

Ten Reasons Why I Believe in Jesus Christ

And why you should too

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TEN REASONS
WHY I BELIEVE
IN
JESUS CHRIST
And Why You Should Too

by

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ONE

BECAUSE
HE GIVES ME
HOPE
IN TIMES
OF
HOPELESSNESS

Rom 15:13 So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ps 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

As a young boy going through hard times, I would often hope for a better life.

It was an expression of hope that never seemed to be at the forefront of my mind, but rather something tucked away as though it were a silent prayer waiting to be spoken.

The hope I had always came from the depth of my soul and passed through the pain of which I suffered.

It was the kind of hope that only God could hear.

It was the kind of hope only God could answer.

Ultimately I learned that no matter the situation, there is always hope in God, for through him, nothing is impossible (*Lk 1v37*).

So it is in Him, I will have hope.

It is in him, I will put my trust.

For through him, my hopes can come true.

TWO

BECAUSE OF HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

1Sam 16v7 ...The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions.

Ps. 139v 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb...15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb...17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Conditional love was all I knew as a young boy.

To be loved by my parents just for *who I was* didn't seem possible to me. I was convinced at an early age that the only way I was going to get any kind of positive attention from them was to **do** certain things to make them happy; things like buying little gifts or cleaning the house. It was then and only then did I receive the kind of attention I was seeking.

As I grew older, this line of thinking never changed. *Doing* certain things to get attention from my friends, usually dumb or unlawful things, was, to me, my only choice. Once again being accepted, as was being loved, was conditional.

Then I learned about Jesus Christ and the *unconditional* love he had for his children;

YOU, ME.

Could it be? Could someone actually care about me just for who I am? That didn't sound right. Nobody's ever cared, why should He?

As I learned more about Him, I realized that Jesus hated sin but loved the sinner, hoping that one day the sinner would come to repentance and thus be able to spend eternity with Him.

To know that I receive **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** from God even when others could care less is something that carries me through the good times and the bad.

THREE

BECAUSE
I ONLY HAVE
TO BE
ACCOUNTABLE
TO ONE PERSON

Ps 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil
in thy sight:*

Ps 41:4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I
have sinned against thee.*

The many mistakes I have made in life,
and
the many things I have done in which I *thought* were right but
yet were looked down upon by others,
are too numerous to count.

In each of these, there was a feeling of remorse;
for the mistakes I have made, there was *shame*,
for the things in which I thought were right but were not,
uncertainty about my decision.

Either way, my feelings were based on what *others* thought and
thus I became accountable to *other peoples* judgement of me.

When I came to know Jesus Christ, I began to realize that it
didn't matter what others thought because their criticism of me
could do nothing to alter my life either way.

But God's can, so it did matter what He thought. His friendship
mattered. His judgement of me at the time of my death mattered.
Eternal life with Him mattered.

Other than making things right to those I have hurt, I have
learned to be settled in my mind that there is only one person I
need to be accountable to for my actions and only one question I
must answer:

'what does God think about what I did?'

What a great feeling to know that whether it be right or wrong,
bad decision or good, stupid move or smart, at the end of the day
what Jesus Christ thinks about it *is all that matters to me*.

FOUR

BECAUSE HE
GUIDES ME
IN
MY LIFE

Ps 32v8 The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Is. 58v11 The LORD will guide you continually..

Ps 37v23 23 The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives. *24* Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.

After high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life.

Even when I thought I did, things didn't always turn out the way I planned.

Many times the things I thought I wanted to do or the direction I thought I wanted to go never seem to pan out for me. Often I'd find myself doing something completely different from what I first intended.

After awhile however, I found what I wanted to do in life and doors seemed to open up for me.

In getting to know Jesus, I come to realize that through His spirit He puts in our hearts the direction He wants us to go and the path we should take to get there.

I also realized that He was true to His word:

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go. I will counsel you with my eye on you. 9 Don't be like the horse, or like the mule, which have no understanding, who are controlled by bit and bridle...(Ps 32v8-9)

I thank Him for this.

For without Him,
a senseless mule I surely would have been.

FIVE

BECAUSE HE WAS
A FATHER AT A TIME
I
NEEDED ONE

Psalm 27:10 When my father and my mother forsake me,
then the Lord will take me up.

Psalm 68:5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows,
is God in his holy habitation.

Ps 103 v 13 The LORD is like a father to his children, tender
and compassionate to those who respect him.

As a young boy, I had a few friends who grew up with no father in the house.

Unlike them, I did have a father at home.

Whereas I saw my father daily, the emotional distant between us made it difficult to know him.

We rarely spoke as father to son.

As I grew older in my later teen years and came to know Jesus Christ, it was Him I began to confide in. I would talk to Him as a son would to a loving father who patiently listened and was concerned about everything I was saying.

I knew that when I was done talking, He understood me and He would come through for me in His own way, either in *guidance* if that's what I needed, in *wisdom* if I were to seek His advice, or by His *intercession* if it was direction I asked for.

It wasn't until much later in life did I come to realize that my earthly father was a great man who loved me dearly. Who would have known as a teenage boy that fathers are *not* simply made but are often a product of their own past. And sometimes their past is cold, deprived or abusive in some way whereby the expression of love is not so easily forthcoming.

My father is gone now and though I am unable to speak to him, I am still able to speak to my Heavenly Father daily.

This will never change...
while here on earth
or
back home with *Him* in heaven.

SIX

BECAUSE
I GET TO SEE
THE PEOPLE I LOVE
AGAIN

Gen 1v26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: (Our flesh was created like our soul which returns back to heaven upon our death.)

Ez 44v25 And they shall come at no spiritual person to defile themselves: but for father, or for mother, or for son, or for daughter, for brother, or for sister... (During a testing period before heaven we can go help our loved ones prepare if necessary)

When certain friends or family members passed away, the pain I felt as a child came from the realization that I would never see them again.

But as I grew older and come to know Jesus, I understood that this was only a childhood misconception and that I will indeed see my loved ones again. This understanding *wasn't* something that came out of grief, but was indeed *a fact*.

Through his word, I understood that life doesn't end in the flesh, but simply continues in the spirit which passes on to heaven.

I learned too that our soul (spirit) looks as our flesh minus any deformities our flesh may have (*Gen 1v26*) so recognizing my friends and family will happen instantaneously.

Not only does life continue, but things get a whole lot better for those who have passed on.

Indescribable beauty surrounds them.

Unspeakable tranquility possesses their soul.

Overwhelming love engulfs their being.

I no longer look at death as an end for the loved ones who have passed on, but rather *a beginning*.

I will *not* hurry death, for to do so would truly disrespect God.

But I eagerly await the day when I will once again be with those I so dearly love.

SEVEN

BECAUSE HE HELPS ME DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS I FACE IN LIFE

Ps 34v 4 I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me, freeing me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. 6 I cried out to the LORD in my suffering, and he heard me. He set me free from all my fears. 7 For the angel of the LORD guards all who fear him, and he rescues them. 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in him!

*Jer 23-24 Am I a God at hand, says God, and not a God afar off?
24 Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? says God. Don't I fill heaven and earth?*

It was as though nothing would ever change for me in my life growing up as a young boy. Hard times always seemed to have permanence as I looked toward the next day and beyond.

However, as I got older and came to know the Lord, I understood that He *saw me*, that He *heard me* and that He would *take care of me*. This became settled in my mind.

I believed in *Ps 139*.

How could someone who loves me so much and know so much about me *intimately*, simply walk away from my suffering?

Would this be a God of Love ?

Would this be One who made me and who knew me before I was even born ?

It would not.

Sometimes it looked as though He would take forever to answer my prayers. But through **FAITH**, I hung in there.

As my life unfolded, things did get better for me. He did rescue me and put me on the path that was best for me in dealing with my problems.

Not only this, but looking back I realized that the problems I did have made me a better person.

Could this have been part of his plan as well?

Who would have ever thought? Certainly not I.

EIGHT

BECAUSE WHEN HE
COMES AGAIN
IT WILL BE AN EVENT
OF GREAT JOY
AND
NOT ONE
OF
PARALYZING FEAR

Is 2v19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Is 25:9 It shall be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God! We have waited for him, and he will save us! This is Yahweh! We have waited for him. We will be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

Jesus **will** be coming back to earth again.

Make no mistake about it.

And when he does, it **won't** be pretty for those who do not believe.

Isa 66:15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.*

But for those who **do** believe,
for those who have tried their best to do what is right in

His eyes,

it will be a

GREAT DAY.

For the fire that will consume others will only *warm the hearts* of those who believe, much as it was with the three servants of God who were thrown into the fiery furnace by King

Nebuchadnezzar. (*Dan 3v20-25*)

When I see Christ come down from the clouds
riding on that Powerful White Horse,

I will feel *GREAT JOY*

and

not fear...nor regret.

WILL YOU?

NINE

BECAUSE OF HIS FORGIVENESS

1Jo 1:9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.*

Matt 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I don't tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven."

Isa 44:22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.*

At times, some of the sins of my past have come back to haunt me. I have often asked myself,

“has God really forgiven me for that sin? Really?”

Not only do I question the magnitude of the sin itself, but question how many times God can forgive me for the *same sin*. You’d figure that after a while He’d say something like:

“Enough is enough already. No, I don’t forgive you, for you keep sinning the same sin.”

But truth is God not only forgives you for your sins, but if your *intentions are good* and you *really* try to do better;

God will understand and He **will** continue to forgive you.

It took a lot to convince me of this, but it was well said when He stated,

“But God said to Samuel, “Don’t look on his face, or on the height of his stature;...for I see not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.” 1Sam 16:7

And if your heart is sincere, thus will your sins be forgiven.

As seen on the previous page, God is willing to forgive

“seventy times seven.”

This is a Hebrew idiom meaning *as often as it takes*.

No matter the sin, no matter the number of times, God forgives you because of His love for you.

Question is...

...ARE YOU WILLING TO FORGIVE YOURSELF?

For the difficulty in dealing with sin is not in
God's desire to forgive,
but
in your own desire to forgive yourself.

TEN

BECAUSE
I CAN'T IMAGINE LIFE
WITHOUT HIM

Ps 53:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

No life after death?

No more chances to see your loved ones
who have passed away?

No way to have your sins forgiven?

No supreme being to place your hopes in

or

to help you deal with problems

or

to give you a purpose in life

or

to show you love...

Unconditionally

or

to have around when you're lonely

or

to comfort you during hard times when
everyone else has bailed out on you.

Really?

Can't imagine.

Can You?

HOW TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE

Matt 11:28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls."

*Re 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

How can you get close to someone who is so powerful,
so overwhelming as **God?**

After all, He's.....**GOD!**

How can someone who has billions of children ever have a close, personal relationship with just me? I'm only one person. Why should he even care?

It's hard to grasp the idea that someone like God who is so **dominant, so commanding** could actually love us as individuals.

To put this into prospective, let me ask you this:

Is it possible for a father who has 20 children to leave the other 19 and his wife in order to search for a son who has run away from home?

Is it possible that his love for his son is so strong that he's willing to be away for weeks or maybe even months until he is found?

When you think about it, why should he even bother?

I mean this father has 20 children. Why should he care if only one child ends up on the streets? He has 19 others. Can't he just be satisfied with them?

Not only is it possible for an earthly father to do this, but most likely.

Now, if an earthly father can show this kind of love for his son, how much more love will your heavenly father show for you?

(Matt 18v12)

Truth is you **ARE** important to Him. I think this is one reason why it is so easy for Him to become a part of your life.

In fact, all you need to do are

THREE SIMPLE THINGS:

SO IT IS WITH HIM.

**FIND A QUIET PLACE
WHERE YOU CAN BE ALONE.**

When you do, simply bow your head and let Jesus Christ know that you're a sinner, that you love Him and that you want Him to be part of your life.

Ask him in your own words.

You don't need any written fancy prayer. He wants to hear from **YOU**. Talk to Him as you would anyone else.

PRAY

Prayer is simply talking to Jesus in your own words.

Let Him know what's on your mind every day;

the good,
the bad
and
the ugly.

He wants to hear it all because He cares about you.

Praying to Him daily *reenforces your faith* in Him and lets Him know you *care enough* to want to spend time with Him.

A short, sincere, prayer just before bed is all that is needed.

When you become a parent, the attention you get from your children will be important to you.

SO IT IS WITH HIM.

LASTLY,
LEARN WHAT HE EXPECTS FROM YOU,
HOW HE CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR DAILY LIFE
AND
HOW YOU CAN STAY CLOSE TO HIM

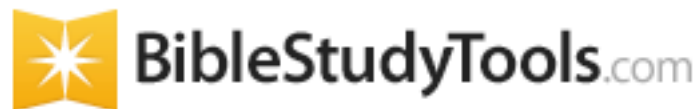
Now that Jesus is in your life, you want to learn all about Him.

How do you that?
By reading the **LETTER** he sent you.

It called **THE BIBLE**.

Find a bible that you feel comfortable reading. There are many versions. Get a version that ‘speaks’ to you in simple English.

To find the right bible, go on line and read from the different versions. Find out what fits you best. A good site for different translations is



Start with the New Testament and don't be afraid to use our **E MAIL QUESTION HOTLINE** in the **Contact Section** of this book for any questions you may have about God or the bible.

Spending 10 or 15 minutes or simply reading a chapter a night is no big thing. The return you will get however, **IS**.

Have any questions or comments?

Don't be afraid to let me know.

You can contact me at

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