

WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS?

Because of WHO HE IS

The clearest picture we get of God is from looking at Jesus, His Son. Like God, Jesus is a loving, just person who is able to heal and save.

A child is born to us!

A Son is given to us!

And he will be our ruler.

He will be called, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9.6

The angel said to her, Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God...Mary said to the angel, I am a virgin. How, then, can this be? The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Luke 1: 30-35

Jesus committed no sin, and no one ever heard a lie come from his lips. 1 Peter 2: 22

Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. Colossians 1: 15

Jesus said: Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.. John 14: 9

Because YOU HAVE NEEDS.

You may be bored or lonely or have no money or be ill. God and Jesus, on request, will take an interest in your problems and help you get a solution.

Jesus said: I will do whatever you ask for in My name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son..ask and you will receive, so that your happiness may be complete. John 14: 13 and 16: 24 also see timothy 2: 1-4

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

Then you will know that I am the Lord; no one who waits for my help will be disappointed. Isaiah 49: 23

Because YOU ARE A SINNER

God is just and must punish sin. The punishment is separation from God forever- the loss of everything worthwhile after we die. So great was God's love for us that Jesus, his Son, who always wanted to please his Father, came to save us from the punishment our sins deserve.

JESUS DID THIS BY TAKING THE PUNISHMENT HIMSELF. That is why he cried from the cross, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? He was cut off

from his Father by our sins, suffering instead of us. Just before he died, Jesus said in a loud voice, It is finished, into your hands I commit my spirit, as he was reunited with God. It was a cry of victory: I've done it, the punishment for man's sin is paid! The way to God is open.

Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. Isaiah 53: 5-6

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3: 16

TWO DAYS LATER GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD. HIS RESURRECTION PROVES FOUR THINGS TO US:-

Jesus is really God's Son

His death is sufficient in God's eyes to pay for everyone's sins.

Jesus is alive now to help us to stop being selfish and to get straight with God and with other people. He will fill us with his love, joy and power.

We can conquer death if we turn to Jesus because God will someday raise us up in a resurrection body like his body and we will be with him forever.

Jesus was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Romans 1: 4

Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin [selfishness] and live for righteousness [love for God and for other people]. 1 Peter 2: 24

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. John 11: 25-26

WHAT DO I DO?

God wants us to stop doing wrong things and only do good things. He also wants us to trust Jesus for forgiveness and help when needed.

I preached...that they should turn from their sins to God and believe in our Lord Jesus. Acts 22: 21-22

What God commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Christ commanded us. 1 John 3: 23

We may find it hard giving up some wrong things or we may be laughed at. But it is worth it.

Jesus said: If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self [give up selfishness], carry his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses [spends] his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16: 24-25

Do you want to turn to him? Then you could pray like this. It is not the actual words but your attitude to Jesus that counts.

Lord Jesus, I AM SORRY FOR MY SINS AND WANT TO TURN FROM EVERYTHING I KNOW IS WRONG. I accept that you died to pay for my sins. I TRUST YOU TO COME INTO MY LIFE AS SAVIOUR to take away my sins and make me right with God and WILL TRY TO OBEY YOU AS LORD to control and direct my life and help me to be the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you for your love and forgiveness.

What next? Read the Bible a little bit at a time to help you trust and obey Jesus more.

IF I BELIEVE IN JESUS.

You receive the Holy Spirit, God's gift to those who obey Him.

To come to God you must repent. Forgiveness through Jesus is only for those who agree to do what God wants, who say yes to God's way of living. You are forgiven through your faith in Jesus [trusting God to forgive you because Jesus died to pay for your sins, or asking Jesus to forgive you because He died to pay for your sins].

It is through prayer with trust in God and obedience to God that contact with God is made and maintained.

You will need the Bible to find out what God is saying, what He promises and what he demands.

Through prayer God brings you these things-

Assurance- I'll be OK in the end. With God forever.

Gifts-Simply things you want.

No longer helpless-God will work on your circumstances.

You become a better person, slowly.

You have a chance to be involved in His great plan, stretching past this life and on into eternity. Praying for the world [for some, travel]. Praying for people nearby, telling what you know about God.

Death is no longer feared. No fear of judgement.

Try to obey God. Keep trying to follow His ways as you see them in the Bible. Keep reading it a bit at a time and compare it with your behaviour towards others. Gradually you will see how to act.

Since you are God's dear children, you must try to be like him. Ephesians 5

An example-

Love [God's way] is patient and kind; is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13

Jesus said, Whoever accepts my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves Me. John 14

Try to trust God. Practice relying on Him for things you want.

Jesus said, Have faith in God. I assure you that whoever tells this hill to get up and throw itself in the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him. For this reason I tell you: When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you asked for. Mark 11

Worried? This is what God says-

Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5

Feeling Guilty? This is God's attitude to you-

Lord, if my brother keeps sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times? No not seven times, answered Jesus, but seventy seven times. Matthew 18

Our High priest [Jesus] is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, We have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us be brave, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace [generosity]. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it. Hebrews 4

Try to ask for things. Both for yourself and others.

Jesus said, Remain united to Me [trust and obey Me], and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself: it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit: for you can do nothing without Me...If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, then you shall ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. John 15

Ask God to help others, that they will turn to [trust and obey] God too.

First of all I urge that..prayers..and thanksgivings [for the answers] be offered to God for all people..This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth. 1 Timothy 2

A follower of Jesus must not steal, get drunk, have sex before marriage, be spiteful or violent or have anything to do with witchcraft.

If you trust in Jesus for the forgiveness and help that you need and try to do what is right, then you can ask God for what you need and He will listen and help you.

Aim to meet people often. Why not give them booklets explaining the Good News?

GOD'S DEMANDS ARE NOT UNREASONABLE.

Do Not Steal.

The man who used to rob must stop robbing and start working, in order to earn an honest living for himself. Ephesians 4

You may not have much chance of a decent paying job but God will help you if you trust and obey Him. Also quite a bit can be made from doing odd jobs like gardening, doing messages carrying things and the like. Think- working is less unpleasant than prison, or worse, God's judgement which eventually comes on dishonest and immoral people.

Do Not Get Drunk Or Take drugs.

Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you: instead be filled with the Spirit [trust God for help]. Ephesians 5

Drink and drugs mean all your money gone, no food, no clothes. Risk of arrest for disorderly behaviour or for buying drugs. Also drink leads you into stealing, immorality or violence. God has a better answer- the good feelings you get when He answers your prayer, and the feeling of hope you get when you remember the past answers, and pray about the present problem. Also if you try to do something useful, either for pay or voluntarily, then you will have less boredom, which leads to drinking and drug taking.

No Sex Before Marriage And No Casual Divorce Either.

Marriage is to be honoured by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Hebrews 13

God says you are to choose one partner, for life. In other words, marriage. Not going from girl to girl having sex with each one during a brief relationship. God hates divorce. It destroys family life and happiness. God hates adultery [having a woman on the side]. God hates immorality [sleeping around]. This is how VD and AIDS spreads. God hates abortion. If you trust God for help He will bring you enough money for you to bring up the child.

Do Not Be Violent Or Slander People.

Do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. Matthew 6

Don't take revenge by attacking someone. Don't go round spreading bad stories about someone for spite and don't say bad things about people when you don't really know if they are true. Don't go over the score with self defence.

Don't Have Anything To Do With Witchcraft.

Listen to what the Lord is teaching you! Don't listen to mediums- what they tell you will do you no good. Isaiah 8

Keep away from any attempt to contact spirits. An example is playing with Ouija boards. This is very dangerous because it can lead to attacks from evil spirits [demons]. There are plenty of really nasty stories about this kind of thing. Don't put yourself in danger.

Be Willing To Do Things For God, To Put Up With Things For God.

Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things [your needs]. Matthew 6

What God commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another. 1 John 3. 23

Trust in Jesus for forgiveness of wrongdoing because he died to pay for your sins, but this forgiveness is only yours when you tell God that you agree to obey him by doing what is right and not what is evil. You can then ask God to forgive your wrongdoings, trusting God to forgive you because Jesus died to pay for your sins, or asking Jesus to forgive you because he died to pay for your sins.

Loving one another means showing love by doing to others what you would want them to do for you.

Believing in Jesus means that you have a powerful and loving God to defend you and lead you through every difficulty until you reach himself.

GOD-A LOVING PARENT.

God the Father says-

I am the One Who made the Earth and created mankind to live there. By My power I stretched out the heavens; I control the Sun, the Moon and the stars. Turn to Me now and be saved, people all over the world. I am the only God there is. Isaiah 45

The people are always rebelling against God, always lying, always refusing to listen to the Lord's teachings. They say, Don't talk to us about what's right. We don't want to hear about your Holy God of Israel. The Sovereign Lord, the Holy God of Israel says to the people, Come back and quietly trust in Me. Then you will be strong and secure. But you refuse to do it. And yet the Lord is waiting to be merciful to you. He is ready to take pity on you because He always does what is right. Happy are they who put their trust in the Lord. Isaiah 30

The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love. He does not punish us as we deserve or repay us according to our sins and wrongs. As high as the sky is above the Earth so great is His love for those who honour Him. As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove our sins from us. As a father is kind to his children, so the Lord is kind to those who honour him. He knows what we are made of; He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103

You have said, it's useless to serve God. What's the use of doing what He says or trying to show the Lord Almighty that we are sorry for what we have done? Turn back to Me, and I will turn to you. For you who obey Me, My saving power will rise on you like the sun and bring healing like the sun's rays. You will be as free and happy as calves let out of a stall. Malachi 3 and 4

Why people don't want anything to do with GOD and HIS LOVE.

Some because they don't want to do what is right, which is to be loving, which is to do for others what you want them to do for you. So people are dishonest, immoral, drunken and violent either in word or action. God expects us to be loving because he is loving. People don't see that the high standard of love and forgiveness he expects from us is the same standard with which he treats us-so God's commands show us how much he loves us!

Some because the devil has deceived them into thinking they don't need God, that they can manage without God. They don't accept that they are beings created by God, and that they need God just as a child needs it's parents.

Some because of all the suffering in the world, maybe something that has happened to them. All I can say is that this suffering is not what God wanted, but that most of the human race has rebelled against God, and just about gone on the rampage, so that people are suffering and dying who do not deserve to be killed or maimed. This occurs in various ways but the basic idea is that God is rejected and is not allowed to be involved in what is going on. The Bible calls this the groaning of creation.

Which is where GOD THE SON comes in.

Because of our sins He [Jesus] was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole [well] by the blows He received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each us us going his own way. But he Lord made the punishment fall on Him, the punishment all of us deserved. The Lord says, I was My will that He should suffer: His death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so He will see His descendants; He will live a long life, and through Him My purpose will succeed. After a life of suffering, He will again have joy; He will know that He did not suffer in vain. My devoted Servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for His sake I will forgive them. Isaiah 53

You know the message He sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached the message of baptism. You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on

Him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good, and healing all who were under the power of the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of everything that He did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross. But God raised Him from death three days later and caused Him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from death. And He commanded us to preach the Gospel to the people and to testify that He is the One Whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets spoke about Him, saying that everyone who believes in Him will have his sins forgiven through the power of His Name. Acts 10

To Jews and Gentiles alike I give solemn warning that they should turn from their sins to God and believe in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20

Now God's way of putting people right with Himself has been revealed. God puts people right through their faith [trust] in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace [generosity] all are put right with Him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free. God offered Him, so that by His sacrificial death he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. Romans 3

I am the bread of life; Jesus told them. He who comes to Me will never be hungry; he who believes in Me will never be thirsty. I will never turn away anyone who comes to Me. John 6

I am the light of the world, He said. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. John 8

GOD works through the power of HIS HOLY SPIRIT. He wants to work through us to bring His love into the world. To do this we need to TRUST GOD [depend on God for His help], OBEY GOD [behave as He wants us to] and PRAY for the people around us and around the world.

The only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. The commandments are summed up in the one command, Love your neighbour as you love yourself. If you love someone you will never do him wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law. Romans 13

Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave His life for us as a sweet smelling offering and sacrifice that pleases God. Since you are God's people, it is not right that any matters of sexual immorality or greed should even be mentioned among you. Nor is it fitting for you to use language which is obscene, profane or vulgar. You may be sure that anyone who is immoral, indecent or greedy [for greed is a form of idolatry- worshipping money instead of God] will ever receive a share in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Do not let anyone deceive you with foolish words; it is because of these very things that God's anger will come upon those who do not obey Him. Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you. Instead be filled with the Spirit [trust in God for help]. Ephesians 5

First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people, This is good and it pleases God our Saviour, Who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth. 1 Timothy 4

Jesus answered them, Have faith in God. I assure you that whoever tells this hill to get up and throw itself in the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. For this reason I tell you: When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you asked for. And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against someone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done. Mark 11

God is love. The nature of God is the springboard of all our loving. God is the Divine Parent, full of an unimaginably tender, parental, protective love. Such a love forgives and forgives with unimaginable willingness.

The Way to God is simple to understand, but takes a lifetime of patient trying, to follow it. There are three things:

Trust in God, to forgive us as we depend on the sacrifice He provided to pay for our sins-the death of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross 2,000 years ago. Also trust in His willingness to provide our other needs as well.

Obedience to God, doing what is right, not what is evil.

Praying to God, for ourselves and for others, and to say thanks for the answers.

Then of course there is the Bible. Only if it is read, a bit at a time, will we know what God is saying, what He offers and what He expects.