-24 "And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

2 Peter 3:7 "But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

Is God always just?

Isaiah 30:18 "Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."

Deut. 32:4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

Psalm 111:7-8 "The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness."

Dan. 4:37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

Isaiah 51:4-6 "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth be-

neath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

Revelation 19:2 "...for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

TEMPTATION

Are temptations a part of life?

Luke 17:1 "And he said to his disciples, 'Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!"

Where do temptations come from?

James 1:13-14 "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."

Matthew 4:1-3 "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'"

1 Thessalonians 3:5 "For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain."

Have others experienced the same temptation I am having?

1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man."

What promises concerning temptation does God give His children?

I Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Does Jesus understand how I feel when I am tempted?

Hebrews 2:18 "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 5:8 "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered."

PRAYER

How did Jesus teach His disciples to pray?

Matt. 6:7-13 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

What should our prayers include?

Ps. 34:1 "I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

1 Thess. 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Phil. 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Are we to pray even though God already knows our needs?

1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Matt. 6:7-8 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Matt. 7:7-8 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and

the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

James 4:2 "You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask."

Are there hindrances to prayer?

James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."

James 4:3 "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

Ps. 66:18 "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

CHRISTIAN LIFE

What Scripture should always guide Christian action?

Matthew 7:12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Luke 6:31 "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

1 Corinthian 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

What Scripture should always guide Christian speech?

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

How is leadership in the Church different from leadership in the world?

Mark 10:42-45 "And Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of

Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Why does God discipline His children?

Hebrews 12:6, 11 "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.....For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

What does God say about those who follow Him half-heartedly?

Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

Mark 8:34-36 "And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

Is it ever right for a Christian to take revenge?

1 Thessalonians 5:15 "See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone."

Does it matter to God how Christians work for their employer?

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Is it all right for Christians to keep quiet about their faith so they won't be persecuted?

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

What should a disciple's mind dwell upon?

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

How can a follower of Jesus know God's will?

Romans 12:1-2 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

How should followers of Jesus view their bodies?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

What happens to followers of Jesus when they die?

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

2 Corinthians 5:8 "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN FROM HIS SINS

God's Creation

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:31 "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

Man's Fall & Punishment

Romans 3:10 "None is righteous, no, not one;"

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death"

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 "....on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,"

God's Gift

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..."

Romans 5:8-9 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Man's Response

John 1:12 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"

WHERE TO FIND....

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:37-39

The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:3-17

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

The Golden Rule: Luke 6:31

The Love Chapter: 1 Cor. 13

The Faith Chapter: Hebrews 11

The Bible: Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12

The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-12

The Christmas Story: Luke 2:8-14

The Easter Story: Matthew 28:1-6

The Armor of God: Ephesians 6:11-18

Fruits of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23

The Wisdom from Above: James 3:17

The Lord is My Shepherd: Psalms 23

The Light of the World: John 8:12

The True Vine: John 15:5-6

The Bread of Life: John 6:35

The Way, the Truth, and the Life: John 14:6

The Resurrection: John 11:25

Things to think about: Philippians 4:8

I stand at the door: Revelations 3:20

For God so loved the world: John 3:16

God is love: 1 John 4:7-12

"Our Questions – God's Answers" is the third pamphlet of the "Nothing But Scripture" series. The "Nothing But Scripture" series places Bible verses under various headings to help readers find the information and answers they are seeking. The Scripture is allowed to speak for itself without additional opinions or comments. You read – you decide. The only exception is the last page that lists often-sought-after Scripture passages and their references.

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"....freely you have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:8

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