

## WHAT ARE SOME OF LIFES KEY QUESTIONS?

1. Did the Universe and our planet Earth come from the “Big Bang”?
2. Where did the “Big Bang” come from?
3. Were you created or did you evolve?
4. Is there life after death?
5. Where do I get answers to life’s questions? Does life have a purpose?
6. Is there a spiritual aspect to life, if so what is it?
7. Why are there so many different spiritual ideas?
8. Are there absolutes? Truths?
9. If so is there a way to know and understand them?
10. Will science give us the answers to these questions?
11. Could a true scientist believe in God?
12. Have great scientist believed in God?
13. If there is a God, can we know Him?
14. Do miracles happen?



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

15. How can I make the most money?
16. What career should I pursue?
17. Should I marry? Who? Children?
18. Are peace and contentment available In the difficult circumstances we face in life?

## WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Certainly the origin of the Universe has significant implications on many of our questions!

To me probability plays a key role in my thinking and decisions. When more than 1 outcome is possible and the outcome is not predetermined, then probability is a factor. If it's a 5% chance of rain I might not worry much but if it's a 100% chance I'll make other decisions. As a Master Boxer I knew there was a 100% chance that my opponent wanted to win and that I would take some hits. Knowing this probability adjusted my attitude and behavior.

I don't worry, however, about getting hit by lightning when I leave my home because the probability is very low, however as I drive down the road I'm cautious of movement around me because I understand if I'm not cautious there is a much greater probability I'll be involved in an accident.



Understanding probability should influence our thinking, attitudes and actions. Probability is used extensively in medicine, insurance, engineering, gambling, advertising, genetics, computers, space science and a host of other fields. When you look at the probability that our universe and life itself happened by chance, the probability is so remote that, it seems to me to take more faith to believe in “chance”, than to conclude a “higher power” and “design” is the logical answer.

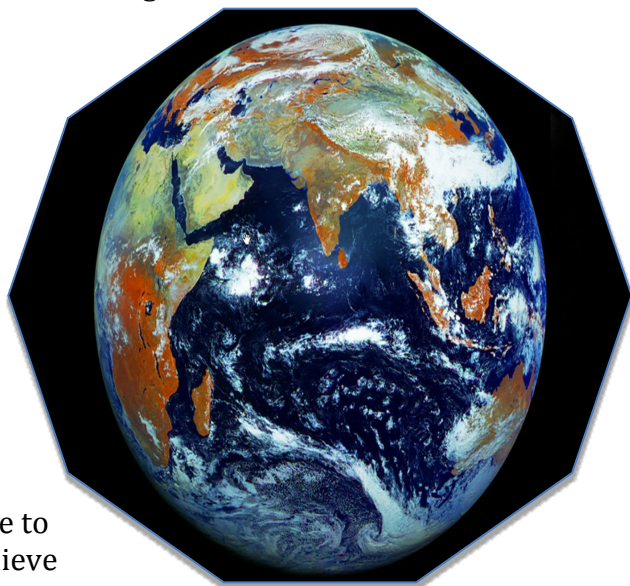
In the Universe there are at least four forces working in harmony – gravity, electromagnetic force, and the strong and weak nuclear

forces. Alter any one value of their power and the universe would not exist. If the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off by  $1/10^{18}$  that's  $1/100,000,000,000,000,000$  (a quintillion) then no stars and therefore no planets would have formed.

Lets try to understand what  $10^{18}$  power means. A mathematician at MIT once created a mental picture to depict this number. He concluded that a person, in one try, would have to find the one unique silver dollar with the entire state of Texas being covered two feet thick in silver dollars. If you consider the probability of this actually happening I believe you would conclude that this is next to impossible.

We are led to believe that given enough time “anything” is possible. This sounds reasonable but if you think more deeply the concept losses it's value. For example take a watch and remove all the screws holding it together, all the gears, springs, mounting board and every other component. Place them in a bag. How many years would it take, of shacking the bag, for all the parts “by chance” to fit together with the crystal on top and each screw in its place and tighten down? It doesn't matter how many billions of years you shake the bag, the parts will not come together “by chance”. It takes intelligence to properly align all the parts and finally put in the screws and tighten the watch together.

The complexity and order of the universe is a lot more complex than a watch. It screams “Design”(Genesis 1:1) an incredible intelligent creator. This is also evident in our small planet “Earth” which shouts “design” with the probability of “chance” being impossible to believe. Can we really believe



that the Earth could evolve from the “Big Bang” and sustain life, as we know it today without a designer, creator overseeing this?

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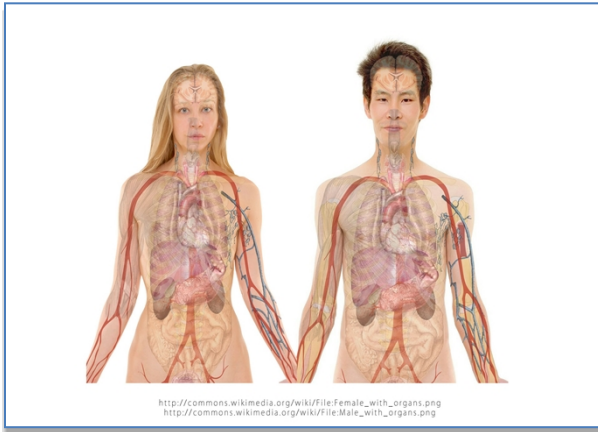
Today there are over 200 known parameters that must be perfectly met for a planet to support life. Just a few are: the Earths axis of rotation which is 23 degrees, gravity, rotation period, field crust, oxygen/nitrogen ratio, carbon dioxide, water vapor, ozone levels, the distance from the Moon and Sun and numerous other factors. Our sun is the just the right distance from earth, size, shape and type: Our moon has the correct gravitational pull for our tides and oceans: The stars are in the correct orbits and our galaxy is in the right location.

The evidence is overwhelming that our planet was the result of intelligent design. The Bible expresses this well (Ex. 9:9, Ps. 24:1) Now we come to the big question about humanity and not just the physical universe: Were we created or did we evolve?

I believe anyone who investigates the evidence carefully will conclude that the universe, earth and human life were created, not by chance, but by an incredible intelligent power, who many call God. So, back to the question of probability: What is the probability that the human race evolved? The complexity of the Universe and Earth are undeniable and when you investigate the complexity of the human body you are literally blown away. The human body is made up of some sixty trillion cells. Cells have a great number of

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components; DNA, RNA, protein, flagellum, mitochondria to name a few. Cells are specifically designed for a particular function within the body. There are 100 trillion atoms in one cell, atoms have protons, neutrons and electrons; when combined they create molecules (like H<sub>2</sub>O), these molecules create hundreds of amino acids but only twenty can be used and must be the right ones in the



right order with oxygen and water and an energy source to create proteins, which are the building blocks of the human body. One study concluded that the chance of forming a biological protein is 10<sup>30</sup> (remember Texas and 10<sup>18</sup> ?, 10<sup>21</sup>

would cover the entire USA over 100 feet thick of silver dollars) so 10<sup>30</sup> is a number our brain has difficulty comprehending at all. Cells also have incredibly sophisticated editing process to ensure each gene is reproduced error-free. This strongly points to “design”; the genetics are so incredibly complex and interrelated it shouts “design”. (Mark 10:6), (Gen. 2:7)

An airplane has some five million non-flying parts, yet it can fly, why? Design: the cell has millions of non-living parts, what makes it alive? Design!

One study concluded the probability of one cell being created by random chance = 10<sup>40,000</sup> a number so remote the human mind can't comprehend it.

Cells function as energy generators, invasion guards, transport system, food factories, protective barriers, waste disposal, communication links and they manufacture their own replacement parts.

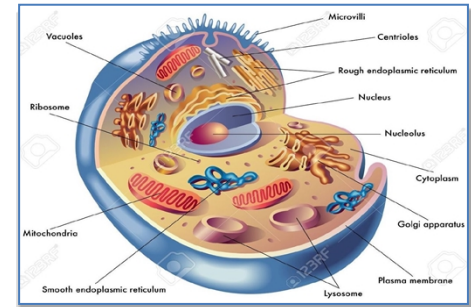
Think of the complexity of the human body:

- 40 million capillaries (over 25,000 miles)
- A heart that beats some 100,000 times each day
- Red blood cells that transport oxygen to tissue
- White blood cells that rush to identify foreign agents and mark them for destruction
- Eyes and ears that are more complex than any man-made machine
- A brain with 100 trillion interconnections, able to make a quadrillion calculations per second
- Nervous system, skeleton structure, liver, lungs, skin, stomach, kidneys that all scream “design”
- Not to mention non-tangibles like emotions, love, anger, guilt, compassion, imagination, curiosity, where did these come from if we are just random molecules put together?

DNA has become a very common concept in our world today, especially in the criminal justice area.

We see TV shows like “Forensic Files” where it's agreed that the criminal would not have been brought to justice had it not

been for the discovery of DNA. DNA is the software of life, one DNA molecule has five billion times more information storage than a 340 GB common storage device. A GB is 1048 megabytes, a MB is 1024 kilobytes,



a KB is 1,000 bytes, so one GB = 8,589,934,592 bytes. There is 1.5 GB of information in each cell and 150 Trillion GB of information in the human body. The math gets crazy but suffice it to say that DNA stores incredible amounts of information, which can make copies of itself. How did all this information get there? again, design seems the only logical answer.

Every human body is a testimony to a powerful, purposeful Creator (Pro. 20:12, 1Cor. 12:18)

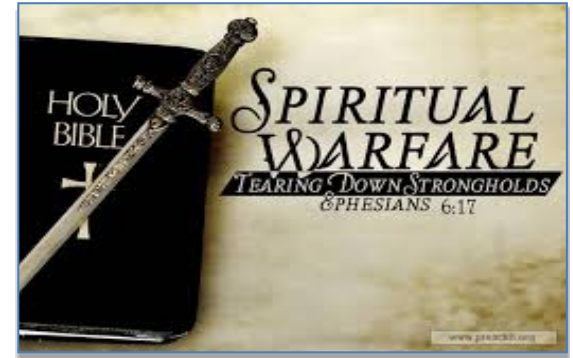
If you're convinced the universe came from the "big bang" and that the earth just happened, "by chance", to align all the necessary components to sustain life as we know it, and the human body just evolved over millions (or billions) of years, then you don't need to read on, but if you're confused and have doubts and questions, then read on for one person's pursuit of truth.

I find it interesting that the protein network, which is foundation for most cells and organs, is Laminine, a high-molecular weight protein in the shape of a cross. God certainly has a sense of humor.

So let's take a leap of faith, because that's what it will always take on these issues. There never will be ironclad evidence of "chance" or "design" about the origin of the Universe, Earth or the human race, but it seems that the weight of evidence and logic clearly point to intelligent design as the source.

Since we are investigating such "deep" questions, if all this was from "intelligent design" then why are there so many approaches to this "Creator/ God," - This leads us to an even more bizarre issue at this point. It will surely take you some time to really comprehend what I'm about to say.

To move forward you need to understand that there is a spiritual dimension to life, and we are in a "spiritual warfare". That's right, I didn't make this up, we don't see it (normally), we don't feel it (usually), but none-the-less, it is happening all around us. To understand and believe this truth you must first come to the place where you believe the Bible is the word of God. We'll discuss



that in a minute, but assume for a minute that the Bible is true, then you'll have no problem believing that you are in a spiritual warfare. This is what the Bible clearly teaches (2Cor. 10:4). A statement that has stuck with me through the years is, "You can't experience life for what IT COULD BE, unless you face it for WHAT IT IS."

Why do I say the Bible is the word of God? There are many that support this fact. Let's just look at four

**Manuscripts** – There are over 24,000 known ancient manuscripts of the Bible or parts of it. The second largest group of ancient manuscripts is Homer's "Iliad," which has some 400, and none doubts that Homer wrote the Iliad. The sheer volume of consistent evidence gives great credibility to the Bible. The "Dead Sea Scrolls" discovered in 1946 further demonstrated the accuracy of the Bible we now have.

**Archeology:** Discoveries continue to verify the veracity of scripture. Numerous artifacts have shut the mouths of skeptics who have denied the truth of scripture.

**Prophecies:** This has had the biggest impact on my life. What is the probability that these prophecies of future events could be 100% accurate? There have been 322 prophecies fulfilled to this point with a probability of  $1/10^{157}$ . Remember the illustration of  $1/10^{18}$ . It has been stated that anything over  $1/10^{50}$  is virtually *impossible, unless it's a miracle of God.*

**Science:** The Bible was never meant to be a scientific manuscript, yet every detail lines up with science. By the way, one of the greatest scientist to ever live, Isaac Newton, and thousands of other notable scientist were and are devoted Christians who believed the Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God and is true.



You decide how important it is for you to know the truth but remember, if the Bible is true, and I believe it is, then your eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

Another concept that will challenge your logic but hopefully drive you closer to your creator is that God has revealed Himself in the Bible, He is not a single unit, but something deeper and more complex than anyone imagined, one being in three persons with love between them as the core of who God is.

That's right three individual persons but one God (1John 5:7). I said you'd be challenged so hang in there. God is a triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Some things can't be explained to our human intellect but nonetheless they are true. I'm not surprised that God is more complex than my mind can grasp.

For example, think of intelligence as an elevator that goes to level 1,000 but the human brain can only go to level 5, therefore much knowledge unavailable to us by our brains limitation. These situations call on faith, but not blind faith but faith built on solid evidence providing a solid foundation.

Now back to "spiritual warfare". If the Bible is true then a third of the angels and their leader satan, rebelled against God, left heaven, were cast down to earth, and are alive today with the goal to keep people from following God and receiving eternal life. Evil is alive and well here on planet earth and these demonic forces are at work to keep you from knowing the truth, destroying your marriage, stealing your children from a relationship with God, promoting drugs and alcohol as a method of destruction, causing emotional turmoil with depression and anxiety, fostering anger and self pity, justifying illegal actions and any other strategy to keep you from the truth which "sets you free" (Jn. 8:32) and allowing you to have peace and contentment and a relationship with your heavenly Father. He wants to give you that peace no matter the personal circumstances you are facing.

It's this "spiritual warfare" that is the answer for the many approaches to the "Creator/God". Our enemy, satan, is very powerful and he can enter into a persons life and actually greatly impact the thinking and actions of that individual. These individuals have extraordinary power and can do extraordinary things. They can write influential books (book of Mormon and Pearl of Great Price (Mormonism), Science and Health with Key's to the Scripture (Christian Science), The Koran, Scientology and the list goes on and on. They can be very powerful, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Muhammad and many others. They permeate every aspect of society and often seem to be doing good which is another tactic of satan to turn people from the true God. (Jn. 10:10)

We've covered a lot of territory: The creation of the Universe, The creation of Earth, The creation of the human race, the truth of the Bible. The spiritual warfare we are all part of, obvious on a very

shallow level but many thousands of pages are available for anyone who wants to know “truth”. So what now? Are there answers? Can I have benefit from all this? Well if the Bible is true, which it is, and was written by God, using different individuals, which it was (Ex. 31:18), then the answer to this and so many other questions can be obtained from the scriptures.

The Bible contains sixty-six books, written by over forty authors, covering a time span of some 1,500 years and is by far the most unique and most popular book ever written. So what does the Bible say about dealing with the “spiritual warfare” we are all in? What do I need to understand to have victory in my life?

The Bible is very clear, the answer is Jesus Christ. He said “I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by Me” (Jn. 14:6) When you look at Jesus life and teachings, you must conclude that He is either a lunatic, a liar or He was who He said He was. He can’t be characterized as just a good teacher, or nice guy. He said He was God (Jn. 10:30). He said He could forgive sins. For that He was crucified. Remember probability played an important role in my decisions, so what’s the probability that any person could fulfill the prophecies given about the coming of the Jewish Messiah? There are over 300 prophecies in the Bible of Jesus’ first coming, all have come true. What is the probability of just eight of these prophecies coming true?

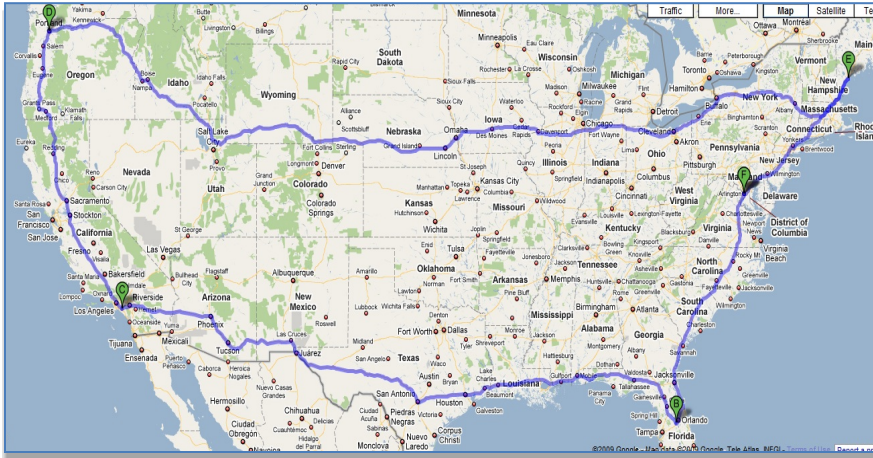
1. Messiah to be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
2. Messiah betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12-13)
3. Messiah clothes would be gambles away. (Psalms 22:18)
4. Messiah hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalms 22:16)
5. Messiah’s bones would not be broken. (Psalms 34:20)

6. Messiah would be born in the tribe of Judah (Isaiah 37:31)
7. Messiah would be called from Egypt. (Hosea 11:1)
8. Messiah would be buried in a rich man’s grave. (Isaiah 53:9)

The probability is  $1/10^{18}$  for only these eight prophecies being fulfilled by one man, which we have previously seen is virtually NO CHANCE. So logic says Jesus life, death and resurrection is a supernatural event from a supernatural power. And remember, this is only eight of the prophecies; the probability of all 300 Bible prophecies being fulfilled (which they were) is ridiculously astronomical, simply incalculable unless the real author of these prophecies is God who is the Lord of the past, the present and the future which is another concept difficult for our brain to comprehend. The God who created the universe out of nothing was in total control and knows the past, present AND future. This is difficult to comprehend but most comforting as we go through uncharted waters living in this fallen world.

I think the issue of probability, which we have discussed, is so important that I will give another example to set the concept stronger in your mind. We are told that an individual’s chance of winning the Powerball lottery is 1 in about 200 million. So lets put a graphic illustration to this number, which is about  $1/10^8$ . If we have 200 million dollar bills and place the dollar bills one behind another starting from Washington, DC, we’ll have enough dollar bills to go all the way south to Disney World in Orlando. Then we’ll still have enough to go clear across the country to Disneyland in California! But, even then, we are not out of dollar bills, so we can go north and make it all the way to Portland, Oregon. Still, we have dollar bills, enough to make it all the way east to Portland, Maine. And, enough to make it back to DC, completing the loop

Do we have any dollars bills left? Yes! We would still have enough dollar bills to go all the way around the loop a second time!

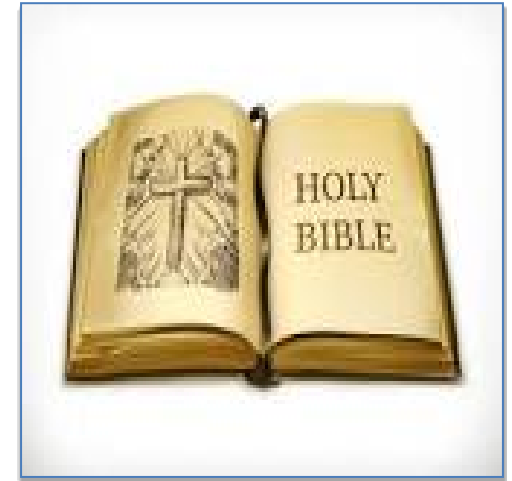


Now imagine that you walk, skateboard, skip, bike or drive for as long as you want around the double loop, and when you decide to stop, you stoop over and pick up one-dollar bill. Your chance of selecting the lucky dollar bill is one in about 200 million, and this is approximately  $1/10^8$ . When we investigate the probability of the Universe just happening, the Earth's chance of sustaining life, as we know it, the human body "evolving" by chance and random selection, these probabilities are so remote that it goes against logic when we have a reasonable and logical alternative, which is "intelligent design". Is it "reasonable" to believe that the One behind this level of "intelligent design" would be capable of communicating to us what He has done in creation and what He expects of us as part of His creation? To me the answer is a resounding YES.

The Bible is what God has written to communicate all this to us. It is the authority in my life. I am not the authority in life, it's not dependent on what I'd like, think or desire.

The Bible tells us that we are separated from God by sin (1Jn. 1:8). The Bible also states "all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God" (Ro: 3:23 we all fall short of what God created us to be Bible"

The Bible says the "wages of sin is death" (Ro. 6:23) The Bible also says "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever should believe on Him will not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). Actually the Bible says lots of things, which each individual should investigate on their own, especially since the stakes are so high. You need to ask yourself, where you will spend eternity, in heaven or hell?



So how can we return to fellowship with God, as He intended, and enjoy Him forever? Well, you face three barriers that you yourself cannot overcome.

1. Your sin nature rebels against returning to God because each of us has a blind and rebellious heart (Deut. 29:4; 31:27; Jn. 3:3,5) with "thoughts that are evil continually" (Gen. 6:5)! It's been said "that the heart of the problem, is the problem with the heart." Pardon me, but according to Scripture your heart resembles a "venomous serpent, a deaf cobra that stops its ears" in sheer hostility (Ps. 58:3-4). Jesus underscores this, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, immorality, theft, murder, greed, envy, arrogance, etc. (Mt. 7:21-22). The apostle Paul concurs and gives the reason "There is no fear of God in the human heart" (Rom. 3:18)
2. You cannot return to God because "all your supposed 'righteousness' is like filthy rags" Every good deed we do is tinged with selfishness and sin in some way (Is. 64:6)! Pardon me again, but Scripture says, your righteousness resembles a cesspool! (Phil. 3:8). Paul underscores this well: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). You may live a "better" life than someone else, but there is still sin and evil in you

3. Your life is not holy and “without holiness no one can see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). So, pardon me a third time, you have a tongue that is set on fire by hell and is filled with deadly poison” (James 3:6,8)! Paul ups the ante: “You harbor ‘poison’ everywhere” (Rom. 7:23)! You may live a “better” life than others, but there is still sin and evil in each one of us.

So you truly are behind three eight balls and cannot possibly save yourself. Besides, it should chill all of us to recognize that as a result of the three barriers that we built ourselves, we all face the just eternal wrath of God (Eph. 2:1). After all our sin and rebellion against God is a crime against the Holy King of the Universe. It is cosmic rebellion, treason against our King.

Now, if and when the Holy Spirit opens your eyes, which is the hope of this booklet, and you cry out in shame and dismay, “What must I do to be saved” (Acts 2:37; 16:30)? To answer this question, you must turn in prayer to God the Father who, in His great love makes provision to pay the penalty for your sins by Jesus Christ’s death on the cross.



In His mercy gives *three saving promises* that once and for all will remove your three criminal barriers. “I will take the heart of stone out of you, and give you a heart transplant. I will wash you of all your filth and idolatry. And I will put the Holy Spirit in you and make you godly” (Ezek. 36:25-27)! Awesome, isn’t it?

But now you may ask, “But how does He do all this?” Well, God removes His wrath thru Jesus, and through Him He fulfills His promises. In short, God the Son produces what the Father promises! On the cross He kills the serpent heart (Rom. 6:6).

With His shed blood He washes the filthy record (Rom. 3:25). And, through His death He eliminates our venomous life (Heb. 10:10). Then out of His grave comes *His* heart (Rom. 6:8), *His* righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21), and *His* holiness (Eph. 2:10) to replace what He had just exterminated. In short, after totally exterminating “the old you,” He totally re-originates “the new you!” This is awesome once again!

At this time you may hopefully ask with a sense of urgency, “But how does the threefold solution come my way?” Well, it comes through God the Holy Spirit who *personalizes and transports* what the Father promises and what the Son produces. When we believe in, trust in, what Christ has done God gives us a new life, a new spiritual birth (Jn.3:5) which evidences itself in repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:21). Further, upon the forgiveness of your sin, the Spirit seals forever the righteousness God gives you by talking residence in you (Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:9). Finally, as our resident-host He implements Jesus’ holiness by writing the law of God on your heart (Rom. 15:16; Heb. 8:10). This is awesome, for the third time! Note well that this is a package deal. Note how the fullness of the triune God works in this. All three Persons of the Godhead cooperate to remove all three criminal barriers as the *triple cure* to man’s three problems, frankly, it is all or nothing!

This should prompt you to ask an important question: “How do I personally receive the three solutions and how may I be certain that I do possess them?” The *first answer* is this. “Call on the Name of the Lord Jesus from a broken heart” (Acts 2:21). Petition Him in sorrowful repentance to exterminate the three insurmountable barriers by His cross and in heartfelt faith ask Him to replace them with the three glorious solutions He provides through His resurrection. When you submit this application to Him, you can be certain that He will not turn you down (Jn. 6:37)



And now the answer to the *second part of the question*. When by the grace of God you genuinely repent and believe (Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8), you will not only receive the forgiveness of your sins, but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). As you “abide in Christ”, obey His teachings, grow in your relationship with Him, He then, will guarantee that you produce the “fruit” by which you and everyone else can be assured that you truly have new spiritual life.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Don't we all want that kind of life? Our lives become fruitful through continuing participation in the assemblies of the Church, God's people, and the workshop of the Holy Spirit. In them you are trained as disciples of Christ by clinging without let up to the preaching of the Word, fellowship with other believers, the Supper of the Lord, and the exercise of prayer (Acts 2:42)

This has been quite a journey. So what are some possible benefits if you keep moving and seeking?

- An acceptance that can never be questioned (Ephesians 1:6)
- An inheritance that can never be lost (1 Peter 1:3f)
- A deliverance that can never be out done (2 Corinthians 1:10)
- A grace that can never be limited (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- A hope that can never be disappointed (Hebrews 6:18, 19)
- A bounty that can never be withdrawn (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)
- A joy that can never be diminished (John 15:11)
- A nearness to God that can never be reversed (Ephesians 2:13)
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- A salvation that can never be cancelled (Hebrews 5:9)
- A peace that can never be disturbed (John 14:27)
- A contentment that surpasses understanding (Phil. 4:7)

We have covered some complex subjects but as you can see “being born again” or becoming a “Christian” takes very little effort. God knows your heart; He created it, so there's no faking it with God. It should be noted that the Christian life is not a puzzle to solve but a mystery to live, if you have received new life in Christ.

So, what's the key from this point: **you** must do the work from this point and “seek” the deepest relationship your life can achieve with your Lord and Savior. How do you do this?

- Find a church that teaches the Word of God
- Read your Bible daily
- Pray about whatever concerns you in your life
- Get involved in a small group to share your experience
- Attach yourself to a mentor for growth
- Listen to Christian radio'
- Read Christian materials
- Determine what abilities God has given you and utilize them for the good of God's people and the world.
- Talk to others about God's love for them as God opens opportunities to you
- Share with others what you have learned about living to honor God
- Do whatever strengthens your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the great truths of the Christian life is “it isn't up to you to figure it all out”. Those personal questions about marriage, college, children and the like are not yours to solve. You have died to your pride that you can do everything by yourself and given your life to Jesus Christ. It is He, through the power of the Holy Spirit in you that will guide you into all truth and wisdom for decisions for your life. You won't always like the situations you find yourself in and some of your prayers will not seem to be answered as you would want them, but when I think about it, I am very glad that God did not always answer many of my prayers the way I wanted. I prayed

some pretty dumb and foolish prayers. Someone said, “God will always answer our prayers the way we would have wanted, if we knew as much as He knows.”

As your relationship with God strengthens and deepens you will have a new peace and contentment, no matter what the circumstances, a peace that surpasses understanding. Praise the Lord

If you want to see a video of my personal testimony, go to [www.johndisterdick.com](http://www.johndisterdick.com), click on “ministry” and then on “testimony”

If you’d like to see testimonies of individuals that have overcome extreme circumstances, including suicide, go to [www.ComeOnLetsGo.com](http://www.ComeOnLetsGo.com) and see the true stories of numerous individuals.

May the Lord richly bless you in this journey we call life!