

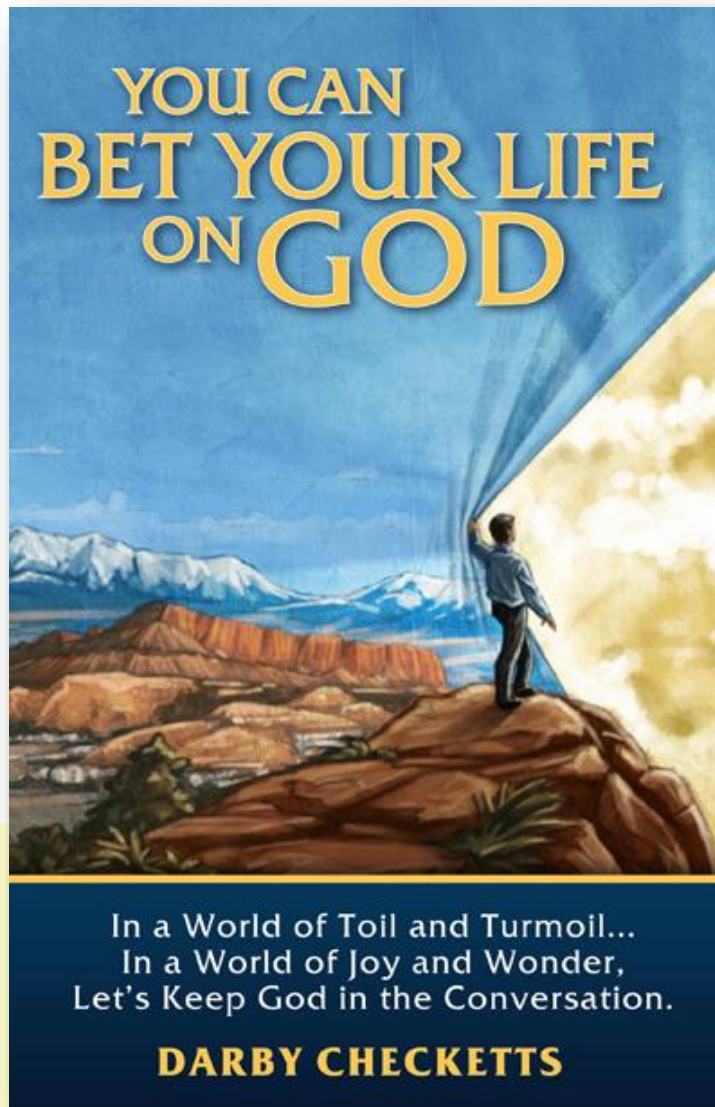
## Welcome...In Conjunction with [TheTreeRoost.com](http://TheTreeRoost.com)!

This is an optional slideshow that expands on my philosophy of life to include some of the tenets of my faith. I do appreciate your interest. I am respectful of the beliefs of others. I value two principal sources of truth. Science is a powerful and beneficial source. Faith is a powerful and beneficial source. Together these represent the life-giving and the life-living forces that empower humanity on two vital levels of our existence: physical and spiritual. –*Darby Checketts*

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It is probably obvious from this website that the *wonders of nature* are a source of personal inspiration for me. There are many philosophies that attempt to explain the origin and purpose of the earth and its delightful denizens. I certainly see the “Handiwork of God.” Please allow me to share my perspectives. As I grow older, I focus more on these things as a legacy of faith for my family and friends. We humans cannot over-rely on computer algorithms and telescopes to unravel the mysteries of our universe and the daily miracles of nature we experience from a *life force* aligned with DNA to so many glorious life forms...to photosynthesis...to the genius of honeybees...to a mother’s love.





- ▶ Does it matter that a nation honors God or is strictly a secular society?
- ▶ Is faith in God naïve or is it a beacon for purpose and compassion?
- ▶ Is morality old fashioned or is it the inner compass for civility, honesty, fidelity, and good works?
- ▶ When we are polarized as a people, what happens to our progress?
- ▶ Where is the common ground for unity and collective empowerment?
- ▶ What is the true significance of our affirmation: “One nation under God”?

**Please Note:** The book is currently out of print, but these slides capture its message.



## Some Ask: What Has Faith Got to Do with It?

Is faith merely mythology? Explanations of “disbelief” might be based on the hypotheses of the ancient Roman philosopher, **Lucretius**, whose poem, “On the Nature of Things,” puts forth these ideas...

- 1) The day-to-day happenings and year-to-year events of the world can be simply explained by the occurrence of *natural phenomena* resulting from the predictable yet purposeless interactions of tiny atoms moving in space.
- 2) There is no need to fear death. It is merely the dissolution of a person’s physical mind. Death is neither good nor bad for there will be an absence of sensation and thought. A dead person will not miss *being alive*.



## Can You Bet Your Life on God?

Life is about examining situations, weighing possible consequences and making choices. In Vegas, it’s called gambling. The odds are not in your favor.

Where God is involved, sometimes you take a *leap of faith*. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain from believing that, in the end, *the lights don’t just go out*.

A person is free to philosophize and to use logic to prove many things. But the sublime truths that give meaning to life are *by the heart confirmed*. Hard facts are tempered by intuition that is guided by an *inner compass*.



# Betting on Life...



Which door  
will I choose?

You choose your thoughts.

Then, you choose to act on your thoughts or not.

Your beliefs and your sense of purpose guide these choices.

The actions you choose create a direction for your life.

Thoughts, beliefs, purpose, choices, actions, and direction...these determine *who you will become*.

The stakes are high. Choose poorly and disappointment is the result. Choose well and happiness is the reward.

## Betting on God...

When this life's over, either the lights go out or they don't.



If the lights go out, we might wonder what matters.  
If the lights do not go out, everything matters.



**A flood came.**

**A child was swept away.**

**The child was found clinging  
to an isolated tree branch.**

**Tearful and grateful observers  
ponder upon the scene...**

**Was it the child's quick  
thinking? Was it luck? Was it  
a tender mercy—a miracle?**

### **Among the reasons some people doubt the existence of God...**

*I have not seen God. Science says it isn't so.*

*"Miracles" are the result of technology or good fortune.*

*The Bible is a collection of mythical stories combined with basic wisdom.*

*Religion is for those who are naïve or fearful, and for little children.*

*These days, I use Artificial Intelligence to get answers to my life's questions.*

*A loving God would not allow war and suffering.*

**What do you think of these? What does your heart tell you is true?  
Is it better to believe than to doubt? Who also has a stake in your happiness?**



# *Faith*

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen”**

**Hebrews 11:1.**

That which is concrete provides a foundation from which we can safely operate or from which we can explore possibilities. That which is *not concrete* leaves the doors open for creativity, adventure, optimism, and more. Columbus did not have concrete evidence that the land we call America existed. He had only the wooden deck of his ship beneath his feet. He let his faith inspire the confidence his crew needed to pursue what others thought to be an impossible dream. And in our time, after all the science, the Apollo astronauts had to *believe* they would reach the moon and return.

WAR

OPPRESSION

SUFFERING



*Dear God...  
Why do you  
allow it? Why  
don't you do  
something  
about it?*

*I did, I sent you.*



## Five Fundamental “Belief” Options...

1. **God does not exist.** *There is no purpose to your existence other than to respond to your survival instincts. Religious beliefs are man-made myths.*
2. **God does exist and what you believe is true and good and helpful.** *Your beliefs have merit and add important meaning to your existence.*
3. **It is possible that there is some expanded belief system that encompasses even more truth and can enhance what you currently believe.** *There is an Intergalactic truth puzzle. It is life’s great quest to collect and assemble as many truth puzzle pieces as possible from wherever these are to be found.*
4. **What you believe is in need of updating to be relevant in these modern times.** *There is a caution here about the relativistic notion that humans determine the relevance of God’s laws and that He exists for our convenience.*
5. **There is a profound concept that puts everything into an everlasting perspective. It’s about your pre-existence.** *It makes a big difference if your spirit existed before you were born on earth. There would be an even greater purpose to your existence—from before, during, and beyond your mortality.*



Big Bang? Creation? Evolution?  
All of the Above?

What does all-powerful mean?  
Imagine how versatile God is.



Will scientific research and engineering skill eventually solve all the problems faced by humankind?



Chemists use Lithium to make batteries. Who put the Lithium there in the ground with exactly the properties we need to power our cell phones?

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As genetic engineers decode DNA, we must *wonder* at the intricate chromosomal program that defines life.

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Whatever we believe, we must wonder at it all.



What is the role of faith? Is it wishful thinking or is there divine influence in the affairs of humankind?



# Make for Me...



Make for me a tiny and delicate machine that transforms water, minerals, and sunlight into food, stored energy, and oxygen; makes shade, and then transforms in the fall to redecorate the forest and to produce rich compost for use by the creatures below. *Special Feature:* With zero negative environmental impact, a brand-new product release installs itself in the spring to start the process anew at no additional cost.



## Where Is God?

Make me two tiny, infinitely flexible feet to provide perfect balance, to automatically increase in size, with self-healing skin to cover these most delightful living things to have and to hold.




## Where Is God Not?

Make me a tiny drone, with spectacularly colorful wings, that requires no battery and can navigate for thousands of miles across a continent to help pollinate thousands of flowers and make the forest blossom.

God is to be found in the great forests and the deep blue oceans, among the mighty elephants, and in the details of butterfly wings, a single leaf, and those tiny baby toes.



A composite image featuring a farmer in a white shirt and red cap, wearing a red cap, leaning over a lush green field. The field is set against a cosmic background of a starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy, a large reddish planet (Mars), and a crescent moon. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text. The farmer is positioned in the center of the field, which is a circular inset into the cosmic scene.

(1) An agricultural inspector happens upon a farmer in his field and says, "I'm impressed that you and God have turned this old property into such a beautiful farm."

(2) The farmer replies, "Well, you should've seen it when God was working it all on his own."

(3) A voice rumbles softly from above, "Do the soil, rain, and sunlight that I provide help? Do those seeds 'magically' germinate for you?"

We humans *marvel* at comic book *superheroes*. Many of us believe in an all-powerful Creator of the Universe and His Divine Son. Others do not. Perhaps most of us yearn for an answer to evil and suffering—something or someone worthy of our absolute trust.



Do you recall *The Force*, which Luke Skywalker acknowledged?

Do you marvel at the godlike powers of Thor and his father, Odin?

Would we place total confidence in a *supreme supercomputer* to direct the affairs of our world based on hard data and pure logic?

What if there is a *supreme hero*? If you believe in Jesus Christ, you already know Him. He is super smart and understands computers. He leads based on unconditional love for us.



**Is there a true north?**

**Does it matter?**

**Does it matter that you know  
how to find it?**

**In a world of distractions, what  
is the inner compass we need?**

**Are God's commandments  
limitations or life insurance?**

**Do they restrict us or free us?**

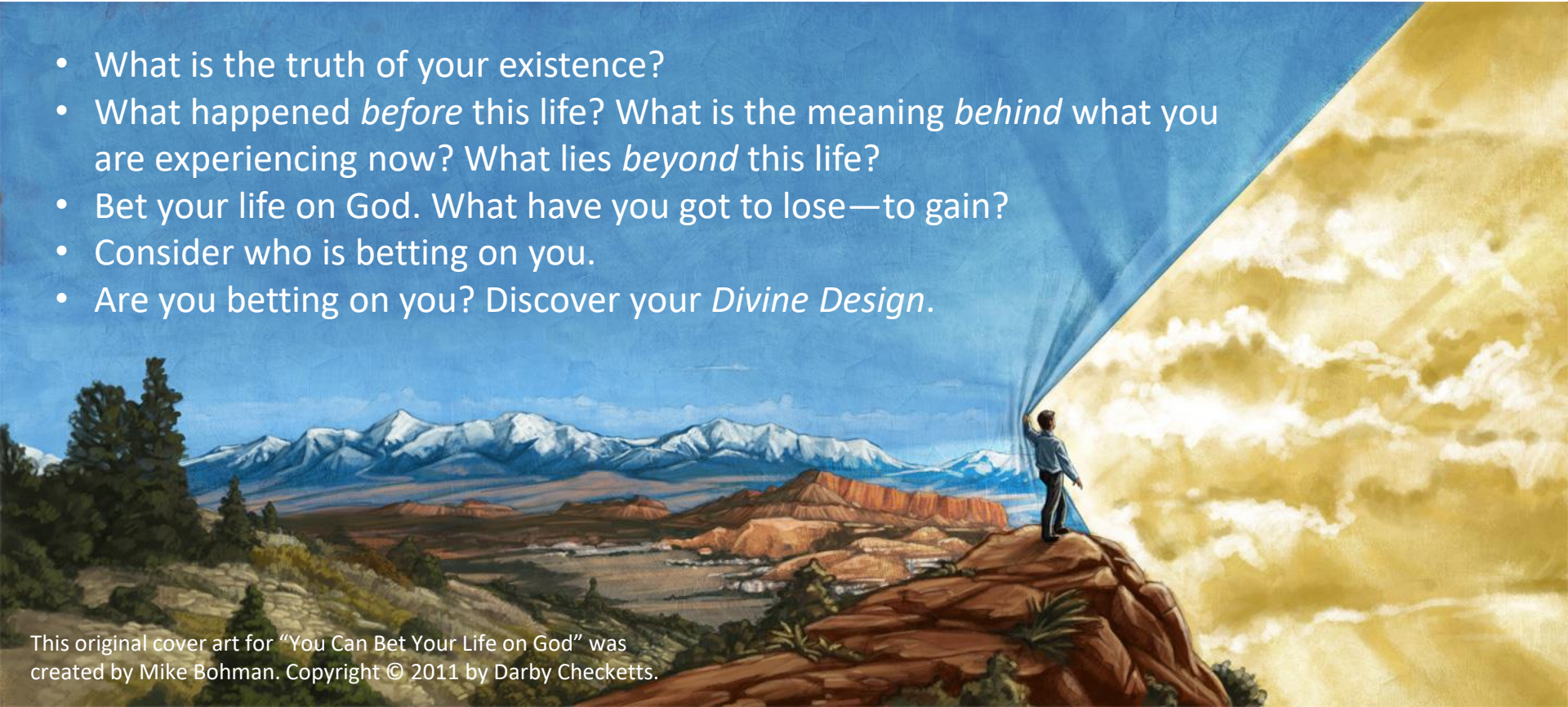
**A compass is there to guide us.  
The choice is ours.**

**The compass points the way to  
a destination we choose and  
frees us from uncertainty along  
the way.**

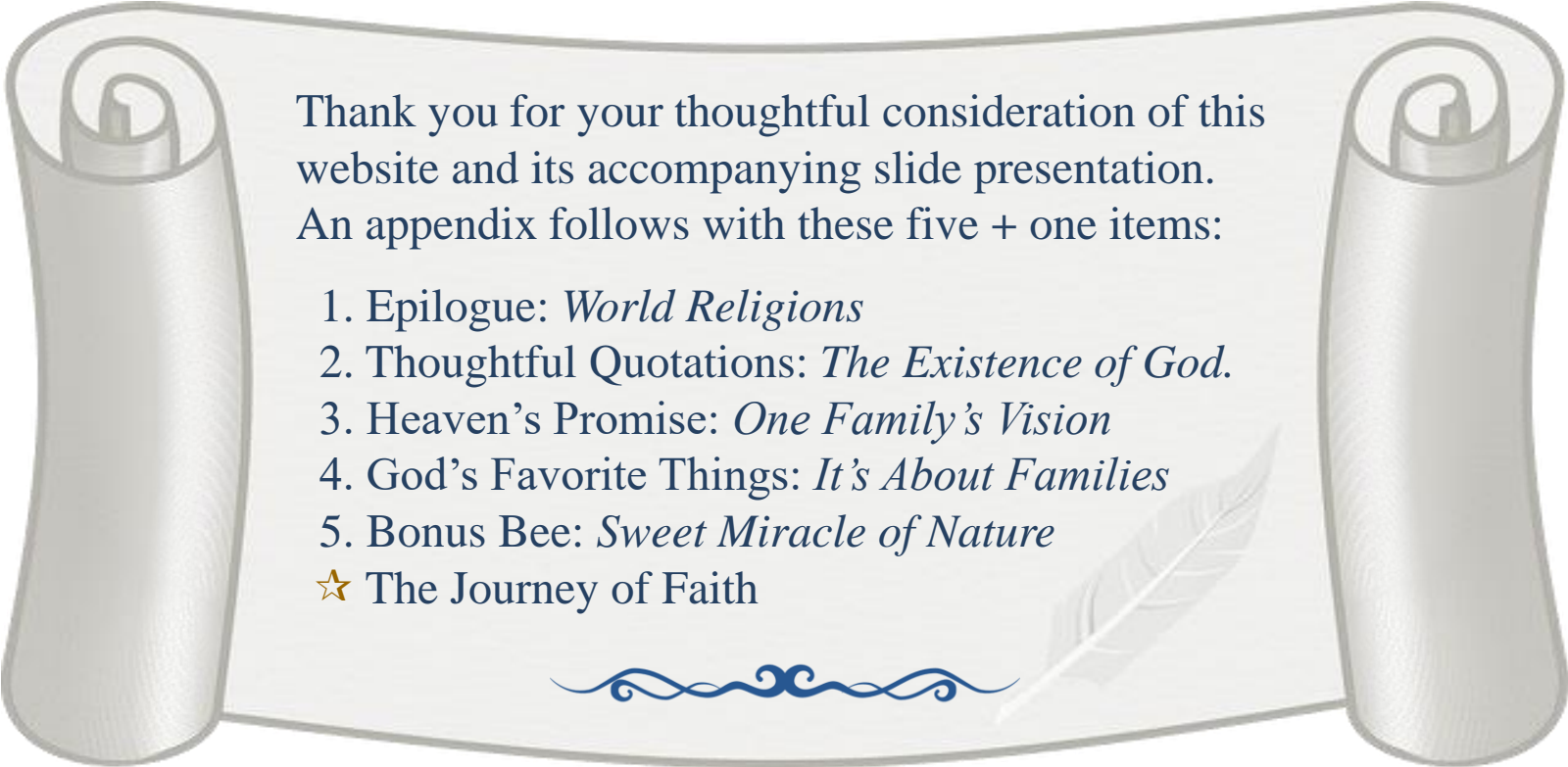


- What is the truth of your existence?
- What happened *before* this life? What is the meaning *behind* what you are experiencing now? What lies *beyond* this life?
- Bet your life on God. What have you got to lose—to gain?
- Consider who is betting on you.
- Are you betting on you? Discover your *Divine Design*.

This original cover art for “You Can Bet Your Life on God” was created by Mike Bohman. Copyright © 2011 by Darby Checketts.





A light gray scroll graphic with two rolled-up ends. In the center, there is a blue decorative flourish and a white feather with a blue outline. The text is centered on the scroll.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this website and its accompanying slide presentation. An appendix follows with these five + one items:

1. Epilogue: *World Religions*
  2. Thoughtful Quotations: *The Existence of God.*
  3. Heaven's Promise: *One Family's Vision*
  4. God's Favorite Things: *It's About Families*
  5. Bonus Bee: *Sweet Miracle of Nature*
- ★ The Journey of Faith



## Epilogue: World Religions

I am a student of the *Holy Bible*. I follow Jesus Christ. At the same time, I respectfully acknowledge the devotion of God's children around the world to so many important religions. In all these, I see an *intergalactic truth puzzle*. Perhaps one of the most important quests of our lives is to find the pieces of this puzzle so that our understanding of God's purposes can become more complete.

Some of the most reverential writings I have ever read about our beautiful planet and the wondrous creatures that live upon it are found in the *Teachings of Buddha*.

When I was going through the process of chemotherapy, I benefitted from the Yoga practices of Hinduism that produce calm and confidence to replace anxiety and stress.

My boyhood friends included members of the Navajo Nation. I honor the spirituality of Native American people that is manifest by a deep reverence for nature and a profound respect for their ancestors.

And what is my experience with Islam? I have enjoyed my travels in four Muslim countries. As a boy, I was taught to honor the ancient Biblical prophet, Abraham. Many people of the Middle East and far beyond, including Christians, are his descendants. My hope for the future is that these might more easily acknowledge a shared cultural heritage and live together more peaceably. – *Darby Checketts*

**You Can Bet Your Life on God:** The following quotations appear at the beginning of the book's chapters. These were chosen for their relevance to each chapter's message. Some of the authors are well-known in our modern world community, some are not. They were chosen not for their credentials but for their thoughtful even powerful perspectives on the question of God's existence. – *Darby Checketts*

**Benjamin Franklin:** *Here is my creed. I believe in one God, the creator of the universe. That He governs it by His providence. That He ought to be worshipped.* – Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) Founding Father of the United States of America, Author, Scientist, Statesman, Diplomat

**Blaise Pascal:** *If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager then without hesitation that He exists.* – Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) French Mathematician, Physicist, and Philosopher

**C. S. Lewis:** *I gave in and admitted that God was God.* – C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) Writer, Theologian...once an atheist

**Robert A. Laidlaw:** *The reason why many people do not believe in God is not so much that it is intellectually impossible to believe in God, but because belief in God forces that thoughtful person to face the fact that he is accountable to such a God.* – Robert Laidlaw (1885-1971) New Zealand Businessman, Christian Writer, Philanthropist

**Jean Paul:** *Without God there is for mankind no purpose, no goal, no hope, only a wavering future; and eternal dread of every darkness.* – Jean Paul (1763-1825) German Novelist

**John Arrowsmith:** *A philosopher once asked a Christian, "Where is God?" The Christian answered, "Let me first ask you, "Where is He not?"* – John Arrowsmith (1602-1659) English theologian, Academic

**Abraham Lincoln:** *It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him.* – Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) President of the United States

**Isaac of Syria:** *Do you wish to commune with God in your mind? Strive to be merciful... A man should first of all begin to be merciful in the measure that our Heavenly Father is merciful.* – Isaac of Syria (died c. 700) Eastern Orthodox Bishop, Theologian

**J.M.L. Monsabre:** *If God would concede me His omnipotence for 24 hours, you would see how many changes I would make in the world. But if He gave me His wisdom too, I would leave things as they are.* – J.M.L. Monsabre (1827-1907) Priest and Orator

**Mother Theresa:** *I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.* – Mother Theresa (1910-1997) Albanian-born Missionary

**G. K. Chesterton:** *For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship "nothing," we worship anything.* – G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936) Writer and Journalist

**Abbe de Tourville:** *I implore you in God's name, not to think of Him as hard to please, but rather as generous beyond all that you can ask or think.* – Abbe de Tourville (1842-1903) Priest and Writer

**C. S. Lewis:** *As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.* – C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) Writer, Lay Theologian

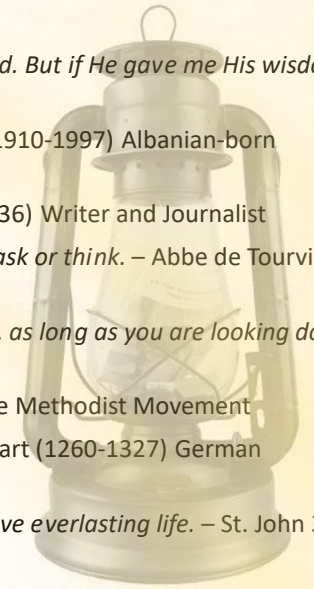
**John Wesley:** *I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.* – John Wesley (1703-1791) English Preacher, Founder of the Methodist Movement

**Meister Eckhart:** *For however devoted you are to God, you may be sure that He is immeasurably more devoted to you.* – Meister Eckhart (1260-1327) German Theologian and Philosopher

**Saint John:** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* – St. John 3:16

**Saint John:** *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* – St. John 13:35

**The Prophet Isaiah:** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* – Isaiah 9:6





Lasting Happiness  
and Opportunity for  
Eternal Progression



Amazing Connections  
with Friends in the  
Animal Kingdom

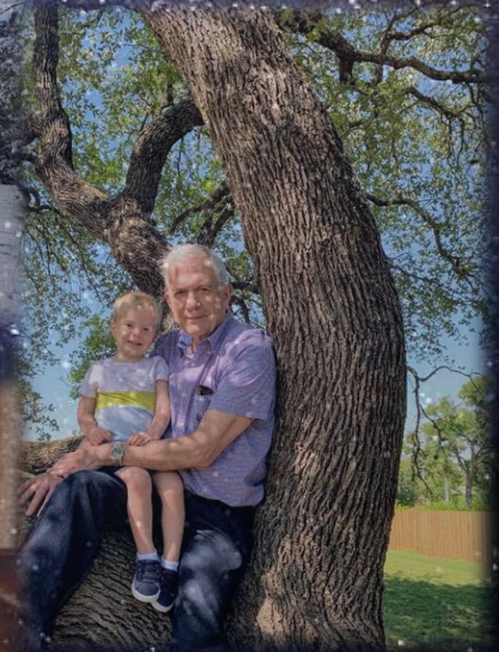
Our Magical  
Places in  
Nature  
Endure



With Trees!

Heaven's Promise\*

Family Traditions  
Through All of the  
Generations



Values of: Love,  
Kinship, Learning,  
Talent, and Service



\*Footnote: This Is One Family's Vision.



# *A Few of God's Favorite Things*

## ANIMALS

- Kangaroos 01
- Lemurs 02
- Whales 03
- Lions 04
- Geese 05
- Owls 06
- Parrots 07
- Flamingos 08
- Rhinos 09
- Fish 10
- Sea Stars 11
- Frogs 12
- Sharks 13
- Tortoises 14
- Lizards 15
- Porcupines 16
- Bees 17
- Monkeys 18
- Chickens 19
- Bunnies 20
- Zebras 21



## GROUP NAME

- 01 Mob
- 02 Conspiracy
- 03 Pod
- 04 Pride
- 05 Gaggle
- 06 Parliament
- 07 Company
- 08 Flamboyance
- 09 Crash
- 10 School
- 11 Galaxy
- 12 Army
- 13 Shiver
- 14 Creep
- 15 Lounge
- 16 Prickle
- 17 Swarm
- 18 Troop
- 19 Flock
- 20 Fluffle
- 21 Dazzle

# Honeybees: Of Big Bang Serendipity?



Delightful Bonus Bee



## Humble ... Miraculous ... Honeybee:

- Travels great distances on gossamer wings that beat incessantly,
- Navigates by the sun with amazing “GPS” eyes,
- Pollinates blossoms of all kinds so that trees bear fruit, vegetables grow, and the flowers continue to bloom,
- Collects the ingredients for delectable honey that is bacteria free thanks to its antiseptic saliva,
- Returns to its hive to *dance the instructions* that keep its busy little friends buzzing.

*Thank you, God, for the bees. You just knew we would love their honey. Protect them on their way, oh please.*



## Honeybees: Essential Miracle of Nature!



## *The Journey of Faith*

- 1. The reality of God's existence is for you to discover. There is evidence of His creative power and love all around. Choose to believe in Him. Seek Him. Hear Him. Let an affirmation of truth come from within your soul.*
- 2. God will inspire your highest purpose, your greatest happiness, and all the good that you can do. Be trustworthy in every role and relationship.*
- 3. God's love is His purpose and His gift. Show your gratitude by extending compassion to others. And acknowledge the endless miracles of Nature combined with the heaven-born ingenuity and kindness of God's children.*



This slideshow is based on the book:

***You Can Bet Your Life on God***

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The book is currently out of print, but these slides capture the essence of the book's faith-promoting message.

We wish to express appreciation for Microsoft's *PowerPoint* tools and the *Bing* online sources of illustrative images. Most of these are in the public domain or I am seeking to learn more about their origins. Please let me know.

Contact Darby at: <https://thetreeroost.com>