



GOD'S TRUTH FOR YOU!

Part of growing as a Christian means opening up God's Word and learning His truth. Of course, even if you have grown up in a Christian home with your own Bible, you may find that you still have questions about your faith. These questions are a great way to become an explorer of the Word of God. In fact, God wants us to take our questions to His Word so we can learn more of His truth. After all, the more truth you know, the stronger your faith will be. Below you'll find twenty-eight questions and answers to help build your faith and become a Bible explorer!

1. How can I know if I love Jesus?

Love is a feeling, but it is also commitment and sacrifice. Even if you don't always feel like you love Jesus, you can obey Him and remember that He loves you. Study His Word, remind yourself of all He's done, and celebrate His power in your life. Put Him first. He never asked us to feel loving toward Him, but He did ask us to follow Him and put His Word into action. The feelings will follow. (1 John 5:1)

2. Does God want me to be happy?

God wants you to know the truth and to find joy in Him. Sometimes we feel happy or sad depending on how things are going in life. God wants us to find a deeper kind of joy that doesn't depend on what might be happening around us. He wants you to be sad about sin. He wants that to change you, to lead you closer to Him. Never get stuck feeling bad about the past. Instead, remind yourself of the joyful promises He has for the future. (Philippians 3:13-14 and 4:4)

3. Does God still love me even when I do something bad?

Since God is love and doesn't change, He will always accept you, forgive you, and love you. His love doesn't depend on us or on how we act, but on Him and who He is. His love is everlasting and unfailing. Be assured that God's forgiveness and love is real, and then live to honor Him. (Jeremiah 31:3)



4. Why do bad things happen?

Suffering was never part of God's plan. He wanted us to find peace and fulfillment in Him, but sin has brought death and pain to the world. Sometimes when bad things happen, it is because God has a bigger purpose in mind and He uses the bad things to bring about better things than we could ever imagine. (Romans 8:28)

5. How can we know that God is good?

God sent Jesus. This shows His love and commitment to us. Jesus suffered pain and loneliness—and He even died—all for the joy of one day being with His children in heaven someday. Since God knows so much more than we do, He allows things we don't understand. But we can trust that His ways are always just. (John 3:16)

6. What do I need to do to be saved?

Being saved is a gift from God. It's not based on how good we are or if we pray a certain prayer or go to a certain church. We accept the gift of salvation through our faith in Jesus. (Romans 10:8-10)

7. How long will God's Word last?

God's Word lasts forever. In fact, in a very real way, Jesus is the living, breathing Word of God. Since He lives forever, God's Word will never pass away. (1 Peter 1:25)

8. Why can't I see God?

God isn't a man or a woman. He is a Spirit. That means He's invisible—but it also means that He can be everywhere at once. Though we do not see God now, we can be filled with joy because of our faith that we will see Him, and be with Him, one day. (1 Peter 1:8)

9. Can God do anything?

God can do anything that doesn't contradict who He is. In other words, He can't suddenly turn evil or become a coward or stop loving His children. God can accomplish anything, even creating a universe, just by His words. This powerful God is on your side and wants what is best for you. (Luke 1:37)

10. Does God ever change?

God's character always remains the same, but He does sometimes change His mind. For example, there are times in the Bible when people humbled themselves or trusted in Him, and instead of judging them, God welcomed them with His forgiveness. You can trust that Jesus's love for you will never change. (Hebrews 13:8)



11. Will God ever leave me alone?

God will never abandon you or forsake you. He is faithful to His promises and is always loving to His children. (Hebrews 13:5)

12. Is God mad at me?

God is angry when people act in hurtful ways, but that anger does not erase His great love for us. Because God is love, He wants us to show compassion to others—especially those who are weak, poor, or rejected. Sin results in suffering, and watching people suffer brings sorrow to the heart of God. Because He is holy and just, His Spirit grieves when we disobey or are unkind, but His love for us endures. If you are afraid that God is angry with you or that you have grieved His Spirit, ask Him to show you how to become more like Him. (Psalm 86:10-12)

13. How many Gods are there?

There is only one God. Within this one God we have the Father to love us, Jesus to save us, and the Holy Spirit to comfort us. This is why Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. How this works and how God could be Three in One is a mystery we'll never completely understand—but the Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God and that He works in three ways. (Ephesians 4:6)

14. Should I get baptized?

If you have placed your trust in Jesus and haven't been baptized, it's a great time to do it. Being baptized is a powerful way to let people know that you love Jesus and want to follow Him in your life. Talk to your parents or pastor about how to be baptized—it is an important step for all who love Jesus. (Acts 10:47-48)

15. What will heaven be like?

Some people think heaven will be like a church service that goes on forever, but Jesus never described it like that. Instead, He said it was like a celebration. A party. A feast. A wedding. Heaven is a place of community, worship, freedom, discovery, joy, beauty, and wonder. Pain and suffering and death cannot enter there. Most of all, it is a place where we can live without shame or regret and fully enjoy the presence of God forever. (Revelation 21:4-5)



16. Why isn't life fair?

In this world, people who are kind and giving sometimes lose, while wicked, selfish people sometimes appear to win. It all seems backward! When you believe, it does not mean your life will be easy or without trials, but it is a blessed life because God's Spirit lives in your heart to help you through the tough times. If it seems like life is unfair, don't worry. One day, everyone who rejects Jesus and the forgiveness He offers will be accountable to God. Love will win in the end, and justice will be done. (Acts 17:30-31)

17. What is grace?

Grace is when you receive something good that you don't deserve. Mercy is when you don't get something bad that you do deserve. God is a God of grace—offering us the joy of salvation. He is also a God of mercy—offering us forgiveness. Grace is a gift. If someone gives you a gift, it's something you haven't earned. None of us can earn heaven. Faith is the way we receive the gift of God's grace—it is not something we can earn by works—it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

18. Does God keep His promises?

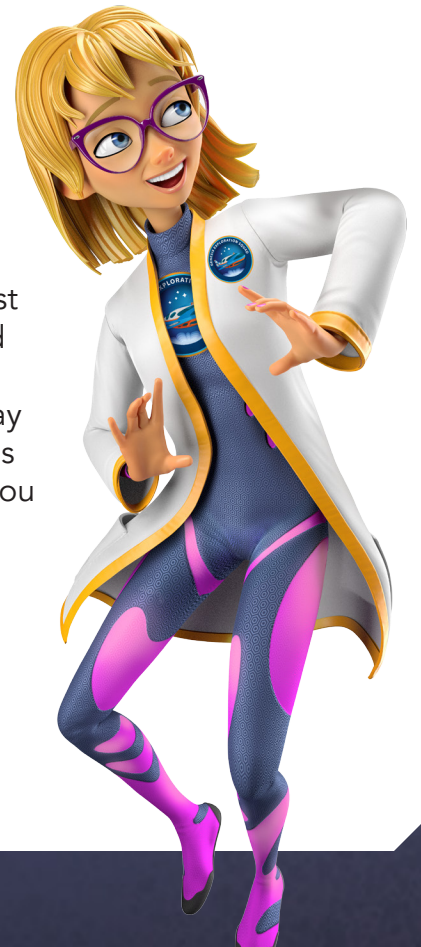
Yes. We can trust God to keep His promises, and Jesus to keep His word. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

19. Is hell real?

Jesus taught that there is a place of suffering for those who reject God's love and forgiveness. Sometimes He called it by different names, but Jesus believed in it and so should we. It is not a place you would want to go. The sadness there never ends. If you are a Christian, you don't need to fear hell. Instead, you'll want to warn other people about it, and point the way to heaven—just like Jesus did. (John 5:24)

20. Will I go to heaven?

All those who accept Jesus as their Savior and place their trust in Him will go to heaven. There is no question, no doubt, and no uncertainty about it. In fact, God's Spirit guarantees it! He places His word on it! No one can take the gift of heaven away from Christians. When you're a follower of Jesus, you have His assurance that He will never leave you—even when you die you will be with Him in heaven. (John 10:27-30)



21. Why is Jesus called the “Christ”?

For many years the Jews waited for the promised Savior, or Deliverer. In the Old Testament He is referred to as the “Messiah.” Since the New Testament was written in a different language, a different word is used—“Christ.” Jesus is His name and Christ is His title (like “Doctor,” or “Coach”). It brings to mind someone who has been chosen as the king. Jesus is the King of all and the only Savior we will ever need. (Revelation 19:16)

22. Will God forgive me?

When we confess our sins to God, He forgives us. After you become a Christian, and you sin, tell God that you are sorry; but the forgiveness of God doesn't depend on remembering everything you have done wrong and confessing it to Him. Instead, it depends on His promises and His grace, which never fail. You can trust in God's forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

23. Does God hear my prayers?

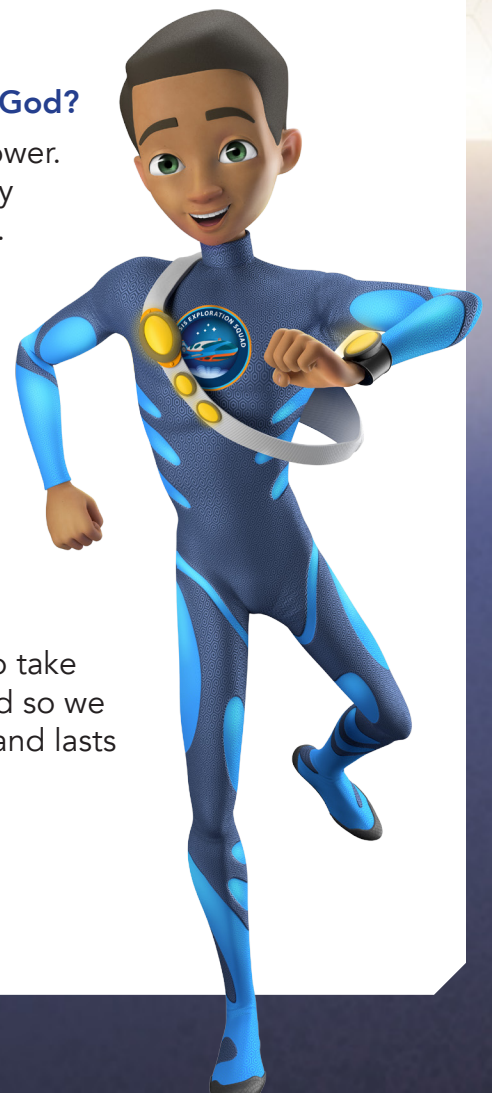
God hears the prayers that come from a believing heart. That doesn't mean everything will always go your way, but it does mean that God will listen to you, love you, and work things out for your good. Ask for His help. Tell Him you love Him. Thank Him for forgiving you. Praise Him for being perfect. Share your dreams with Him—and your hurts too. He cares. He's listening. And He'll help. (Matthew 7:78)

24. What does it mean when the Bible says we should fear God?

To fear God means to honor and respect His purity and power. In the Bible, when people witnessed the glory of God, they realized how perfect He was and how imperfect they were. As a result, they were overwhelmed and terrified and filled with awe. God doesn't want us to tremble in fear or cower at a distance. He wants us to come to Him with open and trusting hearts. Rather than being afraid, thank Him for His love, praise Him for His goodness, and rejoice that He cares about your life. (Hebrews 4:16)

25. Why did Jesus have to die?

In the same way an honest and good judge must punish people who break the law, God must punish wrongdoing. However, because of His deep love for us, Jesus offered to take that punishment on Himself. He suffered what we deserved so we could receive what He earned—a new life that starts now and lasts forever in heaven. (1 John 4:9-10)



26. Are angels and demons real?

Yes, angels and demons are real. Angels want to help people. Demons want to frighten people and harm them. Jesus is more powerful than demons. He was not afraid of them, and His followers don't need to fear them either. Jesus can calm storms, walk across the water, raise the dead, and even tell demons what to do. We can trust in Jesus' goodness and mighty power. Angels want what is best for people. They are strong and serve God, but they are not God. We should only worship God, so we do not pray to angels. (Luke 4:8)

27. How can I know if I'm a Christian?

If you understand that you are a sinner—that your bad actions and thoughts separate you from God—and you are sorry for them and ask for Christ's forgiveness, you are a Christian. Eternal life is available to all who confess and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:12)

28. Why should I be good?

Sin always brings pain with it. Things like guilt, shame, sadness, broken hearts, and ruined friendships come from sin. God doesn't want anyone to experience the hurt that sin brings. Since we know that God is sad when we sin, and that it is harmful to us and to others, as followers of Jesus we should avoid willfully sinning. Being good doesn't get you into heaven. We are saved only through Christ's sacrifice on the cross; but once you have followed Jesus, show your devotion to Him by being good and following His Word and His way. (Romans 6:12-14)



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