

What Do You Believe?

John 1:1,2

We are not to

[Lev 19:31 KJV] 31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I [am] the LORD your God.

[Num 15:39 NKJV] 39 "And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you [may] not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined,

[Deu 4:29 KJV] 29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

[Deu 4:29 NLT] 29 But from there you will search again for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.

Paul gave us awesome advice on how to walk in the way we have been called.

[Eph 4:1 NLT] 1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

[Eph 4:1 KJV] 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Concerning this verse, Pastor Greg Laurie says, From the original language, the word "worthy" could be translated as "to balance the scales." It can be applied to anything that is expected to correspond to something else. Paul was saying there needs to be a balance between our belief and our practice.

Our doctrine and belief should affect us in the way that we live.

Why I believe the Bible. (God speaks to us through His Word.) God's Word is without error and tells us what He wants us to know about Him. I believe it.

[2Ti 3:16-17 KJV] 16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

[2Pe 1:20 KJV] 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

[Gal 3:8, 22 KJV] 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying], In thee shall all nations be blessed. ... 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

[Gal 3:8, 22 NLT] 8 What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." ... 22 But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

The Bible is the most read book in the world selling almost 4 billion copies over the past 50 years. It is the most recognized and famous book ever written.

<https://capitalizemytitle.com/what-are-the-most-read-books-in-the-world-of-all-time/>

God commanded Moses to write in a book how God was going to punish Amalek. He was to put the story in a book for Joshua to use. Throughout Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, God told Moses to write things down. The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew with portions of Daniel and Ezra being written in Aramaic. Scribes made copies of the scriptures down through the ages using painstaking processes to preserve integrity of the text.

No book in the world has withstood the scrutiny the Bible has received. I accept the Bible as the Word of God. The evidence is overwhelming but there are those that reject the Bible even though the evidence is plain. There are more old transcripts of the Bible than any other book. There are 25,000 early manuscripts in existence. I took courses on the Bible. If the KJV was good enough for Paul, it is good enough for me.

Billy Graham struggled in his faith early in his ministry. One of the areas he struggled with was the authenticity of the Bible. **Agnostic and close friend, Charles Templeton tried to get him to quit ministering like he did. Dr. Graham made a decision the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and stuck with that decision until he stepped out into eternity. He personally accepted the evidence.**

Billy said, "The finest minds in the world have looked and come down on both sides of these questions. I don't have the time, the inclination, or the set of mind to pursue them. I have found that if I say, 'The Bible says' and 'God says,' I get results. I have decided I am not going to wrestle with these questions any longer." He was attacked for this stance but then **he got alone with God in the mountains and said, "Father, I am going to accept this as thy Word—by faith!" Graham proclaimed. "I'm going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual questions and doubts, and I will believe this to be your inspired Word."**

Critics have attacked the Bible in many ways. Three examples are: Daniel was not written while Daniel was living. They claim it was written around 165 b.c. The Historical prophecies are spot on so there is no way he could have been that accurate. Problem: **Daniel is in the Septuagint which was translated a hundred or so years prior to the claimed date.** Jesus quoted Daniel. God can go to any place in the world's timeline. He is not in the timeline.

[Mat 24:15 KJV] 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Critics say King Belshazzar never existed. There is no historical evidence outside of the Bible. A sixth century B.C tablet was discovered that mentions Belshazzar filling in as king for his father.

Finally, The King James Bible was written 300 years before the Isaiah scroll was discovered with the Dead Sea Scrolls. There was about 1500 years between the KJV and the Isaiah Scroll. The KJV translators did not have access to the Isaiah scroll. The two books (Isaiah KJV and Isaiah Scrolls) are identical except for some spelling differences of words.

Why I believe the Gospel. I believe the evidence presented in the Bible.

[Act 8:36-37 KJV] 36 And as they went on [their] way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, [here is] water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

[Mar 9:21-24 KJV] 21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. 22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth. 24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

Following prodding from his students at Harvard, Dr. Simon Greenleaf set out to prove the resurrection of Jesus did not occur. Applying his own set of rules for evidence in reviewing the facts about the resurrection of Jesus, **Greenleaf concluded it would have been impossible for the disciples to persist with their conviction that Jesus had risen if they hadn't actually seen the risen Christ. His writing, The Testimony of the Evangelists in 1874, is worth reading.** Read more at the following links. [http://y-jesus.com/simon-greenleaf-resurrection/;](http://y-jesus.com/simon-greenleaf-resurrection/)
[http://www.creationstudies.org/Education/simon_greenleaf.html;](http://www.creationstudies.org/Education/simon_greenleaf.html)

Dr. Greenleaf, previously an atheist, helped put Harvard University on the educational institution map. When speaking of the Christian faith in the classroom, Greenleaf told his students he believed the resurrection to be nothing more than a legend and he did not believe in miracles. He was the top dog, the Royal Professor of Law, at Harvard. In the late 1800's, Dr. Simon Greenleaf wrote a legal masterpiece still considered a brilliant work in modern legal minds. The writing is "A Treatise on the Law of Evidence", which is still regarded as "the greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure.

So, what did he do? He sought the truth and found it just like Lee Stroble (Case for Christ) who sought to disprove the resurrection of Jesus. Lee now pastors a church. Seek and ye shall find. I sought and I found Jesus or rather, He found me.

[Luk 11:9 KJV] 9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Consider the disciples Personal experience

The disciples were eyewitnesses to the resurrection. They did not believe He was alive at first. They were not part of some scheme. You don't give up your life trying to advance a lie. Ten of the eleven died for their faith. They gave their lives for the Gospel. Paul who arrested Christians, died for Christ.

God is so good. He will not make anyone go to heaven. Even the betrayer Judas was given the power of God and worked miracles for the kingdom.

[Mat 10:2-8 KJV] 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James [the son] of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James [the son] of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Did you notice a name on that list that did not make it?

From atheist to pastor, Lee Strobel interviewed another evangelist that did not come back to Christ, Charles Templeton, before he died.

Prayer changes things. My faith in the Bible and Gospel affects my prayer life.

We find Daniel praying in chapter 9.

Adrian Rogers said, "God can work without our prayers, but we cannot work without God, and it is prayer that leads us to depend upon Him. God does not want us to live lives independent of Him. If God simply blessed us without our asking, what would that do? That would teach us to live life independently from God. But Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7). God wants you to abide with Him. That's the reason He has taught us to pray; to invite Him to take control of our lives."

He also said this. "The devil cannot keep God from answering. So, what will he do? He will endeavor to keep you from asking."

Daniel models authentic faith in difficult circumstances. Perhaps his example shines most in his prayerful dependence on the Lord and His Word. Daniel interpreted his circumstances through the lens of Scripture. This allowed him to pray with confidence, joining his prayers with God's revealed will.

1. 70 Weeks of Daniel, We see six purposes of this time period.

[Dan 9:20-27 NLT] 20 I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. 21 As I was praying,

Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. 23 The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision. 24 "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

The prophecy of the seventy weeks is the most detailed chronological prophecy in the Old Testament. It indicates the exact amount of time that would pass until the coming of the Messiah. "Weeks" refer to "sevens" (Hebrew, shavuah), or seven-year periods of time, making a total of 490 years. Of the six purposes mentioned (all to be fulfilled through the Messiah), some believe that the last three were not achieved by the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ but await His further action: the establishment of everlasting righteousness (on earth), the complete fulfillment of vision and prophecy, and the anointing of the most Holy (either "the most holy place" or "the most holy One").

2. 69 weeks, first seven, then 62 weeks. God told Daniel about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

25 Now listen and understand! **Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler--the Anointed One--comes.** Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. 26 "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. 27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

The seven weeks may refer to the period of the complete restoration of Jerusalem (partially narrated in Ezra and Nehemiah) and the threescore and two weeks (vv. 25-26) to the period between that restoration and the Messiah's coming to Israel. The final "week," the Seventieth Week, is not mentioned specifically until verse 27, following the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem by the people of the prince that shall come (the Romans, who destroyed the second temple in AD 70; v. 26).

3. So When is the last week going to start? Be ready

[1Co 15:52 KJV] 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

[1Th 4:16 KJV] 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

4. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prayed

5. Jesus prayed.

Character of a Great Leader in the Faith. Daniel started as a little child and finished like a little child. Education, Money, Power, Strength, and Social Status all mean nothing in the kingdom of God.

[Mat 18:2-5 KJV] 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.