

# Why Is Jesus Christ the Main Character?

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From our [“Who Are the Important Characters?”](#) PDF, we suggested that the “main character” from the Bible, especially as it relates to why you should consider believing in Christ, is, of course, Jesus Christ Himself. Some might argue that it should be God because without Him, none of us would be here. True. But, if we weren’t here, that would negate the need for Jesus. No, as it relates to us, and why we should believe in Christ, Jesus needs to be our primary focus.

Here are just some of the ways Jesus Christ has been described, and He is certainly all these things:

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|--------------------------------|-------------|--|
| ✠ The Only Begotten Son of God | ✠ The Way   | ✠ The Prince of Peace                  |
| ✠ God in the flesh             | ✠ The Truth | ✠ The Bread of Life                    |
| ✠ The God-Man                  | ✠ The Life  | ✠ The Good Shepherd                    |
| ✠ The Messiah                  | ✠ The Light | ✠ Our Lord and Savior                  |
| ✠ The Word                     | ✠ The Door  | ✠ The King of Kings, the Lord of Lords |

But to fully understand the impact Jesus Christ has had on humanity, we must first understand where humanity stood just before Jesus’ arrival on earth<sup>1</sup>. We were clearly a sorry lot. The intent behind God’s laws as given to Moses was no longer being followed by the Jewish people. Sin was rampant. The Romans were oppressing and persecuting the Jews, God’s chosen people. The Jewish religious leaders of the day, the Pharisees and Sadducees, were preaching God’s rules but not living by them, and they were teaching more the precepts of man and not God’s Word. These leaders were more concerned with being openly exalted by the people than getting the people to exalt God. Yes, the religious leaders still worshipped God, but it was more in the practice of rituals than it was being in awe of Him.

For example, through Moses, in Leviticus 16:34, God commanded the religious leaders of Old Testament times to honor the Day of Atonement with a living blood sacrifice of bulls and goats in the Temple of Jerusalem, to atone for the sins committed by the Jewish people – and the religious leaders never failed to do so:

*“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” Leviticus 16:34*

But it had come to pass that too many of God’s chosen people thought that if they honored this commitment once a year, they could then sin for the rest of the year. This behavior was completely unacceptable to God. Something needed to change. As the Savior of humanity, Jesus Christ was the needed change; and that is why we consider Him to be the Bible’s most important character.

Of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, only Jesus took on the role of being human. This is critical for two reasons:

1. It allowed Jesus to live among the crowds as one of their own flesh; and
2. It allowed Jesus to be crucified - to die on the cross as flesh - and then be resurrected from the dead.

Just sit and think about that for a moment. A man of the flesh, who also possessed all the powers of He who created the universe (and everything in it), lived on earth surrounded by people who were just like you and me. Wow! Here is how the Apostle John, a disciple who accompanied Jesus throughout His entire ministry, made the wonder of Christ even more observable:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:1-5*

*“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.” John 1:9-10*

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth”. John 1:14*

*“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16-17*

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus has always been present, with God the Father and Creator, from the beginning. In His human form He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of Mary on earth between 6 and 5 BC.

John the Baptist, the one who baptized Jesus, proclaimed:

**“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29b**

Truly, if Jesus walked among us today, wouldn't you want to get to know such a man?

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the flesh; thus, He was God and man. Had He not paid for our sins with His death on the cross, humanity's salvation would not have been possible. We would all be condemned to die without the promise of an eternal life in heaven. We would not be able to avail ourselves of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ changed all of that, and to understand how and why, you need to fully understand three of Jesus' four earthly missions:

1. **Mission #1: To be crucified on the cross.** Jesus' death is sufficient to pay the penalty due for all of humanity's sins (past, present, and future), once and for all. Because He was sinless, His sacrifice takes away our sins, and as a result, annual sacrifices, which merely covered sins, are no longer needed. Our debt to God for having sinned has been paid in full through His Son's dying on the cross for us. With Jesus' death, the atonement for our sins is complete and our debt to God for sinning is paid in full, forever! A sinful, mortal person's death could not have achieved this. Only the sinless Jesus had the ability to pay for our sins.
2. **Mission #2: To be resurrected from the dead.** Jesus was resurrected from the dead in an imperishable body to prove that eternal life, for those who believe in Him, is possible. With His death on the cross as perishable flesh, followed by His resurrection in an imperishable body, Jesus demonstrated the reality of eternal life.
3. **Mission #3: To spread His teachings and introduce a New Covenant to peoples of all nations – Jewish and Gentiles alike.** Jesus' New Covenant, sealed with His sinless blood from having been crucified on the cross, is a promise that those who believe in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life; and Fruit of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon those who follow His commandments and seek His righteousness. For the roughly three and a half years of His ministry, Jesus taught His disciples; then He tasked them with spreading His teachings and the New Covenant throughout the world. And they were successful in creating a body of professed believers which, 2,000 years later, surpasses two billion in number. Jesus's teachings not only explain why His crucifixion and resurrection needed to take place, but more importantly, exactly how we are to believe in and follow Him. And His New Covenant gives those choosing to abide in Him with a repentant and enduring faith, both the Holy Spirit and eternal life.
4. **Mission #4: To permanently defeat Satan and conduct the Great White Throne Judgment:** Jesus' fourth earthly mission is known as “His Second Coming” and this time, He will arrive on earth and defeat all of Satan's forces and will judge all the dead who were not raptured. Those who were not raptured will be judged according to their deeds during what many religious scholars call the Great White Throne Judgment. Here Jesus will read from the *Book of Life*, and if a person's name is not found in this book, they will be sent to the Lake of Fire for eternity. Jesus permanently banishes Satan to the Lake of Fire for eternity as well.

## The Gospel

Everybody likes good news, right? The Gospel of Jesus Christ is just that – Good News. In fact, the word *Gospel*, in Greek (the original language of the New Testament) means “Good News”. So exactly what is the Good News? While it is explained in greater detail in I Corinthians 15:1-4, the short version is:

*Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins, and He was resurrected on the third day.*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ covers His first two earthly missions: to be crucified on the cross and to be resurrected. The key to our salvation (having eternal life) requires that we firmly, honestly, and sincerely believe in Christ **and** in His Gospel. Eternal life, and trust and belief in Jesus Christ, go hand in hand. This spiritual “quid pro quo” is spoken throughout the New Testament. Their relationship is clearly set forth in the following Scripture verses:

- ✚ Jesus told the Pharisee, Nicodemus: **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** [John 3:16]
- ✚ Speaking to His disciple Thomas during the Last Supper: **“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the Life [eternal life]; no one comes to the Father [in heaven] but through Me.’”** [John 14:6]
- ✚ Speaking to a crowd the day after He fed the 5,000 with just a few loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus told them: **“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”** [John 6:47]

- ✚ Speaking to a crowd of Jewish people on the Sabbath, Jesus told them: **“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”** [John 5:24]

When we believe in Jesus Christ, and in His Gospel, we are glorifying God. We are saying God, I believe you sent Your only begotten Son for me, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins so I won't have to; and I believe Your only begotten Son was resurrected on the third day, proving that eternal life is possible for me if I choose to believe in Him. God views our willingness to believe that His Son did all that for us as glorifying Him. In so doing, we gain God's free gift of everlasting life. As Jesus tells us in John 14:25-27, God gives us something else too.

**“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”**

## **Fruit of The Holy Spirit**

When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are creating a relationship that did not exist before. Inside of that relationship, we will become familiar with the two commandments that Jesus Christ asks us to keep demonstrating our love for Him, and by extension, His Father:

**“and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”** Mark 12:30-31

Having a repentant, abiding, and enduring faith in Christ, believing in Him, and keeping His commandments, and seeking His righteousness over our own self-righteousness, we also gain Fruit of the Holy Spirit:

**“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”** Acts 2:38

**“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”** Acts 5:32

**“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”** Ephesians 1:13

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”** [Galatians 5:22 – 23]

The gifts available to us as a result of believing in Jesus Christ are no less than life altering. Each and every one of them will dramatically enhance the quality of our life – both here in the present world and later, when we get to join Christ in His kingdom.

And it is Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who makes all this possible.

## **Summary**

No man in the history of humanity has even come close to the character and accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Think about it. No other man:

- Had His arrival on earth prophesied by many different people, hundreds and hundreds of years before it happened;
- Performed miracles on a regular basis;
- Read hearts and minds with clarity and certainty;
- Showed immense compassion, even toward those who killed Him;
- On three different occasions, correctly predicted the manner, time and place of His death;
- Allowed Himself to be crucified for the benefit of others, to honor His Father's will and not His own;
- Declared Himself to be God - and was believed;
- Died to save humanity from its sins, granting those who believe in Him eternal life and Fruit of the Holy Spirit;
- Was resurrected from the dead, and whose resurrection was witnessed by hundreds, and attested to in writing by four eyewitnesses [Matthew, John, Peter and Paul]; and
- Gives those who choose to believe in Him a wonderful future to look forward to, with the coming of His Millennial kingdom.

Most importantly, Jesus Christ, at the young age of 33, gave it all up for us on the cross. That's why, in our thinking, Jesus Christ is the most important character – not only of the Bible, but also in our own lives.