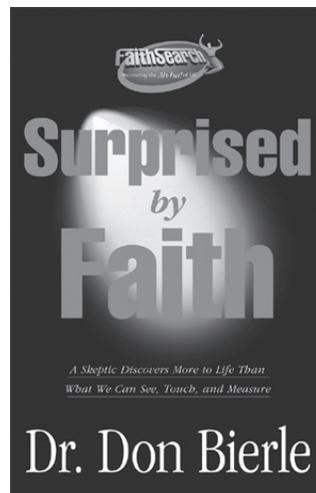


Discovery



# NOTES

Ten Life-Changing "Ah-ha!" Discoveries



Dr. Don Bierle

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This material is for use in conjunction with the **FaithSearch** Discovery presentation, and is based on the book *Surprised by Faith*, which is available in several languages.

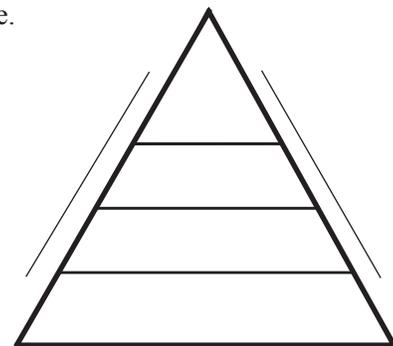
# CHAPTER 1: Why Am I Here?

## Discovering that Everyone Has a Crisis of Purpose and Meaning

Surprised by Faith, chapter 1

### Making the Discovery

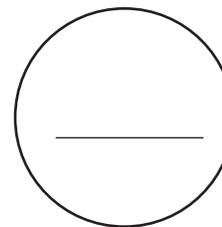
1. Personal crises in our lives often cause us to think about God and faith. Three of these crises are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and a lack of ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The physical world is \_\_\_\_\_, that is, it has limits and is dependent on something infinite to define or reveal its ultimate purpose. An eternal and absolute God would be an example of the infinite.
3. Our finite world consists of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some people think and teach there is nothing but the finite world—\_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ supernatural and \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual reality.
5. If this is correct, then there are no answers to the ultimate questions that determine life's purpose and meaning:  
My \_\_\_\_\_—"How did I get here?"; My \_\_\_\_\_  
—"Why am I here?"; and My ultimate \_\_\_\_\_—"What happens to me when I die?"
6. If we believe that the finite world is all there is, then we make a devastating discovery:



## Ah- FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #1

ha! Death is the ultimate and final conqueror if the finite world is all there is!

7. But what if an infinite being exists—a \_\_\_\_\_ who created us and the physical world for an ultimate purpose? Is the existence of such a God only imagination or wishful thinking? In the next chapter, we will apply a test to determine whether a real and adequate God truly exists.



### Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, there is no ultimate hope for us if the physical world is all there is. But if there is an infinite and personal God who created us, everything is different. In that case, human beings bear God's image (Genesis 1:27) and are created with purpose and meaning (Jeremiah 29:11-13). Everyone will also stand accountable before the Creator some day (Hebrews 9:27).

#### Answers:

1. death; guilt; purpose and meaning
2. finite
3. soil; plants; animals; people  
Triangle (left) finite; (right) dependant;  
(bottom to top) soil; plants; animals; people
4. no; no; no
5. origin; existence; destiny
7. God; (circle) God

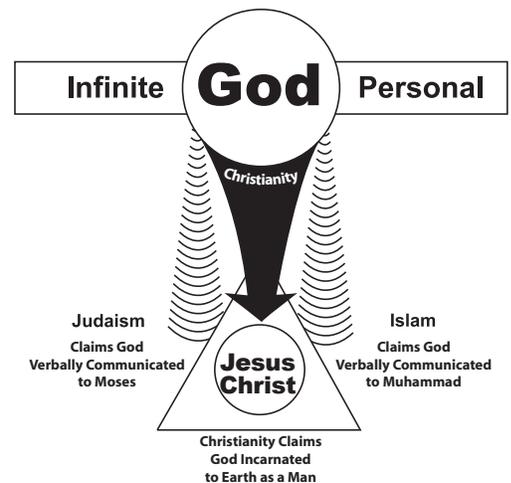
# CHAPTER 2 Proposing an Infinite Answer

## Discovering the Fingerprints of a Purpose-Giving God in History

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 1

### Making the Discovery

1. A God who can give ultimate purpose to the creation must be both an \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ being. Only an infinite God—one who is absolute, perfect and eternal—and a personal God—one with intellect, will and emotion—is truly independent and capable of knowing and revealing ultimate purpose to His finite creation.
2. Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism think of god as infinite, but not a \_\_\_\_\_ being capable of being verified by eyewitnesses.
3. Western religions such as those of the Greeks and Nordic peoples think of gods as personal beings, but not \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Judaism, Islam and Christianity all claim that God is \_\_\_\_\_ personal and infinite.
5. Christianity is unique from the other two in claiming that the personal and infinite God was born of a \_\_\_\_\_ woman, grew up in a real earthly family, and had a \_\_\_\_\_ adult ministry testified to by thousands of eyewitnesses 2,000 year ago.
6. Christianity is the only religion which claims a God who is both infinite and personal, and whose personal visit to the physical world as a human can be \_\_\_\_\_ verified.
7. According to Christianity, Jesus is not just a prophet or holy man—He is \_\_\_\_\_ incarnate. This is our second *FaithSearch* discovery.



## Ah-ha! FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #2

**Christianity alone claims we can know that God exists because He came to earth physically as the man Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago!**

### Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, Jesus' virgin birth was prophesied hundreds of years before it happened (Isaiah 7:14) and the name given Him would identify His true nature as God (Matthew 1:23). When the apostle John wrote in the first century, he identified Jesus as God, as the Creator of the world, and as God incarnate as man; He existed from eternity as a person, God in essence, and in unique relationship with the Father (John 1:1,10,14). Jesus, Himself, in His own prayer with the Father, claimed to have existed before there ever was a world, and to have existed as God (John 17:5). Finally, God has provided additional clear evidence of His existence by leaving Divine fingerprints of Intelligent Design throughout the creation (Romans 1:19-20). As a result, everyone—regardless of race, culture, economic status, or geographic location—can see and know for certain that He exists. (Compare Psalm 19:1-4.)

#### Answers:

1. infinite; personal
2. personal
3. infinite
4. both
5. virgin; miraculous
6. historically
7. God

# CHAPTER 3: Is the Bible True? (Part 1)

## Discovering Answers to Three Questions that Demonstrate Manuscript Integrity

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 2

### Making the Discovery

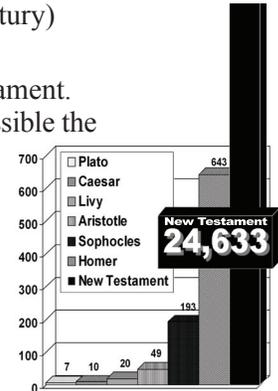
1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a handwritten copy of an original writing. This was the means of duplication prior to the invention of the Guttenberg printing press in the fifteenth century.
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ is the first or original writing of any work. No originals have been found of *any* ancient literature.
3. To ask if a manuscript has \_\_\_\_\_ is to ask if it is genuine or true to the autograph. The New Testament Gospels claim to have originated as autographs in the eyewitness generation of Jesus (first century) and were hand copied over the centuries without major changes in content.
4. There are three questions used to determine the integrity of ancient writings like the New Testament.

**Question 1.** How \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten copies have been found? (More is better, making possible the detection of copyist errors so the text of the original autograph can be restored more accurately.)

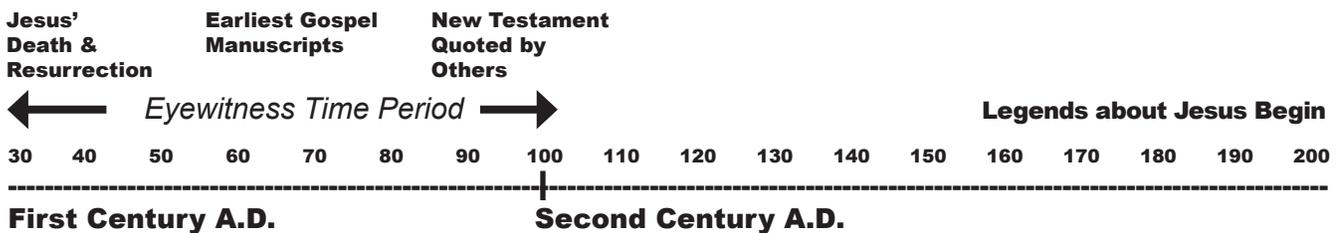
**Answer.** The number of discovered handwritten copies of ancient writings varies from 1–643, with most writings having fewer than 30. In contrast, the New Testament has more than \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten copies.

**Question 2.** How \_\_\_\_\_ are these handwritten copies? (Closer to authorship is better since they would have fewer accumulated copyist errors.)

**Answer.** The interval between the date of writing and the earliest known manuscript of other ancient works varies from 300–1,500 years. In contrast, there are full Gospels within 100 years of authorship, New Testament quotes in other writings within 30–50 years, and manuscript fragments of Matthew, Mark and Luke within 15 years of authorship. These are within the \_\_\_\_\_ generation of Jesus. No other ancient writing has this!



### The Origin of the New Testament



**Question 3.** How \_\_\_\_\_ are these handwritten copies? (A low distortion rate is desired. That is, there are few changes which affect the meaning of the text when comparing different manuscript copies.)

**Answer.** The New Testament we use today is essentially \_\_\_\_\_ the same as what was recorded of the first century eyewitness accounts.

5. The New Testament has \_\_\_\_\_ integrity than all other ancient writings.



## Ah- FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #3

ha! The New Testament records in our Bible today are essentially unchanged from eyewitness accounts of Jesus!

### Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, writer Luke claimed that his Gospel is factual because it was from eyewitnesses of Jesus who were still alive when he wrote (Luke 1:1-4). Jesus taught that His Word (recorded in the Bible) is truth (John 8:31). Peter's claim that his teaching and writing is authentic is based on the fact that he was with Jesus during His ministry, that is, he was an eyewitness (2 Peter 1:16). He also taught that those who were God's instruments to write the Bible did not write from human ability, desire or knowledge, but were inspired to record the mind of God through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

#### Answers:

1. manuscript
2. autograph
3. integrity
4. many; 24,600; early; eyewitness; accurate; 99.8%
5. greater



# CHAPTER 4: Is the Bible True? (Part 2)

## Discovering Archaeological Evidence which Confirms the Bible is Historically Reliable

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 2

### Making the Discovery

1. To be \_\_\_\_\_ reliable a writing must be factual: containing information about real people, real places, and actual events. Historically reliable writings are often written by eyewitnesses of the events they write about.
2. Writings which are \_\_\_\_\_, on the other hand, are exaggerated or fictional accounts of individuals, places or events. Legends are often written by people who lived at least 150 years *after* the events they write about.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ evidence, such as archaeological discoveries, supports the historical reliability of the Bible. Archaeology has consistently affirmed the credibility of the New Testament as history.

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ are real. For example, Jesus' brother James, Pontius Pilate, and Caiaphas.

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ are real. For example, the Capernaum synagogue, Peter's home, and the Pool of Siloam.

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ are described correctly. For example, the Roman census, and Jesus' crucifixion.



Dr. Boyd SeEVERS

Site of Peter's house in Capernaum.

4. The discovery of early \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament supports the historical reliability of the New Testament.

Legends have never been shown to originate and be accepted as historically true in the same generation as the actual events. Since the New Testament Gospels have been shown to be eyewitness accounts, they cannot be legends. This is especially true when the records are tested with people living in the same area as the people and events themselves.

...[F]or these [New Testament] stories to be legends, the rate of legendary accumulation would have to be 'unbelievable'; more generations are needed.... [E]ven the span of two generations is too short to allow legendary tendencies to wipe out the hard core of historical fact (A.N. Sherwin-White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*, p. 190).

5. The testimony of \_\_\_\_\_ affirms the historical accuracy of the New Testament.



## Ah- FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #4

ha! Archaeological discoveries have confirmed that the New Testament writings are historically reliable!

6. Whether the New Testament is historically reliable (trustworthy eyewitness records) is the essential condition for testing the claim that \_\_\_\_\_ is God.

### Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, the apostle John testified that he was writing about a Jesus whom he actually heard speak, actually saw, and actually embraced in his arms—a real man of history! Yet Jesus existed from eternity and in Him is eternal life (1 John 1:1-2). Just like the holy prophets spoke and recorded the Old Testament truth of God, so the apostles of Jesus spoke and recorded the truth recorded as the New Testament. Both are authoritative Scripture (2 Peter 3:2). Jesus fully expected that His words recorded in the New Testament would be preserved intact throughout the centuries and that all people will be held accountable to them (John 12:48). The Holy Spirit revealed to the apostle John that God will judge anyone who adds or subtracts from the Word of God. Its preservation through the ages as the New Testament records is assumed (Revelation 22:18-19).

#### Answers:

1. historically
2. legends
3. External; people; places; events
4. manuscripts
5. scholars
6. Jesus



# CHAPTER 5: Is Jesus Really God?

## Discovering that He Often Said So!

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 3

### Making the Discovery

1. While he lived on earth, Jesus made extraordinary claims that He is \_\_\_\_\_ incarnate. The concept of the incarnation is the biblical teaching that God came to earth in the form of the man Jesus Christ who had both the nature of God and the nature of man.
2. Jesus claimed that as \_\_\_\_\_ He is also divine (Matthew 22:41-46). Jesus, the Christ (Messiah or “anointed one”) was identified in this passage as divine (Hebrew “adonai” = God). Elsewhere in the Old Testament it is revealed that the Messiah is the one who would die for the sins of the people and reign forever as King on David’s throne. David’s “son” (Messiah) was David’s God!
3. Jesus claimed that His name is \_\_\_\_\_, the name of God (John 8:53, 56-59). For this the Jews tried to stone Him because they viewed it as blasphemy. To speak blasphemy is to speak about God or sacred things with abuse or contempt, cursing or reviling God and being irreverent. (See Leviticus 24:16.)
4. Jesus claimed to be \_\_\_\_\_ (equal) with the Father (John 10:30) sharing all His divine attributes. The Jews tried to stone Him again for what seemed to them to be blasphemy.
5. Jesus claimed He could give \_\_\_\_\_ life to anyone (John 5:21). Only God has this authority and power.
6. Jesus claimed He is “from \_\_\_\_\_” and “not of this world” (John 8:23-24). He also said that unless people embrace Him through faith as God, they will die eternally because of their sins.
7. The New Testament cites many other occasions on which Jesus claimed to be God. Extreme reactions of those who were eyewitnesses reinforce the fact that His claims about Himself were extraordinary. People around Him were clearly astonished. Some even considered His claims blasphemous and determined that He should be put to death (Matthew 26:63-66).



**Ah-  
ha!**

## **FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #5**

**Eyewitnesses testified that Jesus claimed to be God!**

### Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, the Old and New Testaments are clear that the promised Messiah would be both man and God. Jesus claimed that He gave His life as a ransom for sin, but God says in Psalm 49:7 that no man can redeem the life of another or ransom them. Hence, Jesus must be claiming to be more than a man *and* without sin, as no other man ever was or is (Psalm 49:7; Mark 10:45). By claiming that He could give and guarantee eternal life to His followers, Jesus was promising what only God—with absolute power and authority—could deliver (John 10:27-28). During His temptations in the wilderness Jesus stated that only God must be worshiped. His acceptance of worship without objection during His ministry is an indirect way of claiming divinity (Matthew 28:16-17; John 9:38). It was prophesied that a child would be born in Galilee of the Gentiles who would be called “Mighty God” and “Eternal Father.” Little Bethlehem would deliver a ruler of Israel who is “from the days of eternity.” Jesus fulfills both prophecies: Son of Man and Lord God (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6)!

#### Answers:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. God     | 4. one     |
| 2. Messiah | 5. eternal |
| 3. I AM    | 6. above   |

# CHAPTER 6: Revealing the Truth about Jesus

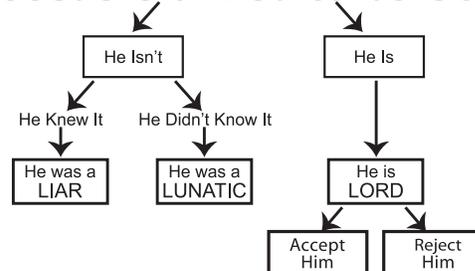
## Discovering that Jesus' Miracles and Resurrection Substantiate His Claim to be God

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 3

### Making the Discovery

- Jesus is named “\_\_\_\_\_” in the New Testament. This is from the Greek word “kurios” which in this context means “supreme one” and is equivalent to God. What did Jesus do to convince people that indeed He is Lord?
  - Jesus demonstrated His authority to \_\_\_\_\_ and heal sickness (Luke 5:17-26). Removal of the man’s paralysis proved—to the mindset of the Jewish audience present—that Jesus removed the sin which they thought caused it. Only God can forgive offenses against Himself.
  - Jesus demonstrated His authority over \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 7:11-16). Jesus broke the power death had over humankind because of their sin. Only God could have the power to conquer death and give eternal life in its place.
  - Jesus demonstrated His authority over \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 8:22-25). Scientists refer to the “laws” of nature, but Jesus had control over them because as God, He is the “law-maker.”
  - Jesus demonstrated His authority over \_\_\_\_\_ spirits (Luke 4:33-36). The people asked, “What is this message?” This means, “What does this miracle tell us about who He is?” Only God or the head of the demons could do this. Jesus told them how foolish it was to think His power was other than that of God (Matthew 12:24-29).
- The evidence of Jesus’ claims and miracles is the basis for a conclusion about His identity. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a conclusion based on legal evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt. What options do we have?
  - Jesus could be a \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus cannot be a great moral teacher and also the greatest liar who ever lived (based on the billions of people who would have been deceived). This option is false because His character throughout the historical accounts supports a person of the highest virtue and integrity. This option is false because it is inconceivable that Jesus could sustain a committed following for several years without being detected as a fraud. This option is false because He was authenticated by His resurrection from the dead.
  - Jesus could be a \_\_\_\_\_. If Jesus really thought He was God, but wasn’t, He’d have to be severely mentally deluded. This option is false because Jesus manifested no symptoms of psychiatric disorders. Rather, He demonstrated qualities of excellent mental health. This option is false because He was authenticated by His resurrection from the dead.
  - Jesus could be \_\_\_\_\_. This option is most consistent with the evidence already considered. It is also true because there can be no greater credential to authenticate Jesus’ claim to be God than the objective evidence of His physical resurrection.
- Evidence for Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ from the grave is compelling.
  - The tomb of Jesus was empty on the third day after His death.
  - Jesus appeared physically to many people after His resurrection.
  - The lives of the disciples were transformed from fearful to bold, even to the point of being martyrs for Him.

### Jesus Claimed to be God



**Ah- FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #6**  
**ha! The compelling evidence of Jesus' miracles and resurrection**  
**from the dead confirmed His claim to be God!**

### Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, Jesus taught that we should recognize Him as the true Son of God because He did the works (miracles and teaching of truth) of His Father (John 10:37-38). The apostle John acknowledged that Jesus did many more miracles than are recorded in our Gospels. He also stated that the miracles should lead us to faith and eternal life in Him (John 20:30-31). In an incredible summary of Jesus' identity, the writer of Hebrews identified Him as: the Son of God; God's heir; Creator of the world; truly God just like His Father; sustainer of the creation; Redeemer of humanity; and ultimate judge with His Father (Hebrews 1:2-3). God spoke through the apostle John and said that He was dead and is alive again (Revelation 1:8, 17-18)! When did God die? This can only be explained if He is referring to Jesus' death and resurrection. This proves that Jesus is God.

#### Answers:

- Lord; forgive sin; death; nature; demonic
- verdict; liar; lunatic; Lord
- resurrection



# CHAPTER 7: When is Faith Valid?

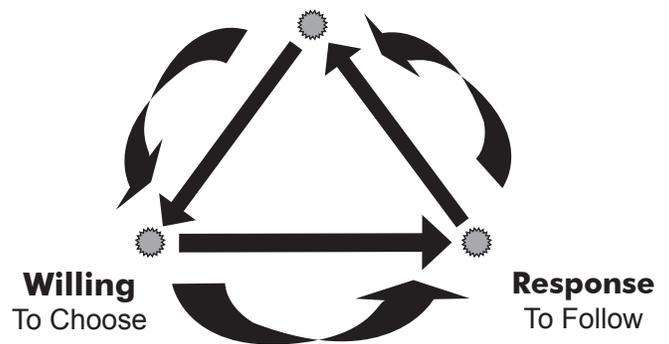
## Discovering the Teaching of the Bible on this Often-Misunderstood Subject

*Surprised by Faith*, chapter 4

### Making the Discovery

1. Many people in society have a \_\_\_\_\_ of the nature and meaning of Christian faith.
2. “Faith” is the translation of the Greek \_\_\_\_\_ form and “believe” is the translation of the Greek \_\_\_\_\_ form of the same biblical concept. The words may be substituted for each other in most passages, such as John 3:16, without changing the essential meaning of “trust.”
3. The Bible identifies \_\_\_\_\_ as one of the essential components of personal faith.
  - a. According to Romans 10:13-15, people cannot believe in Jesus if they have never \_\_\_\_\_ of Him.
  - b. That is because biblical faith must have an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The object of Christian faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. The \_\_\_\_\_ of your Christian faith is not dependent on how you feel (e.g. always sincere) or whether you have doubts, but rather on the genuineness of whom you are trusting, i.e. Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17).
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers about Jesus is something we must do if we expect them to know about and have faith in Him.
4. The Bible identifies the \_\_\_\_\_ as a second essential component of personal faith.
  - a. A hardened \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. will) can keep us from personal faith (Hebrews 4:7).
  - b. Each person must \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Jesus to have Christian faith.
5. The Bible identifies our \_\_\_\_\_ as a third essential component of personal faith.
  - a. The parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32) demonstrates the importance of being \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Jesus said, “... \_\_\_\_\_” (meaning to make a commitment to obey His teaching) to everyone who wanted to be His disciple (Matthew 16:24).

### Knowledge — Of Jesus Christ



## Ah-ha! FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #7

Christian faith is valid because its object, Jesus Christ, is certain!

### Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, we discovered that faith must have an object and that object is Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17). People who are either ignorant of that fact or have hardened their hearts to that truth are separated from God (Ephesians 4:18) for Jesus is the only One who can bring God and people together (1 Timothy 2:5). God made His salvation perfectly clear through the Lord’s own words which were confirmed by His eyewitness disciples. But even more convincing was God’s authentication through miracles and through spiritual gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 2:3-4). As a result of Jesus’ sacrificial death and resurrection, He has been exalted to the highest authority in the universe and all humanity will ultimately acknowledge and confess His Lordship (Philippians 2:9-11). Until then, those believe are to be witnesses, proclaiming that in Jesus’ name there is forgiveness of sin (Luke 24:46-48).

#### Answers:

1. misunderstanding
2. noun; verb
3. knowledge; heard; object; Jesus Christ; genuineness; Telling
4. will; heart; choose
5. response; obedient; follow me

# CHAPTER 8: A Miracle of New Life from Above

## Discovering the Life-Changing Dimensions of Faith

Surprised by Faith, chapter 4

### Making the Discovery

Becoming a Christian is more than subscribing to a certain set of religious beliefs. There are at least three life-changing dimensions of faith.

1. Besides the three essential components of biblical faith identified in the previous chapter, becoming a Christian must also include a \_\_\_\_\_ component.

- Jesus told the religious leader, Nicodemus, that he must have “\_\_\_\_\_” (spiritually and miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit) in order to enter God’s Kingdom (John 3:3).
- Jesus taught that everyone who believes in Him will receive the indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:16-17).

2. As a result of God’s miraculous new creation within us, faith produces three life-changing dimensions.

- Becoming a Christian establishes you in a new \_\_\_\_\_. Two personal beings, God and you, are reconciled through the forgiveness of sin. You become a child of God and God lives within you. In other words, *you are family* (John 1:12; 14:16-17).
- Becoming a Christian releases you into a new \_\_\_\_\_. God’s grace has set you free from the destructive power of sin to become all you were created to be. You do not have to perform sets of rules and regulations in order to earn God’s favor, but are disciplined by His grace and motivated by His love (Ephesians 2:8-9) to obey Him.
- Becoming a Christian qualifies you for a new \_\_\_\_\_. You realize there is ultimate and absolute justice. Death is not final. You have the confidence of God’s promise that He is preparing an eternal home for you in heaven (1 John 5:11-13; John 14:1-3).

3. Faith is not merely subjective, but has \_\_\_\_\_ realities as well.

- The historical person of Jesus Christ is an objective reality.
- The observable results in a believer’s life are objective reality.

Both of these realities can be evaluated. A changed life can be tested in two ways. The first test is to consider the number of people who claim the same results in their life. For instance, if millions of people say they have experienced inner peace, love and joy after becoming a Christian, it gives their faith greater objective credibility. The second test is to observe the behavior of those who claim to be Christians. Generally, are they more “Christ-like” than before they became Christians? If so, it gives statistical confirmation of the power of faith to transform lives.



## Ah- FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #8

ha! Becoming a Christian is a MIRACLE of new life by the Holy Spirit resulting in a new relationship, freedom, and hope!

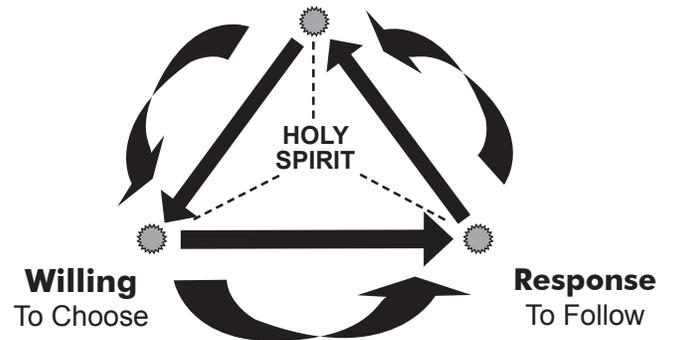
### Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, God does a miracle in our lives when we confess faith in Jesus, and sets us free from our bondage to sin and death (1 John 5:4). Grace and forgiveness are necessary because we are morally and spiritually bankrupt before a holy God. As a gift, salvation cannot be earned by any good deeds we do (Ephesians 2:8-9). As a result, we have a personal relationship with God because we are created anew by the Holy Spirit who indwells us. We are adopted into His very family as His children (Galatians 4:6-7). Having the Holy Spirit within us means that we please God because God Himself is transforming our lives by inspiring our wills and empowering our response to obey His Word (Philippians 2:13). These life changes which God causes in us are a testimony to the unbeliever. Unbelievers are drawn to our heavenly Father because of the integrity and holiness they observe in us (Matthew 5:16).

#### Answers:

- miraculous; new life from above; Holy Spirit
- relationship; freedom; hope
- objective

### Knowledge — Of Jesus Christ



# CHAPTER 9: How Can I Know God?

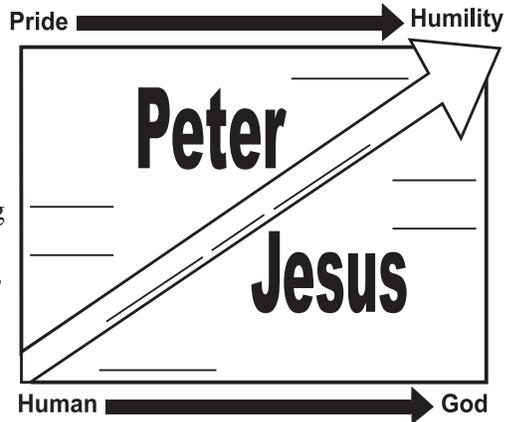
## Discovering the Stumbling Block Along the Path to Faith

Surprised by Faith, chapter 6

### Making the Discovery

The fisherman Peter, before he became a disciple of Jesus, illustrated an important spiritual principle. (See Luke 5:1-11.) This principle keeps many people from knowing God in personal relationship.

- Peter thought he knew more about fishing than Jesus did. He was a fishing “\_\_\_\_\_” (professional)—thinking he would not catch any fish by going out on the lake again even though Jesus told him to.
- Peter first referred to Jesus as “\_\_\_\_\_”—a title of respect (like rabbi) but does not recognize Him as God.
- After catching two boat loads of fish, Peter was repentant of his unbelieving spirit and referred to himself as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Peter also now referred to Jesus as the “\_\_\_\_\_” (Greek “kurios,” i.e. supreme one, over all) recognizing Him as God.
- In this incident with Jesus, Peter went from pride to humility, a change that must occur on each person’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is what keeps many people from faith in Jesus Christ. Pride is thinking of ourselves as better than others; as self-sufficient and independent from God; not humble. Pride is the chief cause of misery and alienation in the world. Wars, divorce, and other maladies of life can often be traced to the competitiveness of uncontrolled egos. Pride is also the greatest deterrent which keeps us from a relationship with God. A refusal to say “I’m sorry” to God for our sins, and a reluctance to renounce our independent self-sufficiency keep us from knowing God.
- Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is necessary on our path to faith. Spiritual brokenness is the change in one’s personal perception from a self-sufficient and conceited “pro” to a “sinner” repentant before God; a conviction that results from the work of God’s Spirit. The Bible makes it clear that the path to the Christian faith involves recognizing our pride of self-sufficiency and being sorrowful for our sins which separate us from a holy God.
- When spiritual brokenness occurs in our life, our perspective also changes. We no longer view Jesus as just a human teacher of good morals; rather we make a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith to follow Him as the Lord of our life.



**Ah- ha!** **FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #9**  
**Pride keeps more people from faith and forgiveness in Jesus Christ than any other factor!**

### Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, both the Old and New Testaments teach the doctrine of universal sin which has separated everyone in the entire human race from a relationship with their holy God (Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:9, 22-23). Often sin is manifested as pride and independence from God, which God calls evil and which God hates (Proverbs 8:13). In contrast, God calls humility good and says that it pleases Him when we walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). Pride makes us blind to the ways of God and leads to a life of moral error and eternal destruction in the end (Proverbs 16:18). On the other hand, God promises that if in humbleness we seek Him and forsake our sin, He will hear us, forgive us and restore what sin had destroyed (2 Chronicles 7:14).

#### Answers:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. pro  | 6. Pride      |
| 2. master   | 7. brokenness |
| 3. sinner   | 8. commitment |
| 4. Lord   |               |
| 5. path to faith; Illustration: (left) The Pro; (bottom left) Master; (top right) Sinner; (right) The Lord; (arrow) Path to Faith |               |



# CHAPTER 10: Discovering the “Ah-ha!” of Life

## Taking the First Step of a Faith Commitment to Follow Jesus

Surprised by Faith, chapter 6

### Making the Discovery

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ the world by his infinite wisdom and power (Intelligent Design).
2. Two thousand years ago God became \_\_\_\_\_ in the person of Jesus Christ and lived in the world He had created.
3. Jesus Christ was my \_\_\_\_\_ in His death on the cross.
4. Jesus Christ was my \_\_\_\_\_ from sin into a forgiven and personal relationship with God.
5. Jesus Christ broke the power of death by His \_\_\_\_\_ from the grave.
6. I enter into a personal relationship with God upon \_\_\_\_\_ with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ in my heart that He was resurrected from the dead (Romans 10:9).
7. In taking this step to know God, I confess that Jesus Christ is
  - a. My \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. My \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. My Resurrected \_\_\_\_\_



# Ah-ha!

### FAITHSEARCH DISCOVERY #10

I can experience a vital relationship with God and the assurance of life after death by a confession of faith in Jesus Christ through prayer!

### Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, the consistent testimony of Scripture is that salvation for all people is through Jesus alone (Acts 4:12; compare John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5 and 1 John 5:11-12). As a result of our confession of faith in Jesus, we are redeemed from sin and eternal death, and stand humbly before the throne of God without condemnation (Romans 8:1-2). In Christ we have settled with God “out of court.” We also enjoy an incredible privilege to be spiritually adopted into the family of God because the Holy Spirit conceives new life within us. We are God’s own adopted children and receive from Him our inheritance of eternal life (Galatians 4:6-7). To live our lives victoriously, we are commanded to submit, draw near, and humble ourselves before God. As a result the devil will flee from us, and God will draw near and exalt us (James 4:7-8,10). Finally, Jesus clearly stated that God’s will is for all to have eternal life through faith in His Son, and that He personally guarantees our own resurrection (John 6:40).

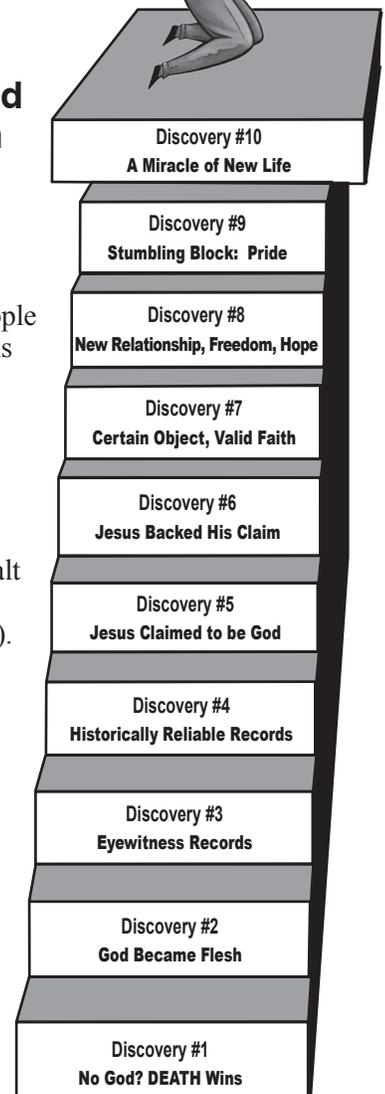
#### Answers:

1. created
2. incarnate
3. substitute
4. redeemer

5. resurrection
6. confession; believing
7. Creator; Redeemer; Lord



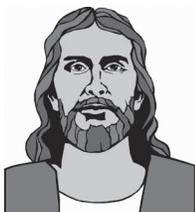
# Ah-ha!



# Discovering the Truth about Jesus the Christ

## Who is Jesus?

Jesus was born into a Jewish family 2,000 years ago. He grew up in the small town of Nazareth in Israel. When He was about thirty, and for three years, He began speaking a unique message and performing unusual deeds throughout the region.



People in the world today hold different views about Jesus: Who's right? The only way to decide for sure is to study the detailed biographies of Jesus in the biblical Gospels. But these documents are nearly 2,000 years old. Are they an authentic and historically reliable record of the words and deeds of Jesus? Did Jesus actually claim to be God? If so, why should we believe Him? And if the facts should reveal His claim is true, then what?

## The Eyewitness Evidence

**FaithSearch** Discovery, which you have just completed, demonstrated that the Gospel accounts of Jesus in the Bible are reliable sources of history. We can step into the eyewitnesses' shoes via their accounts. With the authors' ears we can hear what Jesus claimed and with their eyes see what He did.

## What Jesus Said

**“What do you think about the Christ [Messiah], whose son is He?”** (Matthew 22:42)

King David in Psalm 110:1 referred to his descendent, the Messiah, as Lord—using the name of God for Him (Hebrew=*Adonai*). Jesus used this to point out that as Messiah, He is both man and God.

**“I and the Father are One.”** (John 10:30, NIV)

“One” here means “essence”: Jesus and God the Father are equals and share all the divine attributes. This fits the grammar perfectly, and explains the Pharisees' attempt to stone Him for blasphemy, because by saying this, He claimed to be God.

## What Jesus Did

He **“rebuked the wind and the surging waves... and it became calm.”** (Luke 8:24-25)

Jesus' mastery over nature was so instant and decisive that those with Him appropriately asked, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?”

**“Young man, I say to you, arise!”** (Luke 7:14)

Jesus said that He had the same power as God the Father to give eternal life to whomever He wished (John 5:21). Meeting a funeral procession carrying a widow's son for burial, Jesus proved it by raising her son from the dead. Seeing Jesus' power over death, the people exclaimed, “God has visited His people!”



## The Evidence of Jesus' Resurrection

There is no greater credential to authenticate Jesus' claim to be God than His own resurrection.

### The Empty Tomb Affirms His Resurrection

The tomb, which was covered with a sealed, one-and-a-half ton stone, was guarded by Roman soldiers. There was no defensible explanation for the missing Jesus except His resurrection.



### His Post-resurrection Appearances Affirm His Resurrection

The Gospels record ten distinct post-resurrection physical appearances of Jesus—to both believers and unbelievers, and to over 500 at one time.

### Transformed Lives Affirm His Resurrection

After seeing Him alive again, Jesus' disciples were transformed from scared, hiding men into bold proclaimers of His resurrection, willing to become martyrs for their conviction.

## Conclusion

The eyewitness evidence clearly proves Jesus' claim to be the incarnation of the infinite and personal God.

**We are each faced with Jesus' timeless question: “But what about you? ... Who do you say I am?”** (Luke 9:20, NIV)

## The Value of Discovery

The historical records and the eyewitness evidence helped us to discover the truth that Jesus is God. But so what?

Compare being faced with

two problems: curing

a terminal illness and solving a math equation.

Discovering the truth about Jesus is more like finding the cure for the terminal illness. Unlike the math answer, we would never be content merely to *discover* the cure. We would make it our highest priority to apply the cure to our illness so we could live. The value of discovering the truth about Jesus is in *applying* it to our life situation.

$$x + y = ?$$

The Bible says that **“all have sinned”** (Romans 3:23) and further that **“the wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23a). We all have a terminal spiritual illness within us that will—sooner or later—take our life. But Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies...”** (John 11:25). Discovering the truth about Jesus is realizing that a loving God has provided the cure that replaces despair with hope. The Bible says, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”** (John 3:16, NIV).

Remember, though, that the value of the discovery is in *applying* it. To be healed from a terminal physical illness, we must trust ourselves to the doctor who administers the cure. Likewise, we submit ourselves to God, the Great Physician, as described in the Bible:



**“...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”** (Romans 10:9).

Unlike costly medicine, the cure God offers us is absolutely free. The Bible says, **“...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 6:23b). That’s the truth about Jesus!

We invite you to experience the power of resurrection life that Jesus promised. The Bible says that **“as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God”** (John 1:12). Let the truth about Jesus give you a future and a hope. **Talk to God right now with a simple prayer like this one:**

Dear God,

Having discovered the truth about Jesus, I want to experience the miracle of new life that He came to give. I believe that Jesus is Lord, and that He was resurrected from the dead. I confess my sin which has separated me from You and turn from it. Thank You for forgiving me, and for Your promise of eternal life in heaven with You when I die. I want to follow You in obedience through the guidance of Your Word.

Amen.

## Taking the Next Step

If you have made a faith commitment to Jesus for the first time in your life, or if this booklet has helped you to renew your faith in Jesus, the Christ, then congratulations! As a first step in growing in your relationship with Jesus, start reading the Bible, perhaps beginning with the Gospel of Mark. Look for a Christian church where you can receive encouragement and further instruction in following Jesus. For more information, contact:

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— Personal Notes —

— Personal Notes —