

Answer Me God!

(If You Even Exist)

Shawn Jones



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Feel free to pass this book to a friend or place it in a free library box.

Thank you to Kelly Johnson for spending hours discussing God with me. It was her idea to write a book about asking God questions. It was her encouragement that led me to write. Kelly was the one to remind me that God is listening. Thank you to Tabitha Nichelson and Clint Jones for proofreading. All of you are amazing.

Note from Author

This book is my perceptions and interpretations of my research. Although this book is at times written in God's point of view, I claim no authority of knowing exactly what God would say.

If God is real, then we will either be able to explain scientifically what he has done or there are some matters that we cannot yet understand, but are still true regardless. If God is not real, then I wish I have caused no harm.

This book is intended to show that God loves us and He is love. My next book, Answer Me Jesus! (If You Even Exist) will have more concrete examples of historical and archaeological evidence for the Bible.

Keep asking questions. The only way to find the truth is to explore.

Shawn Jones
"Scribe"



“Hey God, I hate you, if you even exist.”

GOD

“Tell me more. I am listening.”



“God”, if you are real, you must really hate me. You gave me alcoholic parents, a boyfriend that uses me as a punching bag, diabetes and no job. Why???

GOD

My beautiful child, I understand. How can you feel my love when you are suffering? It is difficult to know my peace in the midst of turmoil. I am so sorry for all the hurt and chaos in your life. You must be angry with me because I have the power to change things in a moment and yet I do not. I love you, daughter.

Reference Section: God is Love, Suffering



I don't want to hear the words "I love you" from you. I hate you. I hate how you abandoned me. I hate how you do nothing when I beg for your help. I hate your aloof indifference. MY "God" would not act like you.

GOD

I am so sorry you feel abandoned. It must have been terrifying to be a small child and be alone with your parents when they were drinking. However, I am always there even when it doesn't feel like it. Remember when your father broke your arm because there was no beer? It was me that had the neighbor call. It was me who prompted the school counselor to talk with you on a regular basis. I sent your friend, Sally, to sit with you when you were at the bottom of a very dark place. Child, these people are my hands and feet. At your darkest hours, I am here.

Reference Section: Abandonment, Comfort,
Suffering & God is Love



If you are with me always, you must have enjoyed watching my boyfriend knock me unconscious. Was your silence another way to say, "I love you."?

GOD

My heart breaks to see the way your boyfriend abuses you. I watched you lie in the hospital bed with your swollen and bruised face. Tears streamed down my face to see my daughter in pain. I sent the social worker to hold your hand and discuss your options. I made sure the nurses were gentle.

Reference Section: Abuse, Suffering & God is Love



You are not answering my questions! Why do you allow my boyfriend to hit me?

GOD

Your anger and hurt is justifiable. It would be so easy if I just made your boyfriend behave. My answer will probably not bring you the comfort you are seeking. I love all my children and desire them to love me. Yet, what kind of love would it be if I made them love me? What life would they have if I chose their actions? Therefore, I gave the world two gifts: love and free choice. In return, people can choose to love and they can choose to behave how they want. Unfortunately, my daughter, you have been hurt by your boyfriend's choices. I know you are frightened. Please remember I have plans for you.

Reference Section: Free Choice & Suffering



Is this the same great plan you have for the starving children in Africa? I don't see any of us prospering.

GOD

You have a right to be furious with the injustice. This angers me too. My plan has always been to feed my children. I have provided enough food so that no person should ever be hungry. However, weather, transportation issues, poverty and natural disasters have taken food from my sons and daughters. In addition, terrorists and military personnel have chosen to take food from others for control. I depend on my hands and feet to step in and help when others choose to do evil. I rely on my people to put their love in action when tragedy strikes.

Reference Section: Hunger, Love Others,
Suffering & God's Plans



You keep saying the same things: people have choices and we need to love others. Where is your responsibility? Aren't you God? Shouldn't you be the one doing something?

GOD

I love your questions. Yes, I do have obligations which I take very seriously. I am your Father. Just as your Earthly parent has responsibilities, so do I.

- 1. Create beautiful human masterpieces.**
- 2. Love my children.**
- 3. Teach my children the difference between good and evil.**
- 4. Listen.**
- 5. Give wisdom to those who ask.**
- 6. Allow my sons and daughters to make choices so they can learn and grow.**
- 7. Tell my children the consequences for their actions.**
- 8. Follow through with consequences when people make choices.**
- 9. Instruct my children to love others.**

Reference Section: God's Responsibilities,
Consequences & God is Love



Fathers are supposed to take care of their children. You are not doing such a great job with my diabetes.

GOD

Fathers should take care of their children. I understand why you feel let down. How would you build character and perseverance if I sheltered you from the world? How would you grow to be the magnificent woman I created you to be if you never experienced hardship? Your diabetes is one of the most difficult things you have to deal with on a daily basis. Yet you choose not to let it define your life. I am so proud of you, daughter. You are the healthiest you have ever been because now you are exercising and eating the right food. I did not sit on a throne in heaven and decide to zap you with diabetes. My nature is goodness, not evil. I am incapable of inflicting evil but I will bestow a crown of beauty instead of ashes, joy instead of mourning and praise instead of despair. My desire is for you to become stronger, learn and grow throughout your struggles.

Reference Section: Character & Suffering



I don't buy it. The next thing you will tell me is, "You just have to have faith." Either you don't care or you just don't exist."

GOD

Ah yes, “Just have faith”, the simplistic answer people give when they don’t know what to say. What some folks do not understand is that faith has its basis in knowledge. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. How can you be confident in what you don’t see if you have no wisdom? Where would hope come from if not from experience? Ask me for wisdom and I will give it to you. I will provide a basis for your faith. Some of the evidence I give to you is experience, nature, history, witnesses, logic, my Word and prophecies that have come true. Wisdom, questions and experiences will bring you to faith. Faith will bring you to me.

Reference Section: Faith, Wisdom & Proof of God



Do you know what I have faith in?
I have faith I will never get a job.
Thanks a lot for all your help.

GOD

Your life has been filled with tragedy and hurt. As a child you had no control over your alcoholic parents. You were abused and neglected. Then when you were a teenager, you developed diabetes and once again had to deal with hardship not of your doing. As a Father who loves you, I must be honest with you. You have held on to your devastating pain and not allowed yourself to be happy. You stay with a man who does not treat you as the treasure you are. Your anger has kept you from keeping a job. You have chosen not to get training in order to better yourself. Trust in yourself. Take the steps you need in order to better your life. I will not leave you alone.

Reference Section: Character, God is Love,
Suffering & Better Yourself



You don't get it do you, God? My father sexually abused me. How can I ever be happy? He didn't suffer the consequences. I did!

GOD

Your father violated your innocence. He abused your body and destroyed your trust. Daily he chose evil over providing you security and love. Never once did he express remorse or ask forgiveness. He endured many consequences from his actions. He lived a life empty of love, respect and joy. His need for control ruled his life so that he never experienced the abundant life that was meant for him. He is enduring the greatest consequences ever given to man. Your father is separated from my love, my light and my protection since death. A life without these three things, is a life of hell. However, none of that matters to a young child who is terrorized. Perhaps as an adult, it helps to know that your father is being held accountable for the evil he chose. Again, I call on my people to be my hands and feet. Believe my children when they say they have been abused. Listen and provide resources. Take action when you have knowledge. It is my desire that all my children fall asleep loved and safe. People can choose evil, but I will forever be there to help heal and to guide you to a better life.

Reference Section: Consequences, Love Others & God Heals



Well you have one thing right: hell in the future means nothing to a young child who is enduring hell at the present. I thought the sex abuse was the worst that could happen to me. Then a policewoman told me my parents were dead. My father was drunk and drove into a tree. At least my mom loved me even though she was an alcoholic. You left me completely alone.

GOD

Anyone would feel the same way as you, especially a young child. Did you feel safe in your aunt's loving home? Was your best friend a good listener? I saw the two of you spend hours at the park talking and smiling. Did your favorite teacher provide a sanctuary for you during lunch? I was always there for you even in the depth of your despair. I sent people to comfort you and now you comfort others. I have seen you at the orphanage. The children love you and know that you understand. You are making a huge difference in their lives. Others in your situation have turned to drugs or became perpetrators themselves, but not you. Instead, you turned something into good that your earthly father intended for evil. Thank you, daughter. You are my hands and feet.

Reference Section: Love Others & Comfort



I am certainly not going to wait for you to comfort others. You are this distant deity that stands by and watches people suffer. My friends have prayed to you for ten years to have a baby. Don't you care? Why don't you do something? You let my awful parents have children and deny a child a wonderful home with my friends.

GOD

I have heard your friends' pleas. You will need to comfort them for they will not have a biological child. However, they will wait upon me and they will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles with two eaglets under their care. You will be the person that helps them to be parents. You will be the one to introduce them to Cynthia and Tommy at the orphanage. Your greatest pain has turned into your ministry. I love Tommy, Cynthia, your friends and you. It is through the love that you have for each other that I do my work.

Reference Section: Love Others, Strength,
Prayer & God is Love



How many people am I supposed to comfort? What about you? My sixteen year old sister is pregnant. How dare you tell me that you love her and then tell her what to do with her body! What type of God are you that you would ruin a young girl's life?

GOD

I will not choose between my two children. Your sister is kind, funny, thoughtful and creative. Her baby daughter will be a lot like her but just a tad more mischievous. I have loved them both since before they were born. I created them. How can I turn away from either of my beloved ones? Your sister is suffering and is frightened. I will not leave her. Seek out my hands and feet. They will listen, love and provide resources. You will be amazed by the baby. This young child will change her small world.

Reference Section: Abortion & God is Love



Just like my sister but a bit more mischievous? Wow! That would be fun to watch. God, I want to believe that you are real. It is hard to trust that a Father would love like you do. Help me to understand. We hear of all of these miracles in years gone past. Why aren't there miracles today?

GOD

Look around you daughter. Miracles are everywhere. Your niece is just one of many. The deaf and the blind are now seeing and hearing. People who were told they would never walk are walking. Today you have modern medicine given to you through the people and minds I created. Cochlear implants, organ transplants, advances in cancer treatments and ocular implants are my gifts to you. Go to the mountains and see the miracle of nature. Marriages thought beyond repair are thriving. The hopeless have found hope. The weary have found rest. Explore the world with new eyes and you will see the miracles. You are one of my greatest miracles.

Reference Section: Miracles



Do you expect me to believe you made the Earth in six days?
What about carbon dating and all the other scientific research
that shows the Earth is millions of years old?

GOD

That is the danger when you translate from one language to another. In the original text it states that I created the world in six yoms and rested on the seventh. The Hebrew word yom can be twenty four hours or it can be a period of unspecified time. Of course, my creation has evolved. Humans are losing their wisdom teeth, they are better at resisting diseases and their brains are shrinking. My masterpieces are changing because I designed them that way. I am God. Some things I created in a moment and some I have let evolve. Humans cannot possibly know how I created the Earth because they were not there. Nor can scientists be certain that carbon dating reacts the same in one year as it does for a million years. The most important matter is I am the Maker. I was here at the beginning. No one else can explain how life originally began besides me.

Reference Section: Creation



I am a good person. Why wouldn't I go to heaven?

GOD

Heaven is my home. People who want to be with me are always welcome. However, if someone does not want to spend time with me on Earth, why would they want to spend eternity with me in heaven? When people truly love me, they naturally do good things. They are my hands and feet and act upon their love for people and me. Love results in action. However, others do good because that is who they are, or because it benefits them. Heaven is not about good deeds. It is about loving me and wanting to be with me. I want to be with you. Come and love me. Spend eternity with me. I am love, light and all things good. The choice is yours.

Reference Section: Heaven, Love God & Love Others



You are constantly speaking of love. Yet it seems to me that Christians hate gays. Why?

GOD

I give my people two commandments: love me and love others. Some people think they are loving me when they don't allow gays in their churches and homes. Other people either want to make themselves feel better about the sins they have committed or they want to gain power and control, so they degrade gays. Then some of my believers have read my word and want to follow what is written. Thus they speak out against the acts not out of hate for gays but out of the desire to follow my word. While other believers have read my word and believe my word was speaking to the culture of the time. Ask me. I will give you wisdom on this subject. However, leave my children alone. Love each other and don't judge. Everyone is welcome in my church. I do not want to hear anyone say, "You sinned so you can't be in the Lord's dwelling." If that was how I operated, no one would be able to come to my house. Love all my children and let each person pray and ask me what I want.

Reference Section: Gays, God is Love,
Love Others & Judging Others



How can people say prayer works? You know what you get when you pray? Nothing! Your parents don't stop drinking, your boyfriend keeps hitting you and there are still starving children in Africa.

GOD

Life has beaten you down and left you discouraged and hopeless. You have pleaded with me to take away your pain. You long for a God that would remove your suffering. I understand. You feel abandoned and have no reason to believe prayer works. However, I heard every word you said to me. Sometimes when you prayed, I sent hands and feet to help. At other times, I allowed you to learn and grow. Then there were instances that I knew the timing was wrong so I let days and even years pass before answering. Then most painfully of all, I allowed others to have free choice and that meant you were harmed. That was when I comforted you and turned something good that others meant for harm.

Here are my promises for prayer for you.

- 1. I will listen.**
- 2. I will never leave you.**
- 3. You can be real with me. It is ok to be angry or hurt.**
- 4. I will comfort you.**
- 5. I will give you wisdom.**
- 6. I will provide you peace that passes understanding.**
- 7. I will say no if it is not the best for you.**
- 8. I will say yes if it is asked in accordance to my will.**

**Reference Section: Prayer, God is Love,
Suffering & Abandonment**



I have tried going to church. The pastor said, “Read the Bible and you will have all the answers.” I was told I had to journal, attend church twice a week, pray continually, teach Sunday School and not to dance in order to please God. I read the Bible cover to cover and I still have questions. All those rules turned me off from church. Is this what you want?

GOD

Religious people have always laid down regulations that they themselves could never follow. The two greatest commandments are to love God and love people. Ask yourself if whatever you are doing will accomplish these two goals. If bringing a hurting friend to the mountains on Sunday is more loving than going to church, then do it. If you feel further away from me by being forced to journal, then stop. Dance with joy whenever you like. Finally, I am glad you ask questions. You can read the Bible daily and never have all the answers. Life is too complex and new questions arise.

Reference Section: Religion, Love God, Love Others,
God is Love & Dance



Your followers are hypocrites. They kill in your name. Parents go to church on Sunday and beat their children the rest of the week. Pastors commit adultery. Clergy molest children. People give their money to the church and then cheat on their taxes. Crusades are waged in your name. Gays are not allowed in the church but gossipers, liars and cheats are. Why would I want to believe in their God?

GOD

Everything you say is true. My people have made many mistakes. Some think their actions will bring favor to them from me. Some are vying for control. Others are choosing evil and mask it in religion. However, our relationship, my daughter, is between you and me. Do you love me? Will you accept my love? Will you love others? I am also upset with their choices. However, their actions are not what I represent. I am all things good. I am love. Don't let other people's bad choices keep you from experiencing love and goodness.

Reference Section: Religion, Love God, Love
Others & God is Love



I am so confused. I want to hate you but yet you love me. I am mad at you but I want to get to know you. I do not think you exist even though I want you to be my God. What should I even call you?

GOD

Father, Yahweh, Allah, I Am or God are just a few names I have. I am more concerned if you know me than what you call me. Do you realize how much I love you? Do you know that I am the creator? Can you hear me beckoning you to come closer to me? Take that first step and believe I am God. Take my hand and let me guide you. Let me love you. You already know me. I wrote my laws on your heart.* That is why you feel injustice and others' pain so closely. That is why you have so many questions.

*New Covenant

Hebrews 8:10-13 ¹⁰“This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest ¹²For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”¹³ By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

Reference Section: God is Love



Hey God, maybe I like you.
Maybe you do exist.

God

Tell me more. I am listening.

GOD

My dear children, I enjoy your questions. Keep exploring. Know that I love you. My challenge to you is every day for thirty days you ask me to reveal myself to you. If you do come to the conclusion that I exist, then take your next step. Does Jesus exist? Ask your questions. Seek evidence. I created your curiosity. Pray for wisdom and it will be yours.

Reference Section: God is Love & Wisdom

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Why do believers use the Bible as evidence that God is real?

SCRIBE

It seems counterproductive to use the Bible to prove God is real. So why do we do that?

*The Bible has wisdom regardless if you are a believer or not.

*Faith comes from hearing the message and then deciding if it is the truth. If you do not hear, you cannot make an informed decision.

*The Bible has been proven reliable due to its historical facts and being accurately recorded.

The Bible is not just one source. Since it is a collection of 66 books by at least 40 authors, multiple sources are being cited. Ultimately, the Bible will be just one piece of the puzzle. Many factors will determine if you accept or reject God: experiences, nature, facts, others' stories, unexplained events, a small still voice and history are just some of the evidence you will sift through to make a decision.

Evidence for Authenticity of the Bible

1. The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years by at least 40 authors. Several of these writers provided eyewitness accounts to events. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written by men who knew Jesus. Paul wrote several books of the New Testament. He saw Jesus after the Lord's resurrection.
2. Among works of antiquity, the Bible has the greatest number of ancient manuscripts found. The New Testament alone has over 5000 manuscripts. Whereas the Iliad has 700 copies and only a handful of Aristotle's writings exist.

3. Although variants were found between manuscripts, the Bible has been accurately transmitted. The text we have today is very close to the original manuscript.
4. Archaeology has confirmed scripture.
5. There is scientific knowledge mentioned in the Bible that was beyond what was known when the authors were alive such as knowing the Earth was spherical.
6. There are over 2500 prophecies in the Bible. About 2000 have already come true. The other 500 prophecies are being fulfilled now or will be in the future.

All biblical citations are from the New International Version (NIV) unless cited otherwise. Whenever one verse is isolated, it loses its context. To get a truer meaning, reading whole passages will provide a better reference

Biblical Citation

Faith Comes from Hearing

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Quote

“You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.”
Mahatma Gandhi

ABANDONMENT

SCRIBE

During one of the darkest times in my life, I felt that God had abandoned me. My prayers seemed to land on deaf ears. My tears appeared to have no effect on my God who left me. My loneliness and discouragement nearly crushed the life from me. I stopped going to church and refused to pray. One day I fell to my knees sobbing and said, "I don't care if you answer my prayers. I don't care if my circumstances change. All I know is I miss you. I need you in my life." God had never abandoned me. I had left Him. He was always there. The love and peace I found when I allowed Him in my life reinforced His presence.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God is Always with Us

Deuteronomy 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Psalms 37:28 For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Psalms 27:10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

I Samuel 12:22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

QUOTES

“God draws near to the brokenhearted. He leans toward those who are suffering. He knows what it feels like to be wounded and abandoned.” John D. Richardson

“Your most profound and intimate experiences of worship will likely be in your darkest days – when your heart is broken, when you feel abandoned, when you’re out of options, when the pain is great – and you turn to God alone.” Rick Warren

ABORTION

SCRIBE

Beliefs about abortion vary drastically from one end of the spectrum to the other. Perhaps instead of concentrating on how we differ, we could find common ground. We could agree that education and prevention are preferable to abortion. A mother's life should be saved when there is no hope of saving the child. Late term abortions are unnecessary since the child and mother can both survive in the third trimester. However, the most powerful way we can help is to provide resources and withhold judgment. We can love and not judge those who are suffering.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Knows His Children Before Birth

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Psalms 139:13-16 ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Don't Judge

Matthew 7:1-2 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Romans 14:10-13 ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. ¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Importance of Life

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Psalms 8:4-5 ⁴ What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

QUOTES

“The truth is that contraception saves lives, prevents unplanned pregnancies, improves outcomes for children and reduces the number of abortions.” Ann McLane Kuster

“How many others suffered in silence, too ashamed and too afraid to speak about their pain? The world wouldn’t let them grieve for children they aborted. How could they when the rhetoric said there was no child? How does one grieve what doesn’t exist? No one wanted to admit the truth.” Francine Rivers

ABUSE

SCRIBE

God allows free choice not abuse. How can a loving God allow children to be hurt? He does not. It is men and women who choose evil. It is God that heals. It is God that turns what men meant for harm into good. God weeps at what others have done to his children. We are his hands and feet. We must be the ones that protect our innocent young. Become aware of the signs of abuse. Supervise your children. Talk to them about good and bad touch. Explain that they can tell you anything even if someone threatens to hurt them or the family if they tell. Report abuse to social services. Silence is the same as approval. Believe the children. Seldom do they lie about abuse.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God's Expectations for Parents

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

God's Healing

Psalms 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

God Loves Us

Matthew 10:29-31 ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Psalms 27:10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

QUOTES

"It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father." Anonymous

"Men can never have the true power they were endowed with by creation, until they respect and protect women and children of the world." Bryant McGill

"I survived because the fire inside me burned brighter than the fire around me." Extramadness.com

"There is only one rescuer I know with the power to free us from the darkest prison." Christine Caine

WORLDLY FACTS

STATISTICS

Statistics compiled by Ark of Hope for Children, Gainesville Florida hope@arkofhopeforchildren.org.

1. 40 million children are abused each year internationally.
2. Child rape occurs every two minutes.
3. One in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually molested before the age of 17.
4. A sex offender will abuse an average of 120 victims, most of them will not report.
5. Seven children a day die in the U.S. from some type of abuse.
6. Six children a day will commit suicide due to abuse.
7. Only about 10% of the abuse is from a stranger.

SIGNS OF ABUSE

Signs were taken from WebMD

Physical Abuse Signs

1. Injuries on body parts that are usually protected such as inside legs and arms, back, buttocks
2. Injuries that have a pattern such as circles or straight lines
3. Explanation for injury changes
4. Child does not receive medical care for injuries

Emotional Abuse Signs

1. Not interested in what is going on around them
2. Does not react normally to pain, other people or changes in his/her life
3. Avoids a certain parent or caregiver
4. Acts more angry, fearful or sad than normal
5. Does not do well in school
6. Hurts self on purpose

Sexual Abuse Signs

1. Does not want to go to the bathroom
2. Shows signs of discomfort when sitting, urinating or passing stools
3. Discharge from vagina or penis
4. Bleeds through pants
5. Sexual knowledge beyond age level
6. Running away from home
7. Attempting suicide
8. Involved with drugs or prostitution

BETTER YOURSELF

SCRIBE

Our stories might be about illness, physical disabilities, abuse, neglect, financial ruin, disastrous marriages, betrayal or heartache. All of our tales include disappointment and pain. We do not get to choose many of the difficulties that have occurred in our lives. We do get to choose our reactions. Will our past become our life or will it be a life lesson? Will we lean on the Lord or cling to our bitterness? God intends for us to have an abundant life. Are you willing to become the best you can be? Our anger enslaves us to past hurts. Our hope frees us to a new future.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Mature

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Work

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life

may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Learn

Proverbs 1:5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance-

Anger

James 1:19-20 ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Proverbs 29:11 Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

New Self

Ephesians 4:22-24 ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

QUOTES

You Are Worthy

“God doesn't make junk” Ethel Waters

“Don't let anyone or anything drown out that still voice that says, “You were made for more.” Kristin Leigh

Become Your Best

“We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are.” Max Depree

“Your life is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God.” Krexy.com

“Women need to be propelled into their world in unprecedented ways in order to be the salt and light we are created to be.” Christine Caine

“One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.” Abraham Maslow

Your Purpose

“Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your purpose.” Aristotle

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, I used everything you gave me.” Erma Bombeck

CHARACTER

SCRIBE

Spoiled children are the results of indulgent parents who give their children anything they want, blame others when the children do wrong, do not give consequences for hurtful actions and solve their children's problems for them. On the other hand, children who grow to be people of character are given what they need, have to take responsibility for their actions, have consequences for harmful actions and are given opportunities to solve problems that allow them to learn from mistakes and hardships. As parents, we want our children to grow to be responsible adults with integrity. Our heavenly Father wants the same for us. He loves us enough to not step in and rescue us from all our suffering. He knows that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. God is incapable of evil or causing an evil act that produces suffering. However, sometimes he allows us to build character through our suffering. Always he works all things together for good for those that love him.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Romans 5:3-4 ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

James 1:2-4 ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Proverbs 28:6 Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse.

Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

QUOTES

“Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us.” Thomas Paine

“Our character is defined by what we do when we think no one is looking.” H. Jackson Brown Jr.

“You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.” Malcolm S. Forbes

“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.” Billy Graham

“Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words; they become your actions. Watch your actions; they become your habits. Watch your habits; they become your character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.” Frank Outlaw

“Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good or evil we have made through life.” John Cunningham Geikie

CONSEQUENCES

SCRIBE

“For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” What is true for physics is also true with our choices. An opposite reaction or consequence follows our choices. Some of the consequences of good choices can be healthier bodies, strong marriages, rewarding careers, loyal friends and well-adjusted children. Whereas some consequences of bad choices are violence, despair, broken relationships, isolation and financial ruin. God desires for us to make good choices so he tells us the consequences before we have to make a decision.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Evildoers

Proverbs 12:13 Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk, and so the innocent escape trouble.

Isaiah 57:21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Consequences

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Jeremiah 17:10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

Work

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

Honor Parents

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Adultery

Proverbs 6:32 But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself.

Abuse

Psalms 11:5 The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.

God Wants Us to Have a Full Life

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

QUOTES

All of these quotes were taken from Psychology Today posted on April 22, 2012 "50 Quotes on Consequences"

"Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his choices." Alfred A. Montapert

"When anger rises, think of the consequences." Confucius

"All human sin seems so much worse in its consequences than in its intentions." Reinhold Niebuhr

"While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of our actions." Stephen R. Covey

"How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it." Marcus Aurelius

COMFORT

SCRIBE

What if all the pain you are experiencing today was used to alleviate someone else's hurt tomorrow? What if your suffering became your ministry? What if the comfort you received today was then given to someone else next month? This is not a hypothetical "what if" scenario. God does comfort us so we can comfort others. Those who have been abused understand the heartache of another victim. Those who have been to the brink of destruction from addiction are the ones that can touch an addict. People who have battled cancer are the biggest warriors for the next person's war against the disease. God does not cause our suffering but He will comfort us. We then become His hands and feet and comfort others.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Comforts

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 119:76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Comfort Others

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

QUOTES

“Snuggle in God’s arms. When you are hurting, when you feel lonely, left out, let Him cradle you, comfort you, reassure you of His all-sufficient power and love.” Kay Arthur

“Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always.” Hippocrates

“It is quite useless knocking at the door of heaven looking for earthly comfort. It’s not the sort of comfort they supply there.” C.S. Lewis

“Other people are going to find healing in your wounds. Your greatest life messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts.” Rick Warren

CREATION

SCRIBE

Neither research, nor people will ever agree how the world was created. The whole picture is impossible to fully understand. How was something made from nothing? How could life not only exist but reproduce itself? How did systems such as the water cycle and food chain work together so intricately if it was all by chance? How could such beauty and variety happen in nature by happenstance? The only reasonable explanation is that there was a creator. We might not agree on how He created but evidence of His creation is everywhere. Only a creator could take nothing and make a complex, beautiful universe.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God is the Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalm 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

QUOTES

“I am quite conscious that my speculations run beyond the bounds of true science...It is a mere rag of an hypothesis with as many flaw(s) & holes as sound parts.” Charles Darwin

“While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God’s creation.” Maya Angelou

“I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know God’s thoughts, the rest are details.” Albert Einstein

“Evolution and creationism both require faith. It’s just a matter of where you choose to place that faith.” Ben Carson

WORDLY FACTS

People Are Evolving

Mentalfloss.com ran an article, “5 Signs People Are Still Evolving” by Jessica Hullinger. She believed that humans have changed in five ways: First, they drink milk. Previously, humans were not able to digest lactose after being weaned from their mothers. Second, humans are losing their wisdom teeth since our jaws are not as large. Third, we are resisting diseases better since we live in cities. Fourth, our brains are shrinking. Fifth, we have blue eyes. People originally only had brown eyes.

BOOK

Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points toward God*

DANCE

SCRIBE

I was raised Southern Baptist and I loved to dance. Have you also been conflicted? I came to the conclusion that dance neither kept me from loving God or loving people. In fact, it brought joy. When I filtered everything by does this love God and people, it helped me to discern between legalism and what pleased God.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Psalm 150:4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

Ecclesiastes 3:4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Psalm 149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

Psalm 30:11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

QUOTES

“Dancing is like dreaming with your feet.” Constanze

“We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance.” Japanese Proverb

“Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.” Vivian Greene

“Dancing in heels should count as a superpower.” Molly W. Hallmark Writer

“Dancers are the athletes of God.” Albert Einstein

“Honestly, it's way more fun to dance crazy than it is to dance “cool”.” Emily Katajowski

FAITH

SCRIBE

Faith is the bridge, with experiences and knowledge at one end and God at the other. My experiences have been that God has worked out all real estate situations for me even when people have backed out of contracts. Therefore, my faith is that God has the right home for me the next time I buy. My knowledge is that God has provided for all my physical needs even when I lost my job. My faith is that He will continue to provide. My experience has been that I spent 22 years by myself lost in loneliness. Yet, God provided friends, family and a husband throughout this time. Looking back, I realized God was always there even when it didn't feel like he was. Thus, I have faith that I will never really be alone, because God will comfort me and send people into my life. The next time I don't know where I am going to live, I wonder how my needs will be met or if I am lonely, I will fall on my faith and know God will take care of me. How can we have confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see? We start at the beginning of the bridge. All our experiences, especially the painful ones, can show us God's presence when we allow ourselves to look. There is worldly knowledge and personal knowledge that lead us to God if we are willing to explore. Step across that bridge with experiences and knowledge. A life of faith, filled with hope and confidence in God, is on the other side of the bridge.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Definition of Faith

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Wisdom

Proverbs 4:7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Live by Faith

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

Power of Faith

Matthew 17:20 He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

QUOTES Many of these quotes were from “Quotations About Faith”, The Quote Garden

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” Martin Luther King Jr.

“Just because you can’t see it doesn’t mean it isn’t there. You can’t see the future, yet you know it will come; you can’t see air, yet you continue to breathe.” Claire London

“Reason is our soul’s left hand, faith her right.” John Donne

“Faith is putting all your eggs in God’s basket, then counting your blessings before they hatch.” Ramona C. Carroll

“Of course I doubt. I do not practice a certainty, I practice a faith.” Robert Brault, rbrault.blogspot.com

“Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death.” Author Unknown

FREE CHOICE

SCRIBE

To be or not to be? Every day we have choices. Will we choose water or tea, college or vocational training, marriage or being single, honesty or deceit, exercise or TV, evil or good? Imagine a world where all those choices were made for you: spouse, job, behavior and hobbies: a world of robots forced to love and do what they were told. This fantasy nightmare would never happen because we have a God who loves and wants us to have free choice. Freedom to choose comes at a cost. At times, our actions can hurt us or others. This is when God comforts and heals. This is when He turns into good what others intended for harm.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Gives Choices

Genesis 2:16-17 ¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Rule over Sin

Genesis 4:6-7 ⁶Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right,

sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

Slaves to Sin or Obedience

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Use Freedom to Serve Others

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

God Turns Evil into Good

Genesis 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

QUOTES

“You are free to choose, but you are not free to alter the consequences of your decisions.” Ezra Taft Benson

“There are only two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way." C.S. Lewis

“It’s easy to explain away evil. We have a free choice, and our greatest blessing is also our greatest curse, because I don’t

always make good choices. Other people make bad choices. And sometimes we hurt people. Sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally.” Rick Warren

“Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choice, good or evil we have made through life.”

John Cunningham Geikie

GAYS

SCRIBE

How would the topic of gays fit into the filter of “does this love God” and “does this love people”? Are we loving people if we take away people’s rights or label folks “haters” if they disagree with us? Are we loving people if we exclude them from church and refuse to let them into our homes and businesses? Are we loving people when we judge? Are we loving people when we deny them services? Are we loving people when we force them to give services against their beliefs? Are we loving God if we read His word and decide the verses were meant for a different culture or had a different meaning? Are we loving God if we read His word and decide not to follow it? Each of us must answer these questions for ourselves.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Love

John 15:17 This is my command: Love each other.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Do Not Judge

Luke 6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Matthew 7:1-2 ¹Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:41 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴²How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Luke 11:46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."

Be Merciful

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Grace and Truth

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Homosexuality

Romans 1:26-27 ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

1Timothy 1:8-11 ⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

QUOTES

“I think they ought to be treated equally. Period.” Gerald Ford

“The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love heterosexuals. It’s just that they need more supervision.” Lynn Lavner

“You can safely assume you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”
Anne Lamott

GOD HEALS

SCRIBE

Our wounds can be visible or buried within ourselves. Broken hearts and broken legs both need to heal. Healing of the leg is easy to understand: keep it in a cast or surgery. Healing of the heart is more difficult. There is no cast or surgery. Instead time, friends, books, songs, nature, counseling or laughter is needed for the broken hearted. Whatever our wounds, God will heal. The scars may remain but the injury is healed. Does it always happen here on earth? No, sometimes God heals in heaven. Bring all your wounds to God and lay them at His feet.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Examples

Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 107:20 He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Exodus 23:25 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,

Psalm 30:2 LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

Psalm 103:2-3 ² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

New Bodies after Death

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Lord Returns

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

QUOTES

“We can’t undo a single thing we have done, but we can make decisions today that propel us to the life we want and towards the healing we need.” Steve Maraboli

“There is not a formula for the way that God heals. There’s not a timetable.” Amy Grant

“Psychotherapy is what God has been secretly doing for centuries by other names; that is, he searches through our personal history and heals what needs to be healed - the wounds of childhood or our own self-inflicted wounds.”
Thomas Keating

GOD IS LOVE

SCRIBE

What is love? Author Leo Buscaglia told the story of a four year old who climbed into the lap of a grieving widower. His mother asked her son what he had said to the gentleman. The child replied, "Nothing, I just helped him cry." This is love.

What is God? God is love. He helps us cry. He helps us laugh. God brings comfort and He brings joy. This is God.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

1 John 4:7-8 ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

Psalms 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.⁸ Love never fails. ...¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

QUOTES

“God’s love is like an ocean. You can see its beginning, but not its end.” Rick Warren

“God loves you. He wants you to succeed. He wants the best for you.” Norman Vincent Peale

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” Saint Augustine

“Life is too short, the world is too big, and God’s love is too great to live ordinary.” Christine Caine

“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” C. S. Lewis

“The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.” C.S. Lewis

“Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because He loves us.” Tullian Tchividjian

“It’s not about finding ways to avoid God’s judgment and feeling like a failure if you don’t do everything perfectly. It’s about fully experiencing God’s love and letting it perfect you. It’s not about being somebody you are not. It’s about becoming who you really are.” Stormie Omartian, *The Power of a Praying Woman*

“Riches take wings, comforts vanish, hope withers away, but love stays with us. Love is God.” Lew Wallace *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*

GOD'S PLAN

SCRIBE

“The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” Yet God’s plan never strays. His desire is that we love Him and love people. His plan is to give people choices and allow them to choose to love or not. He knows that free choice comes at a price. That is why He turns into good what was meant for evil. That is why He comforts and heals us. When you choose love, His plan is revealed for your life.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Has Plans

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

He Will Provide

Luke 12:28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

God is Faithful

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Trust God

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Godly Ways and Thoughts

Isaiah 55:9 As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

QUOTES

“I know God has a plan. I pray for direction to follow it, patience to wait on it, and knowledge to know when it comes...” BibleGodQuotes.com

“When someone you love says goodbye you can stare long and hard at the door they closed and forget to see all the doors God has opened in front of you.” Shannon L. Alder

“God trained Moses in a palace to use him in the desert. He trained Joseph in a desert to use him in a palace.” Ravi Zacharias, *The Grand Weaver: How God Shapes Us Through the Events of Our Lives*

“The purpose of the Bible is simply to proclaim God’s plan to save His children.” Max Lucado

“Just because I do not understand God’s plans does not mean that He is not with me.” Nick Vujicic

“Each of us is a small part of God’s plan. I’m a small part. I create paintings that are being used by God.” Thomas Kinkadee

GOD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

SCRIBE

Help Wanted: Compassionate, loving creator who is wise and powerful. Must be able to teach, listen, heal and comfort. Cannot use micromanagement techniques. Looking for someone who will allow others to grow and make their own choices.

God was hired because He was the only qualified applicant.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Creates

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

God Loves His Children

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

God Teaches His Children

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Isaiah 28:26 His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.

God Listens

Psalms 116:1-2 ¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. ² Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

God Gives Wisdom

James 1:5-7 ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

God Gives Free Choice

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Genesis 4:6-7 ⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

God Warns & Gives Us Consequences

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Proverbs 6:32 But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself.

Malachi 3:5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

God Wants Us to Love Others

1 John 4:19-21 ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Philippians 2:3-4 ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Romans 13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

QUOTES

“If we rationalize our problems when He points them out, we will spend less and less time meditating because we won’t want to face God in that area of our lives.” Charles Stanley

“God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be.” Mother Teresa

HEAVEN

SCRIBE

The band, Mercy Me, in their song “I Can Only Imagine”, tried to imagine what they would do or say when they met God. Would they say hallelujah or not speak at all? Would they fall to their knees?

Right now heaven is only something we can imagine. Although we may not know what heaven is like, what we will do when we are there, or any of the details, we do know that God will be there. God is love and light. He has promised us there will be no tears. We can have confidence that heaven will be love, light and a place of joy.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God is Light

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

God is Good

Psalms 107:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Timothy 4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

God Wants Everyone in Heaven

1 Timothy 2:3-4 ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Grace Not Good Deeds

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Heaven is a Good Place

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

1 Corinthians 2:9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—

QUOTES

“God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.” Izaak Walton

“My home is in heaven. I’m just traveling through this world.”
Billy Graham

“We cannot even begin to imagine how wonderful heaven is.”
Catherine Pulsifier

“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.” C.S. Lewis

“Heaven means to be one with God.” Confucius

“The whole point of Heaven is to relieve us of the suffering, pain, death and tears brought into the world by the evil of humanity. That is why God says that in Heaven there will be no more sorrow, pain, death or crying.” David Brandt Berg

HUNGER

SCRIBE

“Someone should do something about the starving children.”
What if that someone was me? What if that someone was you? Many times we blame God because of the suffering in the world and then stay in our homes and do nothing. We are His hands and feet. We can be that someone.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Feed the Hungry

James 2:14-18 ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.¹⁸ but someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds. “Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”

Matthew 25:37-40 ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Deuteronomy 24:19 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

QUOTES

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.”

Dwight Eisenhower

“There is no humiliation more abusive than hunger.” Pranab Mukherjee

“Unlike curing cancer or heart disease, we already know how to beat hunger: food.” Mario Batali

“If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger.”

Buzz Aldrin

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.” Mahatma

Gandhi

JUDGING OTHERS

SCRIBE

Standing outside a crowded street, a young woman shouted, “Repent! You sinners, you are going to hell!” Not one person stopped to find out what the woman had to offer. Many were driven further away from God. Instead, what would have been the reaction if the woman comforted a mother who was screaming at her child? What if she handed the homeless man some food and gloves? What if she invited the gay couple to her church? God doesn’t need help with judgment. He needs our help to love.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Luke 6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Matthew 7:1-2 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:41-42 ⁴¹ Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Luke 11:46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."

QUOTES

Quotes are taken from "Wise Old Sayings.

"By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Still, it is a sad state of the world that people judged others not by the best that they could be but by the worst thought in their own hearts." Elizabeth Hoyt

"If I stop judging other people, I free myself from being judged, and I can dance!" Patti Digh

"When you judge others, you do not define them, you define yourself." Earl Nightingale

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

Mother Teresa

"To judge a man by his weakest link or deed is like judging the power of the ocean by one wave." Elvis Presley

LOVE GOD

SCRIBE

Imagine a ladder between God and us. A ladder where love flows down from God and up from us. To climb the ladder, all we need to do is empty ourselves of hate, disappointment, fear and blame. It is only then that we can fill ourselves with love.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

1 John 2:4-6 ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 Corinthians 2:9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” —the things God has prepared for those who love him—

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

QUOTES

“Love God; love others; do your best in all you do, even if you fall short.” Bethany Hamilton;

“To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.” Raphael Simon

“Love God and He will enable you to love others even when they disappoint you.” Francine Rivers, *And the Shofar Blew*

“The reality of loving God is loving him like he’s a superhero who actually saved you from stuff rather than a Santa Claus who merely gave you some stuff.” Criss Jami, [Killosophy](#)

LOVE OTHERS

SCRIBE

Angel dust fell from heaven. For one day, the cats and dogs got along. The humans loved each other. Countries helped each other. Not a whisper of hate or judgment on social media. Children slept soundly in bed without being abused. Spouses stayed home instead of having an affair. Food and clothing were provided for the needy. There was no body shaming. Politicians worked together for the good of the country. Racial tensions were nonexistent. World peace reigned. Sadly, angel dust never falls from the sky. However, the same results could be reached if we just loved each other.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

1 Thessalonians 3:12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

Mark 12:30-31 ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

1 John 4:7-8 ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Colossians 3:12-14 ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion,

kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Leviticus 19:18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

QUOTES

Quotes were taken from AZ Quotes

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we wait for Christmas to do that?” Bob Hope

“The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others...” Mitch Albom

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” Dalai Lama

“When you make loving others the story of your life, there’s never a final chapter, because the legacy continues. You lend your light to one person, and he or she shines it on another and another and another.” Oprah Winfrey

MIRACLES

SCRIBE

Definition of miracle: "A surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency." Are there present day miracles? My personal experience says, "Yes!" My father was eight years old when he was hit by a car. Just as the tire was about to run over his legs, a man in a suit picked him up and spun him. When my dad looked up, the man was gone. My friend was terrified of child birth. Someone held her hand through the birth yet no one was there. I heard a small voice say, "Mary will talk to you at church." On the drive to church I saw a Mary Kay sticker. That small voice said, "It is Mary Kay that will talk to you." After the service, a woman came up to me and said, "My name is Mary Kay. Would you like to talk?" I never saw her at church again. None of these events are explicable by natural or scientific laws. I consider them the work of a divine agency.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Jeremiah 32:27 "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

Hebrews 2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

QUOTES

"Miracles are not contrary to nature but only contrary to what we know about nature." St. Augustine

"God's miracles are to be found in nature itself; the wind and waves, the wood that becomes a tree - all of these are explained biologically, but behind them is the hand of God."
Ronald Reagan

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another." Helen Keller

"Miracles happen every day, change your perception of what a miracle is and you'll see them all around you." Jon Bon Jovi

"All is a miracle. The stupendous order of nature, the revolution of a hundred millions of worlds around a million of stars, the activity of light, the life of all animals, all are grand and perpetual miracles." Francois Voltaire

PRAYER

SCRIBE

I can find studies that show God answers prayers and other studies that show God does not answer prayers. Perhaps what we need to define is what makes a prayer successful? Is it getting what we want? If I pray for the Broncos to win a game and they lose, does that mean God has failed me? If I pray and feel less stressed and less alone, is the prayer helpful? If I pray and God listens, is that enough? Is God allowed to say no to a prayer? Is God allowed to have different timing than us?

For 22 years, I pleaded with God to help me find a husband or remove the desire. I yelled, withdrew, stopped going to church and wondered if there even was a God. Eventually, I surrendered everything to God and said, "I will love you no matter what." When I wasn't looking for a relationship, I met my husband and he is the perfect match for me. God's timing was certainly different than mine.

My heart hurts for every person who prayed for healing and did not receive it. Babies with AIDS and young moms with cancer are enough to turn us from God. It is my belief that God always heals. However, it isn't always during this life. He uses doctors, miracles, time and sometimes he heals us after death.

A river of tears and years of prayers have not always changed infertility, single status or abusive loved ones. Does prayer work? In my life, it did not always change the circumstances. However, prayer has brought peace, learning opportunities and open communication with God. For me, that makes it successful.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

God Listens

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

God Will Not Abandon You

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

God Comforts

Psalms 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

God Gives Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

God Gives Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

God Says No for Our Benefit

1 Kings 19:3-5 ³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

God Will Say Yes if it is According to His Will

1 John 5:14-15 ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Psalms 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

QUOTES

"I don't pray for God to take my problems away, I pray only for God to give me the strength to go through them."

Jose Lozano

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." Abraham Lincoln

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" Corrie Ten Boom

“Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.” Andrew Murray

“I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help him. I ended up asking God to do His work through me.” Hudson Taylor

“Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.” Soren Kerkegaard

“Our prayers should be blessings in general, for God knows best what is good for us.” Socrates

“Prayer is continual abandonment to God.” Sadhu Sundar Singh

“Pray, then let it go. Don’t try and manipulate the outcome. Just trust God to open the right door at the right time. Amen.” QuotesGate

“Some doors that God doesn’t open for you is nothing more than divine protection. And others, the timing just isn’t right yet. Trust Him.” InstaGodMinistries, instagod.org

“He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.” Unknown

“Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you.” St. Ignatius Loyola

“God waits for us to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much, and in a special sense His children, that He has made Himself available to you at all times.” Wesley L. Duwel

“Prayer becomes religious when you try to use it for something God never intended.” Andrew Wommack, A Better Way to Pray: If Your Prayer Life Is Not Working, Consider Changing Directions

WORDLY EVIDENCE

*Richard Deem in his article “Scientific Evidence for Answered Prayer and the Existence of God” cited studies about prayer and healing.

The first study Deem explored came from the paper "Positive Therapeutic Effects of Intercessory Prayer in a Coronary Care Unit Population".

Patients in a cardiac unit were randomly placed into two groups. One group received intercessory prayer and one group did not. The prayer team members were born again Christians who daily prayed and attended church. Neither patients nor doctors knew who were receiving prayer.

Deem stated, “Statistics were acquired from the prayer and placebo groups both before and after prayer, until the patients were discharged from the hospital. There were no statistical differences between the placebo and the prayer groups *before* prayer was initiated. The results demonstrated that patients who were prayed for suffered "less congestive heart failure, required less diuretic and antibiotic therapy, had fewer episodes of pneumonia, had fewer cardiac arrests, and were less frequently intubated and ventilated."

Another study Deem cited was “Effects of remote, retroactive intercessory prayer on outcomes in patients with bloodstream infection: randomized controlled trial” 3393 patients with bloodstream infections were involved in the study. Again

there was a control group and a group that had intercessors praying for them.

According to the author of the study, "Remote, retroactive intercessory prayer said for a group is associated with a shorter stay in hospital and shorter duration of fever in patients with a bloodstream infection and should be considered for use in clinical practice."

The final study used different techniques. A third of the patients knew someone was praying for them. A third of the patients, someone prayed for them but did not know it. A third of the patients did not receive prayer. The intercessors were given a script and not allowed to pray what they wanted to say. This study showed no difference between the groups that did not know if they received prayers. However, the group that knew they had intercessors did worse. It is thought that the lack of efficacy for the intercessors affected the results.

* In "The Christian Apologetics Alliance Has Science Disproved Prayer?" May 18, 2016 by Rajkumar Richard it is stated, Duke University's Dr. Harold D Koenig is utterly confident about prayer's effectiveness, "... out of 125 studies that looked at the link between health and regular worship, 85 showed regular churchgoers live longer."

PROOF OF GOD

SCRIBE

A non-believer asked my husband to prove there was a God. He replied, "Prove that there isn't a God." Proving or disproving God is impossible. However, the effects of God are everywhere. Nature and the existence of life where there once was nothing shows there is a God. How could the water cycle and food cycles be just by chance? The sun and the moon are the exact distance necessary from the earth in order to sustain life. Plants take in air, use carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Humans take in air, use oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Did this just happen? Someone once told me if this was all by chance it would be like taking all the parts of an airplane and throwing them up in the air and having them come down as a jet.

BIBLICAL CITATION

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

QUOTES

"If God did not exist, he would have to be invented. But all nature cries aloud that he does exist: that there is a supreme intelligence, an immense power, an admirable order, and everything teaches us our own dependence on it." Voltaire

"We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito." C. S. Lewis

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.”
Abraham Lincoln

“In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence.” Isaac Newton

“It is true that you can't prove a negative. However, the existence of God is provable in the same way a building is positive proof that there was a builder.” Ray Comfort

WORLDLY EVIDENCE

1. God's creation is unique. Humans have their own fingerprints and can process a million messages a second. The eye can distinguish over seven million colors.
2. Nature's delicate balancing act includes food chains and water systems. Gravitational pull, tides and the Earth tilt work together perfectly. Plants use carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Humans use oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. The Earth is the perfect size and the exact distance it needs to be from the sun. Only an intelligent creator could design this.
3. Nearly 2500 prophecies were written in the Bible. Over 2000 have come true so far.
4. Authors of the Bible had scientific knowledge ahead of their time, such as that the earth was a sphere.
5. Something cannot be created from nothing. It is a matter of cause and effect. There must have been a cause for the creation.

6. Earth works together mathematically. Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize winner for quantum electrodynamics, said in his book, *The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist* (*New York: BasicBooks, 1998*), "Why nature is mathematical is a mystery...The fact that there are rules at all is a kind of miracle."

BOOKS

Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points toward God*

ARTICLES

"Is There A God?" EveryStudent.com, Marilyn Adamson

"How Israel Proves God is Real", worldnetdaily.com, Joseph Farah

"Evidence for God's Existence", probe.org, Sue Bohlin, August 30, 2014

YOU TUBE

Believe in God in Five Minutes (Scientific Proof)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQVm8RokoBA>

Miracles Caught on Camera: Proof God Answers Prayers Pt 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl-bQhfRUQk>

Science Has Found Proof of the Existence of God!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er9D00DXQQs>

RELIGION

SCRIBE

Religion is not God. God is not religion. Religion is manmade. It has been used to serve God but also to control and manipulate people. Human organizations have both the goodness and the flaws of men and women. Any church, temple or synagogue should be able to pass the God test. Do the practices of this religion contradict what God says? Does this religion love God and love others? Is there peace or dread when you enter the building? God is love, peace and light. A religion that runs counter to these three characteristics is not from God.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Isaiah 65:5 who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!' Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day.

Luke 18:11-14 ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Matthew 23:5-7 ⁵ Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and

the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

Matthew 7:3-5 ³ Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Matthew 23:23-24 ²³ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

2 Timothy 3:4-5 ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Ezekiel 33:31-32 ³¹ My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. ³² Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

Matthew 15:8 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

QUOTES

“I don't fear God – I fear his believers.” Stephen Hawking

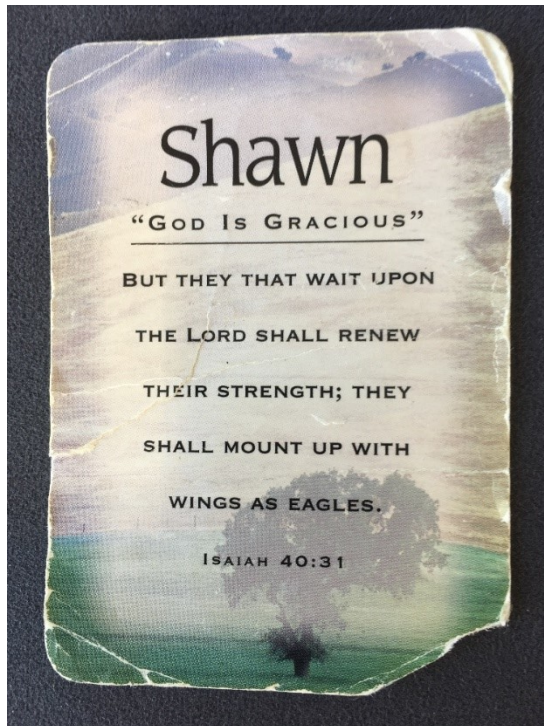
“I don't think the 9/11 attacks taught us anything we didn't already know about religion. It has long been obvious - even to the deeply religious - that religious fanaticism is an extremely dangerous deranger of otherwise sane and goodhearted people.” Daniel Dennett

“Religious tolerance is something we should all practice; however, there have been more persecution and atrocities committed in the name of religion and religious freedom than anything else.” Walter Koenig

STRENGTH

SCRIBE

Feeling discouraged and frustrated, I walked into a Christian bookstore. On the counter, was a card that had my name on it. Underneath was Isaiah 40:31. For over twelve years, this card has been in my car to remind me that the Lord will renew my strength. On that particular day, he used a card. On other days, he has used friends, his word, nature, songs and books to strengthen me. Daily he finds new ways to remind me he is always there. I will soar on the wings of eagles.



BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my strength and my defense he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

QUOTES

Quotes taken from "Wise Old Sayings"

"We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot."

Eleanor Roosevelt

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."

Mahatma Gandhi

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger." Friedrich Nietzsche

SUFFERING

SCRIBE

Sometimes

U (You)

Face

Frightening

Evil

Remember

It's

Not

God

Sometimes you will face frightening evil. Remember it's not God. God is good and is not capable of evil. However, people can choose evil. Their choices lead to abuse, neglect, betrayal, heartache, abandonment, violence and broken relationships. Also there are factors such as illness or natural disasters that were not caused by anyone but result in suffering. God does not sit on a throne in heaven and decide that painful things should happen to you. He does comfort those who are hurting. He will also turn something good that others intended for harm.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

People Feel Abandoned

Psalms 77:7-9 ⁷“Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? ⁸Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? ⁹Has God

forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"

Psalm 142:4 Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

God Cares

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Psalm 146:7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free,

God's Goodness

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

God Sees the Whole Picture

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

God Hates the Wicked

Psalm 11:5 The LORD examines the righteous but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.

God is Just

Psalm 103:6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

God Turns Evil into Good

Genesis 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Isaiah 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

QUOTES

“The reward of suffering is experience.” Harry S Truman

“Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to Him in trust and confidence.” Billy Graham

“You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.” Bob Marley

WISDOM

SCRIBE

Wisdom is “the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise”. God said ask for wisdom and it will be yours. How does he give it? Sometimes God gives us experience, knowledge and consequences. We learn good judgment through his gifts. We learn wisdom by applying good judgment. At other times, he provides wisdom in a moment of clarity.

BIBLICAL CITATIONS

Ask for Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Wisdom of the Aged

Job 12:12 Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?

Fools Despise Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Do Not Forsake Wisdom

Proverbs 4:6-7 ⁶ Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding

Wisdom from Heaven

James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Good Life Shows Wisdom

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

QUOTES

“They say that faith is taking the first step when you can’t see the whole staircase. Actually, wisdom is seeing the elevator behind it that would have taken you to the top floor.”
Shannon L. Alder

The following quotes were taken from “Brainy Quotes”

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.” Jimi Hendrix

“Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.” Bob Marley

“In life, all good things come hard, but wisdom is the hardest to come by.” Lucille Ball

“Turn your wounds into wisdom.” Oprah Winfrey



Shawn Jones is a former teacher and school counselor. Her passions include God, family, friends and children. This book is the first of three in the Answer Me Series. The second book, Answer Me Jesus! (If You Even Exist) gives proof that Jesus is God. The third book, Answer Me Holy Spirit! (If You Even Exist) answers questions about the trinity and how to live a Christian life. All of Shawn's books including the Answer Me series, children's Christian stories and educational books can be found at 10QGOD.com.