

ANSWERS TO LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

*Do you have questions that
you are afraid to ask?*

?

Does God exist?

?

Is the Bible true?

?

Is Jesus real?

?

What are the Foundational Beliefs
of Christianity and How Can They
Transform My Life?

THE ANSWERS ARE INSIDE!

Easy to understand answers for
**Believers Who Need More Confidence in
Their Beliefs**

— AND —

**Those Searching for Truth and Meaning
in Life!**

BY DARRYL RECORD



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by Darryl Record

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A Note from the Author

& How to Use This Resource

Dear Readers!

Thank you for joining me in seeking *Answers to Life's Most Important Questions*! Every answer I have ever shared in this or any of my other books, videos, or classes has come as the hard-fought battle with serious doubts that I have had about the truth of Christianity and God's goodness. These are not ivory-tower, hypothetical, or academic exercises.

I originally wrote a short booklet entitled *Answers to Difficult Questions* in 2001 (with later translations in Cambodian, Spanish, and Japanese) as a tool to help me explain my own faith to my Cambodian Buddhist university students. This document expands on the original booklet with a new name.

I wrote the original booklet and am sharing this revised document

because all of the evangelistic tracts I could find back then (and to some extent still today) all started their presentation of Christianity from the New Testament, such as John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish.”*

This is a wonderful and essential truth! However, my Cambodian friends had many gaps in their understanding of even this verse, such as:

- Who is God?
- Is God real?
- Did God create everything or did it happen by chance over a long time from water, wind, earth, and fire?
- Who is Jesus?
- What Does It Mean to Be Saved?
- And many more valid questions like these.

Those of us who grew up in Christian families and attended church since we were children often speak in Christian jargon or “*Christianese*.” Christians say things like, “*Have you been washed in the Blood of the Lamb?*” and “*Have you invited Jesus into your heart?*” to each other. But, non-Christians can find these sayings extremely confusing, comical, or even repulsive. So, we need to “become all things to all people to win some,” in the way we communicate with non-Christians.

Back in 2000, I soon realized that most evangelistic materials, especially those written by Americans, that I had access to, were written during a long-past era in the United States when most people already had basic beliefs in the existence of the Creator God, the truth of the Bible, and Jesus Christ, etc., so they just needed to hear the John 3:16 part of the message.

I think of the New Testament/John 3:16, etc. message of the Bible as the roof of the house. The roof is

essential; no house is complete without it, and no one can live successfully in a house without a roof. However, we can't forget that roofs don't float in mid-air. They must be supported on a strong foundation and walls.

This free document is now formatted for phone screens so that you can always have it with you in your pocket. It is designed to be a conversation guide that can be read and discussed with one or more seekers over one or more conversations.

I have discovered that many times we need time to ponder and internalize one truth before we can have a strong enough mental, emotional, and, in the case of this document, spiritual foundation to support more information, decisions, or commitments.

So, please don't rush through the ideas presented in this document!

I often think about how many marriages and other close, deeply trusting friendships are built. Few married couples or close friends would say that they met each other as strangers in the market one day and within a few minutes were in a lifelong committed marriage or friendship. Instead, it takes time to build trust by learning more about each other and developing trust through experiencing life's challenges together.

Likewise, I believe that our deepest questions of faith and ultimately our personal relationship to God should be valued and respected as the most important questions we will ever ask, because they determine not just the trajectory of our lives but also our eternity beyond death. So, they should be patiently explored and built ground up, one step at a time, to build the strongest, most resilient structure possible.

This document can also serve as a mental outline to help believers explain their faith in their own words

in a logical, foundation-up manner. It is very much intended to be a no-pressure, no-sales-pitch, non-confrontational, “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15), and seeks to help overcome other obstacles to faith and a relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4) for non-believers and equip believers to live and explain their faith to their family and friends with confidence.

Topics include:

- Doubts about the existence of God and Creation
- The truth of the Bible
- Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection
- The Gospel message starting with the Fall in Genesis and building up to Salvation purchased by Christ on the cross
- How to deal with opposition or anger from family and friends when people become Christians.

Please share this free resource with others! It is my prayer that all believers will be well equipped to confidently explain their faith, starting with those closest to them (1 Peter 3:15, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:4, Ephesians 4:11-12, and Matthew 9:35-38, etc.)

More than 100 Cambodian Language Videos (plus a couple Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese) available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@EvidenceCambodia>

www.internationalfishers.com

For more resources, faith doubt research tech-support, or if you are interested in making a contextualized version of this document or any of my other books or videos (English manuscripts and scripts etc. available) in your native language, please email me at:

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In Christ's Hands,

Darryl Record

August 2026 — Phnom Penh, Cambodia

About Darryl: MA Christian Apologetics, MA TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages),
Missionary to Cambodia (2000-2003 and 2007-Present), Founder of International Fishers: Christian Evidence Ministry, Assistant Pastor at International Christian Assembly in Cambodia, Adjunct Apologetics and Christology Teacher at Cambodia Bible Institute
Adjunct Apologetics Teacher at Cambodia Presbyterian Theological Institute, Co-Author of *Christianity: Reasons for Faith*, Author of *Christianity: Discerning Essential Doctrines and Preserving Unity*.

A Quick Self-Survey of Your Beliefs

Many people may feel too rushed with the demands of daily life to reflect on what they believe about life's most important issues or why they believe what they believe.

1. I believe...

- ☐ **A.** There is no god.
- ☐ **B.** There is one God.
- ☐ **C.** There are many gods.
- ☐ **D.** Other (please explain as much/little as you can/feel comfortable)

2. I believe that the universe, planets, plants, animals, and people, etc.:

- ☐ **A.** Happened because of chance and/or other non-intelligent forces.
- ☐ **B.** Were created by God.
- ☐ **C.** Other (please explain as much/little as you can/feel comfortable)

3. I believe that the Bible is:

- ☐ **A.** Just another religious book and is not true.
- ☐ **B.** The message of God recorded by men and is completely true.
- ☐ **C.** Other (please explain as much/little as you can/feel comfortable)

4. I believe that Jesus is:

- ☐ **A.** A fictional character like Superman or Mickey Mouse.
- ☐ **B.** A real man who lived 2000 years ago but he isn't God.
- ☐ **C.** 100% God and 100% man who really lived, died, and came back to life.
- ☐ **D.** Other (please explain as much/little as you can/feel comfortable)

5. I follow the religion of...

- ☐ **A.** Buddhism
- ☐ **B.** Christianity
- ☐ **C.** Islam
- ☐ **D.** Other _____

6. I follow this religion because:

- ☐ **A.** My family has believed in this religion for a long time.
- ☐ **B.** It is the national religion of my country.
- ☐ **C.** I don't know why I follow this religion. I just believe.
- ☐ **D.** I have researched this religion, and I am confident that it is true.
- ☐ **E.** Other (please explain as much/little as you can/feel comfortable)

7. (If you are reading this document with another person) Would you be willing to talk about topics such as: faith, God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ together?

- ☐ **A.** Yes, I'm willing to have a brief friendly conversation now/soon (schedule_____) and maybe more talks later.
- ☐ **B.** Not right now, but thanks.

Thank you for thinking about these questions and putting your views into words for yourself and others!

Feel free to consider these questions more in depth or continue to other topics in this document whenever you are ready.

QUESTION 1

Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

Your choice to follow any religion or even not to follow any specific religion at all, or even to not believe in God or anything beyond what you can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch is the most important decision you will ever make. The second most important decision you will make is whom you marry. The third is your career.

- If you choose a bad career, you might be unhappy until you find another job. So, it's important to find the right career for yourself.
- If you choose a bad husband or wife, you might be unhappy until you die. So, it's very important to find the most compatible spouse for yourself.
- If you choose the wrong religion, you may suffer for the rest of your life and even after you die.

So, it's of the highest importance to find correct answers to your spiritual questions.

Following a religion only because your family believes it or it is popular in your culture, without doing any of your own research, makes about as much sense as jumping off a tall building simply because all your friends are doing it! As an intelligent and independent person, it is essential to make decisions based on the facts instead of just blindly following the crowd because you will bear the consequences of your mistakes more than anyone else.

Family traditions and cultural heritage can provide very valuable guidance. However, when a choice turns out to be wrong—whether in work, marriage, or faith—it is you who will personally bear the deepest weight of that decision, far more than your family or community.

QUESTION 2

God or Chance?



1. Which of these things could be made by chance?

A key? A coffee cup? A phone? A motorcycle? A book? A computer? An ink pen?

2. Have you ever heard of a key, phone, or computer that was made by chance?

3. Which has more parts? AND Which would be easier for a person to make?

A key or a mosquito? A phone or a mouse? A motorcycle or a dog? A

computer or a child? An ink pen or a snake? A picture or a woman?

4. If a phone or a motorcycle cannot happen by chance, how is it possible for things which are even more complex (a dog or a mouse) to happen by chance?

5. A painter paints a painting. A builder builds a building. Who is more powerful and more intelligent, the painter or the painting, the builder or the building?

6. Can humans make a car, a house, or an airplane? Can humans make a mosquito, a tree, or a human? (No, humans cannot make a tree. We can only plant a seed, but we cannot make the seed.)

7. So, if humans cannot make a mosquito, a tree, or other humans, then whoever created them must be more intelligent and more powerful than humans. Who is more powerful and more intelligent than humans?

God is more intelligent and more powerful than humans, and the Bible says in Genesis chapter one that He created everything: the sun, moon, trees, fish, animals, and people.

8. The simplest cell in the human body has more parts that work together than the space rocket. Could a jet airplane or space rocket happen by chance?

9. Scientists have not been able to prove the theory of evolution (humans came from monkeys, etc.). Even though they have been searching for more than 150 years, they have not found one fossil that supports the theory of evolution.

10. All living things are made up of protein molecules.

The probability of a single protein molecule forming by chance is:

1 chance in 10^{160}

(or a 1 with 160 zeros behind it)

**11. Do you believe that everything was created by God or by chance?
Would you like to know more?**

QUESTION 3

The Bible: God's Word or Just a Book?

How was the Bible written?

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

16. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
17. so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible was written over 1500 years by 40 different authors from every class.

- Moses – a political leader trained in Egypt
- Peter – a fisherman
- Joshua – a general
- Daniel – a prime minister
- Luke – a doctor
- Solomon – a king
- Matthew – a tax collector

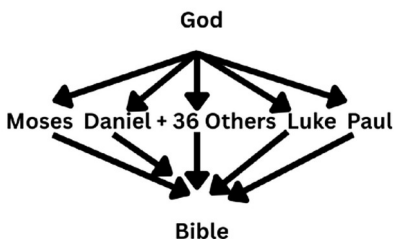
- Paul – a rabbi or religious teacher

It was written in different places. Jeremiah wrote in prison. Daniel wrote on a hillside and in a palace. Luke wrote while traveling. David wrote while at war.

People who never met each other and spoke different languages wrote it in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The Bible talks about hundreds of controversial subjects (subjects that people will disagree about — for example, marriage, family, ethics, sex, money, and many other topics), but still all the writers of the Bible agree.

How is this possible?



100% Agreement because God inspired them to write.



No agreement because each one of them would have written their own opinions about these subjects.

More Evidence:

The Bible is more than a collection of spiritual ideas, beliefs, and wise sayings. It also contains the history of the nation of Israel that has been

and continues to be verified by archaeologists.

“The Old Testament contains hundreds of prophecies concerning the identity of Israel's ‘Messiah,’ or ‘Anointed One’ (Jesus). The sheer number of these prophecies would make it virtually impossible for them to occur accidentally in someone's life.”

— Walter Martin

Some of these prophecies include:

- Jesus' Virgin Birth (Prophecy Isaiah 7:14, Came True Luke 1:26-38) — more than 700 years before Jesus' birth!
- Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem (Prophecy Micah 5:2, Came True Luke 2:1-7) — more than 500 years before Jesus' birth!
- Jesus' Sacrificial Death (Prophecy Isaiah 53:5, Came True Luke 23) — more than 700 years before Jesus' birth

- Jesus' Crucifixion = Death on the Cross (Prophecy Psalm 22:14-18, Came True Luke 23:26-48) — more than 1000 years before Jesus' birth!
- Jesus' Bodily Resurrection = Coming Back from the Dead (Prophecy Psalm 16:10, Came True Luke 24:1-12) — more than 1000 years before Jesus' birth.

There are 48 prophecies about Jesus which were written more than 400 years before his birth. All of them came true. The probability of these prophecies coming true by chance (or accident if there is no God) is:

1 in 10^{157}

(or a 1 with 157 zeros behind it)

In addition, there are more than 300 prophecies in the Bible about nations, kings, cities, individual people, and the end of the world. All of them have come true or will come true.

**Do you believe that the Bible is true
and is from God? Do you want to
know more?**

QUESTION 4

Wasn't Jesus Just a Man?

In the last section, we learned that there are 48 prophecies about Jesus and all of them came true. No other religious founder, not Buddha, not Mohammad, or even Confucius, fulfilled prophecies like Jesus Christ.

Did Jesus Really Live?

Jesus Christ lived 2000 years ago in Israel. This fact has been proven by trusted Christian and non-Christian sources.

Did Jesus really perform miracles?

There are four independent testimonies of his miracles (healing of sick people, stopping storms, walking on water, and bringing the dead back to life) in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which were written within the

lifetime of the people who witnessed the events. Also, Jesus' enemies agreed that he had special powers.

Was Jesus really killed on a cross and did he really come back to life?

The testimonies of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John say that he did. Archaeologists have found the name of Pontius Pilate, his judge, written on a stone from the time of Jesus and other historical evidence that support this fact.

Jesus appeared to his half-brother James (a skeptic), his disciples, women, men, and even a group of 500 people after he came back to life. He ate fish and touched his friends. He was not a spirit, ghost, or hallucination.

He was truly and physically alive!

Jesus' followers were so sure that he was alive that many of them were willing to suffer, be put in prison, be

beaten, and even die for this belief. If this was just a story, and Jesus' followers had any doubts about its truth, why would they suffer so much for a lie?

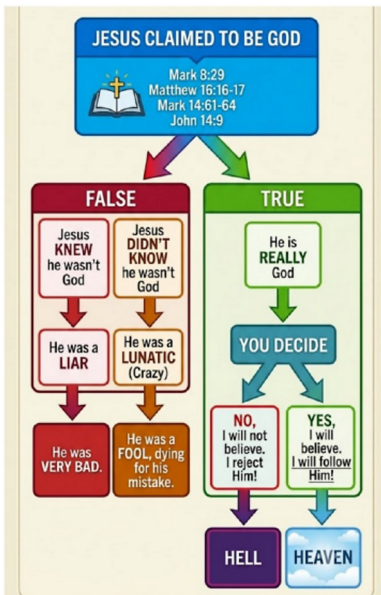
People may die for things that are not true. But they will never die and suffer for a lie that they made up themselves because it would be too foolish.

So, Jesus' followers were completely confident that Jesus was God, that He could perform miracles, and that He died and came back to life.

Would you like to learn more?

QUESTION 5

Did Jesus Really Claim to be God?



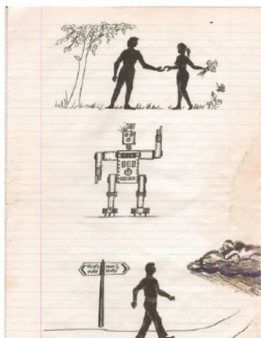
Do you believe that Jesus is God and that He rose from the dead? Would you like to learn how to follow Jesus as your God and be saved from your sins?

(C.S. Lewis' Trilemma: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?)

QUESTION 6

How Can I Follow Jesus?

- God made everything. The earth, sun, moon, plants, animals, and people. (Genesis 1)
- God made a man from dust and a woman from the man. (Genesis 1:26-2:25)
- God put the man (Adam) and the woman (Eve) in a perfect garden. They had everything they needed. They never got sick, and they did not have to work.
- God created humans to love Him. It is impossible to love God unless you have the choice to obey Him or not. God gave them a choice. They could eat any tree except one.



Scan 1: God made humans. He did not make us like robots or machines. He gave us the freedom to decide to obey and love Him or not (sin). We have all chosen to disobey God. We have all SINNED!

Note: I scanned these drawings in 2001 for my Answers booklet. They came from an evangelistic notebook used by (I'm not sure of the origin) Mr. Ken Rudy, MDiv, a longtime missionary to Cambodians in France and Cambodia.

- Adam and Eve decided to disobey God, and as punishment for their sin (disobeying God), death, pain, and hard work entered the world. (Genesis 3)

- In fact, it wasn't only Adam and Eve that sinned (disobeyed God), but also you and I have sinned as well.

Romans 3:23 "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence."

As a result of our sin, we will die, and without Jesus we will go to hell (a place of punishment that lasts forever).

Romans 6:23 "For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life with Jesus Christ our Lord."



Scan 2: Sin (not obeying God) ruins us. Just one sin will stain you. You cannot clean yourself! Because of sin, we have many problems: death, disease, murder, family problems, and more.

Sin separates us from God now and after we die. Because of sin we live in darkness.

- God gave us a way for us to have eternal life—Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ONLY way to go to heaven and have eternal life (live forever with God).



Scan 3: People can NEVER reach God
BY THEMSELVES!

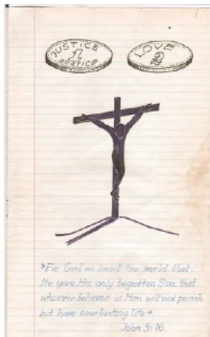
Being a nice person CANNOT save
you!

Money CANNOT save you!

Government CANNOT save you!

Science CANNOT save you!

Religion CANNOT save you!



Scan 4: Our sin has a price—DEATH!

You and I cannot pay for our own
sin!

Jesus (God as a human man) lived a
perfect life (not one sin). Only HE
could pay for our sin.

He was beaten and his hands and feet were nailed to the cross. This was a very painful death!

He took our sins and our punishment.

Because HE LOVES YOU!

Jesus died in your place!

Romans 5:8-11

“But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! His blood now puts us right with God; how much more, then, will he save us from God's anger! We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends—how much more will we be saved by Christ's life!”

Jesus came back to life!

1 Corinthians 15:3-9 (Written by the Apostle Paul who was an enemy and persecutor of the followers of Jesus before Jesus appeared to him) says:

1 Corinthians 15:3-9

3 For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve.

6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James (most likely his half-brother, who didn't believe in him before his crucifixion, but later became a leader of the church in Jerusalem, wrote the book of James, and according to Josephus was martyred), then to all the apostles;

8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me (Apostle Paul) also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

- Jesus is the ONLY way to God. This means that you must follow ONLY Jesus. You cannot follow any other religion and Jesus at the same time.

John 14:6 “Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one goes to the Father except through me.”

- You don't have to DO (not good works) anything. You only need to BELIEVE (have faith) that Jesus paid for your sins and put your full weight on Him to save you from your sins and be your Lord and God.

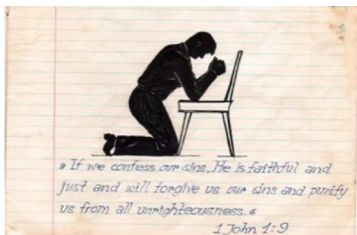
Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

John 3:16 “For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.”

- You only must RECEIVE Him.

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on his name."

You can receive Jesus right now through a simple prayer of faith.



Prayer is talking to God. The words of our prayer do not save us by themselves, but they are an outward sign of the genuine faith in Christ in our hearts.

This is similar to the words of commitment between a bride and groom at a wedding ceremony. Faith in Christ is a far more serious

commitment than marriage because it is for our whole lives on earth and for eternity.

When we become followers of Christ through faith, we are not just recognizing that He is God, but we are putting all of our trust in Him. This is like the difference between seeing a strong chair across the room and actually going over and sitting on it with our full weight and confidence that it will hold us without breaking.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Here are some things you might want to tell God when you pray.

- You believe He is real and that he made you.
- You believe that you have disobeyed His rules and deserve to die and be punished in hell.
- You believe that Jesus, God's Son, came to earth, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross to pay for your sins.

- You want Him to forgive your sins.
- You want Him to come into your life and take control.
- You want to follow Him forever.

Here is a sample prayer. Feel free to use your own words or native language.

“Jesus, I know that you are God. I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross to pay for my sins. Please forgive me for all the bad things I have done and for all the time I have spent not believing in you. I open the door of my life to you and ask you to save me from my sins and be my God. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life with you in Heaven. Take control of my life and lead me. I will only follow you. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.”

If this prayer is what you truly want, pray right now and ask God to save you. You can pray in your own language if you like.

If you would like to pray this prayer but are afraid that your family will be angry with you, please see the section “What if my family gets angry or rejects me for following Jesus?” near the end of this document.

If you have received Jesus Christ as your God and Savior, you are now a new person!

Your sins have been forgiven! You are a child of God! Right now in Heaven, they are having a party because of your commitment to follow Christ!

Luke 15:10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

You have eternal life!

1 John 5:11-13 “And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Hebrews 13:5 “I will never leave you.”

What Happened When You Believed and Put Your Faith in Christ as Your Lord and Savior?

- Your sins are completely forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
- You became a child of God (John 1:12).
- You have eternal life (John 5:24) and God will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5).
- Heaven is celebrating your decision to turn from your sins and turn to Christ as your God and Savior! (Luke 15:10)
- The Holy Spirit (the 3rd member of God the Trinity—Father, Son/Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit) is living in you and will guide you! (Romans 8:9 and John 16:13)

QUESTION 7

How Can Followers of Jesus Christ Keep Growing in Their Faith?

Now that you are a new Christian (which means a follower of Jesus Christ) you need to continue to know God better, to grow in your faith, and to learn, mature, and multiply.

G — Go to God in prayer every day.
(John 15:7)

R — Read God's word every day
(Acts 17:11)

O — Obey God, moment by moment
(John 14:21)

W — Witness for Christ by your life and words (Matthew 4:19)

T — Trust God for every detail of your life (I Peter 5:7)

H — Holy Spirit— allow Him to control and empower your daily life and witness (John 16:13 and Romans 8:9)

Don't Grow Alone — Find and Join a Good Church As Soon as Possible!

God tells us not to give up
“assembling of yourselves together”
(Hebrews 10:25).

As a Christian, you are now part of the “Body of Christ.” Just as a body needs all its parts, the Church needs you. Find a good church where Christ is honored and the Bible is taught and make plans to attend regularly.

Romans 12:4-5 “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Ask Your Church for Baptism

While baptism does not save us, it is an essential step of publicly declaring our faith—much like a wedding ring signifies marriage. Jesus commanded believers to be baptized (Matthew 28:19), following the early church's

pattern of believing and being baptized as a public declaration (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3–4).

Mature in Your Faith

Grow from spiritual “milk” to solid biblical “meat” (Hebrews 5:12–14; 1 Peter 2:2). Study God's Word individually (2 Timothy 2:15) while allowing local church leaders to equip and mature you for ministry (Ephesians 4:11–15). Ministry is a lifelong lifestyle of doing everything we do for God's glory. It can be inside or outside of church buildings on Sundays and in our daily lives. It is not limited to pastors and other Christian leaders but is for all followers of Christ every day and everywhere God leads us.

Multiplication

Jesus commissioned His followers to make disciples who make more disciples, passing faith down through generations and across the world (Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Timothy 2:2). Always be ready to share the reason

for your hope with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Telling others about Jesus Christ is not just the duty of every believer; it is also our joy! If you had a deadly disease but someone gave you medicine that saved you, you would naturally tell others with the same disease (sin) too!

“What if my family gets angry or rejects me for following Jesus?”

This is a serious challenge that many people face. You may know and believe that Jesus is the only way to God, and want to follow Him as your God and Savior, but you also love your family and fear their anger and rejection if you become a Christian. What should you do?

First, it's important to thoughtfully study and think about what the Bible, God's Word, teaches on this subject.

Mark 10:29

Jesus said to them, ‘and I tell you that those who leave home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and for the gospel, will receive much more in this present age. They will receive a hundred times more houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields—and persecutions as well; and in the

age to come they will receive eternal life.'

Exodus 20:12 "Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you."

1 Corinthians 7:12, 13, & 16

"To the others I say (I, Paul, not the Lord): if a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she agrees to go on living with him, he must not divorce her. And if a Christian woman is married to a man who is an unbeliever, and he agrees to go on living with her, she must not divorce him... How can you be sure, Christian wife, that you will not save your husband? Or how can you be sure, Christian husband, that you will not save your wife?"

Being a Christian doesn't mean that you stop loving your family. With God's help, you will love them even more and will want them to follow Jesus as you do.

Imagine that you are driving a car with all your loved ones sleeping in the back seat. You are trying to drive to the seaside for a family holiday. Suddenly, you see signs that say, "Danger, Landmines Ahead!" "Stop!" "Choose Another Road!"

What would you do? If you keep going on this road that you are on, eventually you and your family will all die. But if you turn around, your lives will be saved.

The challenge is that your family is sleeping now, so they can't see the warning signs; only you can see them. So, when they wake up later and realize that you are taking them on a different road than the one they falsely believe leads to a wonderful holiday at the beach but actually leads to deadly landmines, they will probably be disappointed and maybe even get angry with you!

But, if you truly love them, you would rather have them unhappy and alive than happy and dead.

In the same way, if you become a Christian, you will be turning from the path that leads to death and hell to the path that leads to life. Your family might be unhappy for a while, but you will be able to warn them of the dangers of not following Jesus.

Maybe they will become Christians too! If you don't become a Christian, it is the same as continuing to drive on the same road, even though you see the signs that say, "Danger, Landmines Ahead." Not only would you die, but you would be responsible for the deaths of your family because you knew the truth but didn't warn them.

The choice is yours. I pray that you will choose life in heaven for yourself and give your family the best opportunity possible to follow Christ personally as well. They must make their own choice about whether to accept or reject Christ as their God and Savior as you do.

“You are the best missionary your loved ones will ever meet! You already speak their language perfectly and have a trusting relationship with them. They may not be willing to talk to me as a missionary, etc., but they will talk to you!”

— something I often say to new believers, after having been a missionary for more than 20 years in Cambodia and other nations.

I pray that you will make the most important decision of your life right now for yourself and also put your family on a better path to know the Good News of Jesus' Salvation as well!

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