

Answers to Common Bible Questions

People have a right to ask us spiritual questions. Sometime when non-believers ask questions we almost feel insulted. There are some legitimate questions that really demand an answer from the Christian community. Through the years we have identified ten questions that are commonly asked by sincere people.

Before we look at them, consider these two scriptures: 1 Peter 3:15 *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”*

Jude 3 *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”*

In these passages Peter tell us that we can “make a defense of the gospel,” but warns us not to be “offensive.” He says to give our defense “with meekness and fear.” Jude tell us to “contend for the faith and the implied meaning is to do so without contention.

Here are the ten questions:

1. **Is the Bible reliable?** *Answer:* God has preserved His Word. In the spring of 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These manuscripts were copies of large portions of the Old Testament, a thousand years older than any other existing copies. Study of the scrolls has revealed that the Bible hasn't changed in content down through the ages as many skeptics had surmised. These scrolls contained portions of every Old Testament book with the exception of one and a nearly perfect copy of Isaiah. There are at least 50 prophecies of Christ in the book of Isaiah. These scrolls predated the birth of Jesus.
2. **If God is a loving God, why do the innocent suffer and how could He send anyone to hell?** *Answer:* Because God is love. If God judged evil today, all unconverted men and women would perish under His wrath. Thank God that He is patiently waiting for them to turn to the Savior and be saved from His terrible wrath. He does not send us to hell. We send ourselves by not accepting the free gift of salvation the He offers us.
3. **Isn't being a good person all that really matters?** *Answer:* To be good we must be perfect. Why? Because this is how our perfectly Holy (without any sin) God defines “good” (Matt. 5:48). Nobody is perfect. Only one small sin will keep us from being good. All who have sinned are under God's wrath (John 3:36), desperately needing the Savior's cleansing blood.
4. **Do all religions lead to God?** *Answer:* The truth is, all roads don't lead to Rome and all roads and all religions don't lead to God. It all depends on which direction you take. Jesus said this, “I am the way and the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father except through me.” The Bible tells us that on the road to heaven, there are only two directions, toward Christ or away from Him. You can accept it or you can reject it, that's your choice.
5. **Why Christianity? What about the other world religions?** *Answer:* In all major religions, the followers strive to rid themselves of sin through various practices. They may pray in a prescribed way, do various good works, perform rituals, deny themselves

legitimate pleasures, follow dietary restrictions, even lie on beds of nails, etc. The uniqueness of Jesus is shown in His statement, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." No other religious leader has ever made this claim. Jesus Christ alone can wash away every sin anyone has ever committed, because of what He did on the cross. By paying the penalty for our sin, He can release us from the torture of guilt. We cannot do anything in the way of religious works to wash away our sins. Forgiveness is a free gift of God through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8,9).

6. **Will people who have never heard the gospel go to hell?** *Answer:* No one will go to hell because they haven't heard of Jesus Christ. The heathen will go to hell for murder, rape, adultery, lust, theft, lying, blasphemy, idolatry, etc. A person goes to hell for breaking God's Laws. Sin is not failing to hear the gospel. Rather, "sin is the transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4). We cannot presume on God's behalf. We know what we must do when we hear about Jesus Christ. To those who don't hear, we must let God deal with that issue.
7. **What about the hypocrites?** *Answer:* We have some in the church and there is no better place for them to be in order to work out their problem. We may have had a few bad meals, but that didn't stop us from eating because of them. I still spend my real, hard-earned money even though I know there is counterfeit money out there.
8. **What does it mean to "believe in Christ?"** *Answer:* The Greek meaning of "believe" is to "rely on, cling to, or trust in." It is not a process of mentally acknowledging that Jesus did exist.
9. **How can I believe in something I cannot see?** *Answer:* God has made himself very clear through the creation of the universe. When you look at a building you see the work of a builder, when you see a painting you know there is a painter, so also when you see creation you know there is a creator. This is where faith comes in.
10. **Does my life really matter?** *Answer:* We are all part of God's grand design—we are not an accident. We were created by a loving God who loves us and designed us with intricate detail in our life. Bertram Russell, the atheist, once said, "Unless you assume the existence of God, then the purpose and meaning of life is irrelevant." The truth is, if there is no God our life doesn't matter. But because there is a God, God had a specific purpose in mind when He created us and we do matter. Personal relationships to God and to other people are the most important thing in life. He wants you to have a relationship with Him because we are worth so much in God's eyes that he sent His Son to die for us.

Ask Your Questions

Here are a few really good questions you can ask people at the right time in a conversation:

- Do you believe God is actively involved in our world?
- Do you think a person can know God personally?
- How would you describe your relationship with God?
- What do you hope is true about God?
- What do you think God expects from mankind?