

## **CHAPTER 15**

### **STEP TWO IN DETAIL - BELIEVE**

*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.* Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

*“..... for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he”*  
John 8:24 (b) (RSV)

*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* John 20:31 (NIV)

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.* John 5:24 (NASB)

<sup>28</sup> *Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”* <sup>29</sup> *Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”* John 6:28-29 (RSV)

*For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* John 6:40 (RSV)

*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.*  
John 6:47 (RSV)

<sup>9</sup>*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup>for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.”* Romans 10:9-11 (NASB)

*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.* 1 John 5:13 (NASB)

*“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”* Acts 10:43 (NASB)

<sup>38</sup> *“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.* Acts 13:38-39 (NASB)

<sup>29</sup> *And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup> and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*  
Acts 16:29-31 (NASB)

<sup>48</sup> *And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”* Luke 7:48-50 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"* <sup>26</sup> *and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

*John 11:25-26 (RSV)*

We have just spent a whole chapter looking at passages in the Bible which emphasise repentance. Now, we shall look at verses which focus on *believing*. These passages assume that you have already repented. In this chapter, we are going to examine what believing in Jesus Christ is all about and exactly what the Bible means when it requires us to "*believe*" in or "*have faith*" in or to "*trust*" in Jesus Christ. In one sense these are simple, everyday words, but in the Bible they have very specific meanings. Therefore, there is a danger of misunderstanding, or underestimating, what is involved.

The Bible tells us that it is only by believing in Jesus Christ that we can ever be forgiven and saved. There is no other way. It is a vital requirement. Therefore, given that so much depends on us "*believing*" in Jesus Christ, we need to make sure that we clearly understand what believing or faith involves and remove all vagueness. We need a really clear grasp of exactly what we have to know, understand, believe and do before we can truly say we *believe* or *have faith* in the full biblical sense.

So, in this chapter, I will seek to set out and briefly explain all the basic essentials that we need to know, understand and believe. But these things are not just about having intellectual "head knowledge". Real faith will always be accompanied by action as we seek to put what we believe into practice.

Real faith is not defined in terms of good works, i.e. "fruit" or "actions". It is about trust, which is an attitude of the heart. However, real faith always leads on to us producing fruit and taking action. That is why God always looks for fruit (or good works) afterwards as the only way of telling whether our faith was real or not.

We have to believe in Jesus in the sense of knowing who and what He is, but also in trusting in Him alone to save us. We also need to "*confess*" that belief, which means to speak it out openly. To confess means to "*say the same as*". That means you need to say the same about Jesus as God the Father says about Him. In basic terms, that means to admit and declare that He is Lord, Saviour and King and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and then rose from the dead.

### **What does it really mean to believe in Jesus?**

If we are to qualify to benefit from the death of Jesus Christ by being justified and forgiven we have to believe in Him. More accurately, we must believe **on** Him. That does not mean simply to believe that He exists, or even to believe that He is the Son of God, It is not enough in itself, even to believe that He is the Saviour, or that He died on the cross to take the penalty for sin.

All of those things are true and it is right for us to believe them all. However, in a certain sense, even those facts can be just head knowledge. It is perfectly possible for us to believe all those things as mere facts and still not be saved. Indeed, I fear that that is a very common condition and is true of many people.

What is needed is for us to believe **on** Jesus Christ in the sense that a man believes in a rope bridge when he steps on it to begin to walk across a deep ravine. It is one thing to have head knowledge that the rope bridge exists and even what it is made of. It is quite another thing to put your trust in it and step onto it and begin walking.

That is the kind of faith Jesus requires us to have in Him. He wants us to stake everything we have on Him and to rely on nobody else and nothing else except Him. In one sense, therefore, believing, or

having faith, means to *trust*. An example of this was Abraham's willingness to leave his home and go to search for the Promised Land, when he did not yet even know where it was. Even more starkly, there was his willingness to sacrifice his (adult) son Isaac, through whom God had promised to give Abraham a multitude of descendants. That was an extraordinary act of trust.

Abraham demonstrated his faith by trusting God to raise Isaac from the dead, which is what Abraham fully expected to happen. So, when God saw his faith He was satisfied that Abraham (and Isaac) had real faith and God therefore called off the test and did not make Abraham and Isaac go through with it. However, the key point is that Abraham showed his faith by obeying and trusting:

*<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. Hebrews 11:8-9 (ESV)*

*<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. Hebrews 11:17-19 (ESV)*

### **Believing means obeying and trusting - it's not just intellectual**

In other words, we are required to believe in Jesus Christ in the sense that we must put our trust in Him and rely upon Him alone to obtain salvation. That means that we recognise that there is only one way that we can go to Heaven and that is through Him. There is only one way that we can be considered righteous in God's eyes. That is for the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be transferred over to us.

We have to accept that there is no other way to be saved except through Him. We must abandon all ideas of earning salvation or deserving it on the basis of our own merit. Instead we must stake everything we have on Jesus Christ and trust in Him alone for our salvation, based on what He did for us on the cross.

When the man in the illustration above walks across a rope bridge high above a ravine, there is nothing else that can hold him up in the air other than that rope bridge. If it breaks then he will fall. Yet he knows that in himself he cannot cross that ravine or hold himself in the air and that the rope bridge is his only way. He may have anxieties about whether it will bear his weight. Those anxieties may be so great that he is not prepared to set foot on it.

Yet, if the question was raised as to whether this man really "*believes*" in the rope bridge, all of us would agree that the answer would be found by looking at whether he steps on to it and walks across. The very fact that he is stepping onto it demonstrates that he really does believe in it sufficiently to risk everything he has on it, even his own life. If he will not step on it, how can he say he truly believes in the rope bridge?

A person can genuinely believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and yet, understandably, still have moments of doubt that trouble them from time to time. That is natural and happens to most people. The key is whether, in spite of all that, you still put your trust in Him and continue to rely solely upon Him for salvation.

It is the same for the man on the rope bridge. He may have his moments of anxiety, when he walks across and feels the wind blowing him. But the question is does he continue walking across it or does

he turn back? If he carries on walking across then he is showing that he is putting his faith in the bridge, even if his mind is troubled with doubts.

That is the kind of belief or faith that is meant when the Bible speaks of believing in Jesus. It does not mean merely an academic belief or just agreeing with certain doctrines or beliefs. Likewise, merely knowing about the types of rope, wood and metal that the rope bridge is made of is important, but not enough, if you aren't convinced that it will take your weight. Having a really good knowledge of the Bible and of doctrine is extremely important. Even so, that is not what is meant by believing in, or believing on, Jesus Christ.

A man can have wrong or incomplete ideas about certain doctrines but still genuinely believe in and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ in the sense needed for salvation. For example, good and honest people hold different views as to exactly what will happen before the return of Jesus Christ and exactly what the sequence of events will be. Yet despite holding different viewpoints on these things, such men can all be genuinely saved. That's because they still sincerely believe in, and on, Jesus Christ and trust in Him alone for their salvation.

Equally we might hold different views about the use of spiritual gifts, or how we should conduct church meetings, or how we should dress, or whether to drink alcohol, or other forms of practice and procedure. But those are not paramount. I do not say that they are not important. It is very important that we believe correctly what the Bible teaches and have a good understanding of it. Yet our salvation, or being born again, is not based upon passing an examination on Scripture knowledge. It does not require us to be highly educated or academic.

The smallest child, or an old man lying on his death bed with only minutes to live, can understand all that they need to believe to put their trust in Jesus Christ. Yet the most learned professor can totally miss the point. Believing is, therefore, not an academic exam and it is not just about head knowledge. Instead, it is primarily about sincerely *putting our trust* in Jesus Christ and resolving to *follow Him* with devotion and loyalty.

You could also say that believing in Jesus is about '*calling on Him*' or '*calling out to Him*' in our distress to ask Him to save us:

*for "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

*Romans 10:13 (NASB)*

*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:*

*1 Corinthians 1:2 (NASB)*

*and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.*

*Jonah 2:2 (NASB)*

<sup>18</sup>*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,*

*To all who call upon Him in truth.*

<sup>19</sup>*He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;*

*He will also hear their cry and will save them.*

*Psalms 145:18-19 (NASB)*

Nevertheless, though I want to emphasise all of that, there are still certain basic essential facts that we do need to understand and believe in order to be able to meaningfully put our trust in him. Otherwise, if you did not know or understand who Jesus is, what He is and what He did, then what basis would

you have to put any trust in Him? So, we do need to have at least some basic knowledge of the facts that the Bible teaches.

I will seek to list and explain these essential facts. I will break it all down into a series of basic statements of what we need to know and believe. After each one I will present a series of Bible verses to back it up. Rather than fully explain each of these, I will generally let the Bible speak for itself. If any of them are not clear, please refer back to the relevant chapter in this book where the point was covered in detail.

I am going to try to provide you now with a solid, thorough explanation of what we need to believe. However, I am not saying that you must fully understand or know all of these things in order to be saved. I have seen dying people come to believe in Jesus in the final minutes of their lives and validly put their trust in Him. They did not know or understand all of these points below. But they were still saved.

Even so, I want to be reasonably thorough with you. Hopefully, you are not in the final few minutes of your life. We therefore have the time to get things very clear, so as to avoid errors and wrong thinking later on.

**A summary of the basic things we really need to know and believe in order to be saved:**

A) THAT GOD EXISTS, THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD AND THERE IS NO OTHER GOD.

*"Turn to me and be saved,  
all you ends of the earth;  
for I am God, and there is no other."  
Isaiah 45:22 (NIV)*

*To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.  
Deuteronomy 4:35 (RSV)*

*<sup>25</sup> For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. <sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the Heavens.  
1 Chronicles 16:25-26 (NIV)*

*so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other.  
1 Kings 8:60 (NIV)*

B) THAT GOD EXISTS IN THREE SEPARATE PERSONS: GOD THE FATHER, THE SON OF GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

NB In the verses that follow two, or even all three, of the Persons of the Trinity are referred to. Clearly therefore, they are each distinct and separate Persons. Yet, each of them clearly had divine status. That is they are each spoken of as being fully God in their own right.

*<sup>14</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup>After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the Heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice out of the Heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."  
Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB)

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Matthew 28:18-19 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,  
Luke 4:1 (NIV)

<sup>54</sup>Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.  
John 8:54 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.  
John 14:13 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.  
John 14:26 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."  
John 16:28 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup>"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.  
John 17:24 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.  
1 Peter 1:2 (NASB)

<sup>20</sup>But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.  
Jude 1:20-21 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup>Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,  
Or as His counsellor has informed Him?  
<sup>14</sup>With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding?  
And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge  
And informed Him of the way of understanding?  
Isaiah 40:13-14 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup>But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."  
<sup>18</sup>For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.  
<sup>19</sup>Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

<sup>20</sup>"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.  
<sup>21</sup>"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.  
<sup>22</sup>"For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,  
<sup>23</sup>so that all will honour

*the Son even as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.*  
*John 5:17-23 (NASB)*

C) THAT NONETHELESS, THOSE THREE INDIVIDUAL PERSONS TOGETHER FORM ONE GOD. SO, IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT GOD IS ONE.

*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.*  
*Genesis 1:1 (NIV)*

(Note in this verse, the very first in the Bible, we are presented with God as a Trinity. The way the word for 'God' is written in the Hebrew is to use the plural noun "Elohim." That means three (or more) persons. Then it immediately uses the verb "to create". But it is in the singular form, not plural. The putting together of a noun in plural form and a verb in singular form would be a serious grammatical error if it wasn't for the fact that God is a Trinity. Effectively, it says "In the beginning, God (plural noun for three or more persons) He created (verb in singular form, i.e. one person creating). Isn't that an extraordinary way for God to start page 1 of the Bible? God is telling you at the very outset that He is not just one Person but that, even so, He is still one God.

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*  
*Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)*

*I and the Father are one."*  
*John 10:30 (NIV)*

*Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.*  
*Isaiah 44:6 (RSV)*

*I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.*  
*John 17:11 (NIV)*

*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:*  
*John 17:22 (NIV)*

*<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.*  
*1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)*

*<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*  
*Ephesians 4:4-6 (NASB)*

D) THAT GOD CREATED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING US, AND THAT WE BELONG TO HIM.

*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.*  
*Genesis 1:1 (NIV)*

*Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made Heaven and earth.*  
*2 Kings 19:15 (NASB)*

*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*  
*Hebrews 11:3(NIV)*

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*  
*John 1:1-3 (NIV)*

*Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under Heaven belongs to me*  
*Job 41:11 (NIV)*

*For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.*  
*Ezekiel 18:4 (NIV)*

*<sup>6</sup>"You alone are the LORD  
You have made the Heavens,  
The Heaven of Heavens with all their host,  
The earth and all that is on it,  
The seas and all that is in them  
You give life to all of them  
And the Heavenly host bows down before You.*  
*Nehemiah 9:6 (NASB)*

E) THAT WE ARE UNWORTHY AND HAVE SINNED, TRANSGRESSED AND REBELLED AGAINST GOD AND HAVE OFFENDED AND ANGERED HIM.

*<sup>2</sup> God looks down from Heaven  
on the sons of men  
to see if there are any who understand,  
any who seek God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Everyone has turned away,  
they have together become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one.*

*Psalm 53:2-3 (NIV)*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*  
*Romans 3:23(NIV)*

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*  
*1 John 1:8(NIV)*



F) THAT WE ARE THEREFORE CONDEMNED IN GOD'S EYES AND, UNLESS WE ARE FORGIVEN, WE WILL BE ETERNALLY SEPARATED FROM HIM WHEN WE DIE AND FACE HIS JUDGMENT. WE WILL THEN GO TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE BECAUSE OF OUR SIN.

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*  
*Isaiah 59:2(NIV)*

*But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.*  
*Romans 2:5(NIV)*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
*Romans 6:23(NIV)*

*The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.*  
*Exodus 32:33(NIV)*

*I will punish the world for its evil,  
the wicked for their sins.  
I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty  
and will humble the pride of the ruthless.*  
*Isaiah 13:11(NIV)*

*Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*  
*Hebrews 9:27(NIV)*

<sup>8</sup>*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power*  
*2 Thessalonians 1:8-9(NIV)*

*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death."*  
*Revelation 21:8(NIV)*

G) THAT NOTHING WE CAN DO ON OUR OWN BEHALF CAN SAVE (JUSTIFY) US BY GIVING US FORGIVENESS OR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GOD'S EYES. WE ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH AND NONE OF OUR WORKS OR DEEDS WILL EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH TO SAVE US. IN GOD'S EYES, EVEN OUR BEST DEEDS ARE INADEQUATE.

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*  
*Romans 3:20(NIV)*

*know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*  
*Galatians 2:16(NIV)*

<sup>11</sup> *Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."* <sup>12</sup> *The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."*

<sup>13</sup> *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."* Galatians 3:11-13(NIV)

*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.*  
Romans 3:28(NIV)

<sup>8</sup>*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9(NIV)

*he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,* Titus 3:5(NIV)

H) THAT JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ONLY A MAN, BUT IS DIVINE (GOD). HE IS THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY, THE SON OF GOD. HE THEN BECAME A REAL HUMAN BEING, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME REMAINING THE SON OF GOD.

I intend to include a lot of verses in this section because there are so many people who refuse to accept that Jesus is divine, i.e. that He is God. Therefore, I aim to show that this is very clearly what the Bible teaches.

*Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*  
John 20:28 (NIV)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*  
John 1:1(NIV)

(NB - "The Word" is one of the many titles or names of Jesus Christ)

<sup>9</sup>*The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—* John 1:9-12(NIV)

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 (KJV)

*"I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."*  
John 1:34 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup>*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in Heaven.* Matthew 16:15-17(NIV)

<sup>15</sup>*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:15-17(NIV)

*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,*  
Colossians 2:9(NIV)

<sup>25</sup>The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup>Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

John 4:25-26(NIV)

Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:33(NIV)

<sup>31</sup> The Jews took up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God."

John 10:31-33 (RSV)

<sup>36</sup> do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup> but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup> Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

John 10:36-39 (RSV)

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

John 11: 3-4 (RSV)

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

John 11:27 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup>And whenever the unclean spirits beheld him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>12</sup>And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

Mark 3:11-12 (RSV)

<sup>66</sup>When it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying, <sup>67</sup>"If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup>and if I ask a question, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>"But from now on the Son of man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." <sup>70</sup>And they all said, "Are You The Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am." <sup>71</sup>Then they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Luke 22:66-71 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Hebrews 1:1-4(NIV)

<sup>8</sup> But to the Son He says:

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

Hebrews 1:8-9 (ESV)

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

*Hebrews 2:9 (ESV)*

*<sup>14</sup>Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. <sup>16</sup>For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

*Hebrews 2:14-18 (ESV)*

*<sup>14</sup>Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

*Hebrews 4:14-15(ESV)*

You may have heard people saying that Jesus isn't the Son of God. They even suggest that Jesus never claimed to be so, or that His disciples never claimed it on His behalf. As you can see above, He was very clear in saying that He was the Son of God and therefore equal to God. Thus, cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses make a huge error on this point. Likewise, those who say He was God, but that He never really became a man, are also wrong.

I) THAT JESUS CHRIST LIVED A SINLESS LIFE AND THEN DIED AN UNJUST DEATH, WHICH HE DID NOT DESERVE, IN ORDER TO BE PUNISHED IN OUR PLACE AND PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS. THAT WAS HOW GOD THE FATHER VIEWED JESUS' DEATH. HE WAS PUTTING HIS OWN SON, JESUS, TO DEATH TO BE THE SACRIFICE THAT PAYS FOR OUR SIN.

*“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

*1 Peter 2:22 (NIV)*

*Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*Isaiah 53:10 (NIV)*

*<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.*

*<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself*

*and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!*

*Philippians 2:6-8(NIV)*

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,* *1 Peter 3:18(NIV)*

*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.* *1 John 2:2(NIV)*

*<sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

*Colossians 1:18-20(NIV)*

*<sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.* *Luke 24:25-27(NIV)*

*<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the Heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.*

*Hebrews 7:23-27 (ESV)*

*so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.* *Hebrews 9:28(NIV)*

J) THAT WHEN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WAS ON THE CROSS, THE BURDEN AND THE GUILT OF ALL THE SIN OF THE WORLD WAS PUT UPON HIM AND GOD THE FATHER Poured OUT HIS WRATH, ANGER AND PUNISHMENT UPON HIM, INSTEAD OF ON US.

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed* *1 Peter 2:24(NIV)*

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."* *Galatians 3:13 (NIV)*

(NB - This verse above is a hard one to understand. It means that when Jesus was dying on the cross, God's curse, which is what we all deserve and would otherwise receive, was redirected to Him. It was put upon Him so that it need not be put on us).

<sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— *Colossians 1:21-22(NIV)*

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. *Romans 5:18(NIV)*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, *Romans 8:1-3(NIV)*

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, *Colossians 1:13(NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. *Colossians 2:13-14 (RSV)*

K) THAT THE LORD JESUS DIED AND THEN ROSE FROM THE DEAD. HE WAS RESURRECTED, PHYSICALLY AND LITERALLY. HE THEN ASCENDED PHYSICALLY INTO HEAVEN 40 DAYS LATER. HE IS NOW ALIVE AND IN HEAVEN, IN HIS RESURRECTION BODY, WAITING TO RETURN TO THE EARTH.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3(NIV)*

<sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. <sup>6</sup>"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. <sup>7</sup>"Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." <sup>8</sup>And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. *Matthew 28:5-9(NIV)*

<sup>9</sup>And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven." *Acts 1:9-11 (NASB)*

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup>then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup>and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. *1 Corinthians 15:3-8(NIV)*

<sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was

*raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.*  
*Romans 6:3-5(NIV)*

L) THAT WE MUST REPENT TOWARDS GOD THE FATHER FOR OUR SINS AND SINCERELY TURN AWAY FROM OUR SINS AND GENUINELY CHANGE IN OUR ATTITUDES, BEHAVIOUR AND LIFESTYLE.

*<sup>1</sup>Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*  
*Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)*

*From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*  
*Matthew 4:17 (NASB)*

*" .... God..... commands all people everywhere to repent"*  
*Acts 17:30 (NIV)*

*<sup>36</sup>"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*  
*Acts 2:36-38(NASB)*

*"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;*  
*Acts 3:19(NIV)*

*<sup>19</sup>"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from Heaven. <sup>20</sup>First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.*  
*Acts 26:19-20 (NIV)*

M) THAT WE MUST BE BAPTISED IN WATER, BY FULL IMMERSION, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS MUST BE DONE BY US AS A REPENTANT BELIEVER, NOT DONE TO US AS AN INFANT. ANY PAST BAPTISM AS A BABY DOES NOT COUNT AS REAL BAPTISM.

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

*Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*  
*Acts 2:38 (NASB)*

*So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*  
*Acts 2:41 (NASB)*

*<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. <sup>13</sup>Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.*  
*Acts 8:12-13 (NASB)*

<sup>47</sup> "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. Acts 10:47-48 (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup> and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. <sup>34</sup> And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household. Acts 16:29-34 (NASB)

Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. Acts 18:8 (NASB)

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5 (NASB)

'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' Acts 22:16 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup>Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, Romans 6:3-5 (NASB)

N) THAT WE MUST RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT, OTHERWISE REFERRED TO AS BEING "FILLED WITH" OR "BAPTISED IN" THE HOLY SPIRIT.

<sup>7</sup>And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. <sup>8</sup>"I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:7-8 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup>"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup>that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17 (NASB)

"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 said to you. John 14:26 (NASB)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup>"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup>"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. <sup>15</sup>"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you. John 16:13-15 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup>It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you



*believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. Acts 19:1-6 (NASB)*

O) THAT FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD ARE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO MEETS GOD'S CONDITIONS. THOSE ARE TO REPENT, BELIEVE, BE BAPTISED IN WATER AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

*<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)*

*<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup>"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. Mark 16:15-16 (NASB)*

*They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world." John 4:42 (NIV)*

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24 (NIV)*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:7-10 (NIV)*

*<sup>38</sup>Let it be known to you therefore, brethren, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and by him every one that believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Acts 13:38-39 (RSV)*

*<sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup>As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:9-13 (NIV)*

*<sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13 (NIV)*

*<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 3:16-18 (NIV)*

*And 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 seek Him.*  
*Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)*

P) THAT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO GOD AND THAT NO MAN, RELIGION, SYSTEM, ACTIVITY OR FORMULA CAN SAVE US. ONLY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF CAN SAVE US BECAUSE OF HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS, WHEN HE TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT IN OUR PLACE.

*<sup>35</sup>The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. <sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*  
*John 3:35-36 (NIV)*

*<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."*  
*John 11:23-27 (NIV)*

*I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."*  
*John 8:24 (NIV)*

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*  
*John 14:6 (NIV)*

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*  
*Acts 4:12 (NIV)*

*<sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*  
*Acts 10:42-43 (RSV)*

Q) THAT IF WE DIE WE WILL EVENTUALLY BE PHYSICALLY RESURRECTED. WE WILL THEN HAVE ETERNAL AND INDESTRUCTIBLE "RESURRECTION BODIES" WHICH WILL NEVER DIE. THIS IS TRUE BOTH FOR BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS. THE RESURRECTION BODY OF AN UNBELIEVER WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED, EVEN IN THE LAKE OF FIRE

*<sup>19</sup>Your dead will live;  
Their corpses will rise  
You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,  
For your dew is as the dew of the dawn,  
And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.*  
*Isaiah 26:19 (NASB)*

*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*  
*Daniel 12:2 (NIV)*

*Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.*  
*1 Corinthians 6:14 (NASB)*

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." *John 11:23-24 (NASB)*

*having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.* *Acts 24:15 (NASB)*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

<sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

<sup>15</sup>Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

<sup>17</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

<sup>19</sup>If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

<sup>21</sup>For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

*1 Corinthians 15:12-21 (NASB)*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"

<sup>36</sup>You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; <sup>37</sup>and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. <sup>39</sup>All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. <sup>40</sup>There are also Heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the Heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. <sup>42</sup>So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; <sup>43</sup>it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup>it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

*1 Corinthians 15:35-44 (NASB)*

<sup>51</sup>Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. *1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NASB)*

<sup>10</sup>that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

*Philippians 3:10-11 (NASB)*

R) THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN PHYSICALLY TO THIS EARTH. HE WILL THEN RULE AS KING OF ISRAEL AND KING OF THE WHOLE WORLD. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WILL ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND BRING IT TO COMPLETION

*Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."*

*John 1:49 (NASB)*

*So Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him and said, "It is as you say."* *Luke 23:3 (NASB)*

<sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.  
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17(NASB)

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."  
Matthew 2:2 (NASB)

And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."  
Matthew 27:37 (NASB)

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.  
1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup>which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
1 Timothy 6:15 (NASB)

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."  
Revelation 17:14 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup>"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of Heaven One like a (Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup>"And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.  
Daniel 7:13-14 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup>From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."  
Revelation 19:15-16 (NASB)

And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"  
Luke 23:42 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;  
Acts 1:6-7 (NASB)

<sup>29</sup>"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>"And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup>he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. <sup>32</sup>"This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.  
Acts 2:29-32 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the

*second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*  
*Revelation 20:4-6 (NASB)*

## **Conclusion**

I have set out above a fairly thorough list of the basic truths that we need to believe and understand to be able to meaningfully put our trust in Jesus Christ and rely on Him to be our Saviour. Obviously, each of these things can be studied in much greater detail, as they are deep and complex issues. Yet, at the same time they are also simple truths which can be accepted by a small child.

God will judge you and deal with you according to your level of understanding, ability, age and experience. If you are a small child then less will be expected of you. But if you are an adult then God will expect you to seek to understand these facts properly so that you can fully put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If some of these basic essentials do not make sense to you, or you have a problem believing some of them, then ask God to open your mind and to give you the understanding, knowledge or faith that you need. Then start reading the Bible every day. If you do your part, God will help you and give you the understanding that you need.

However, do it with humility. Don't have the self-important and patronising attitude that you will "*sit in judgment*" on God's Word, deciding which parts of it you "*agree with*" and which parts you don't. Instead approach it with respect, aiming to learn from it. If you approach the Bible with a childlike and humble heart, wanting to learn from it, not to criticize it, then the Bible will open up to you in an amazing way. You will find yourself able to understand it and to believe it.

So, if a man does not have faith then he can get it. And, it is his duty to set about getting it. The way that we get that faith is through reading and studying God's written Word, the Bible:

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*  
*Romans 10:17 (NIV)*

## **How to get faith if you don't yet have it.**

The apostle Paul is realistic enough to talk about the problem of how a person can come to believe or have faith if they do not believe already. In short, the answer he gives is that faith comes by hearing. That means by hearing the Word of God read out in public. Obviously, if you can read, faith also comes by reading the Word of God for yourself. Thus, if you have any difficulty in believing the essential ingredients of what needs to be believed, then set about seriously studying God's Word for yourself. Then faith will come to you.

Why not begin by reading the gospel of Mark? It is the shortest and simplest gospel. Then read the gospel of Luke. It is the only gospel which claims to be in chronological order. Then read the book of Acts, which is the continuation of Luke's gospel. It goes on from the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus through the first thirty or so years of the early church to show how the church developed. Then go back and read John's gospel and then Matthew's gospel. Each of these have very different styles, and were written for different audiences.

Then look at Paul's letter to the Romans, which is very deep and concentrated teaching. Then just carry on right through the New Testament. Then go back to the Old Testament and read Genesis and Exodus so that you can understand better how the world was formed by God as our Creator. You will

see how sin came in to the world when "*the fall*" happened. That brought God's judgment upon us all, because we all share the same fallen nature as Adam and Eve.

The remainder of the Old Testament then shows how God slowly set about creating and developing the nation of Israel. He did so in order that His son could come as our Saviour and Lord, through being born as a baby in the land of Israel.

If you do not already have the faith to honestly say that you understand and believe all these things and genuinely trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to save you, then do not pretend to have it. Instead, diligently set about getting that faith by asking God for it persistently. Pray to Him and ask Him sincerely to open your mind so as to be able to understand the Bible. That is a prayer that God will delight to answer.

Then, set about methodically reading the Bible with the right heart attitude and you will find that genuine saving faith will come to you. You will gain understanding, knowledge and faith when you approach God's Word in that sincere and teachable way.

However, you won't get it if your heart is proud, casual or indifferent. God is a rewarder of those who *diligently* seek Him, but not of those who are flippant, lazy, brazen, or don't truly want to know.

***But 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.***

*Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)*

So, be diligent and persistent. Set out to read and understand the whole Bible and to keep studying until genuine faith comes to you.