

# Summary

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Congratulations on working through our website in your exploration of Why Believe in Christ. We trust you found our documents on this vital subject to be informative, inspirational, and helpful in answering your question “Should I?” If your answer is “No”, or “Not at this time”, we pray that we have at least planted a seed as to how having Christ in your life can benefit you if you find yourself in distress. It is not unusual for many to turn to Christ when they need Him the most.

If your answer is a “Yes, I have chosen to have Jesus Christ in my life”, congratulations on making what we think will prove to be the wisest decision you will ever make. Let us summarize what we feel are the most important things for you to embrace as you put your decision to be with Christ into practice.

## Why

In simple terms, we believe most Biblical Christians chose to have Jesus Christ in their lives for two reasons:

1. **Fruit of the Holy Spirit.** In this life, by choosing Christ as our Lord and Savior, we chose to be guided by Christ’s righteousness as exemplified by His Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We want to be filled with these qualities for the rest of our lives and we know that genuinely following Christ will bring them into our lives.
2. **Eternal Life in Heaven.** God has promised us that if we have a repentant, abiding, and enduring faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, we will spend eternity with Him in heaven and in splendor, as opposed to spending eternity with Satan in the lake of fire in agony.

## How

Scripture is very clear on how we develop and keep a right relationship with our Lord and Savior. Below is a diagram summarizing what we think are the “building-blocks” behind this important endeavor:



- **Information:** The Bible, being the inerrant and occasionally metaphorical Word of God, authored by the Holy Spirit and embedded in Christ, is our source of information. The Bible tells us everything we need to know about how God wants us to live our lives.
- **Understanding:** Because the Bible is a supernatural document, it’s rare to understand its meanings at first glance. Thus, we favor first learning from a Life Application/Study Bible because it has explanations of key Scripture passages to help us understand what the Bible is telling us. And as Proverbs 5:5 tells us, we should not rely only on our own understanding. Bible Study groups, when led by those who are knowledgeable in Scripture, are also great sources of understanding the complete meaning behind Scripture.
- **Belief:** When fully implemented, belief leaves zero room for doubt. As a result, we contend this stage of developing a right relationship with Jesus Christ will probably take the most time for people to achieve. Fully believing in Jesus is like crossing a line – you either cross it or you don’t. Here is a quick true story to explain this vital point. Two young men moved a 700-pound grand piano into a house that required lifting the piano up over four steps and a 16-inch rise. It took roughly three hours, but they did it. For almost any two people this would have been impossible. How did these two young men do it? They never had a doubt in their mind that they couldn’t. Fully believing in Jesus is not a mere expectation, but rather a complete lack of doubt. For many, fully believing in Jesus is a process that occurs in increments over a long period of time.
- **Faith and Trust:** Once our belief is without doubt, our faith and trust in the outcome is assured. That is why, as true Christians, we are comfortable committing to Christ and turning our lives over to Him – we have faith and trust that He will always do what is best for us according to God’s will and His purpose for us. An excellent Biblical example of this type of faith is the famous encounter between David and Goliath. David faced Goliath knowing God was right behind him. Two Scripture verses come to mind that confirm this:

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

*“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28*

When contemplating faith and trust, we must always remember that it is God’s will that shall be done, not ours. Yes, there will be times when bad things happen to us, and our temptation may be to ask God “why me?”. But even Jesus, praying on the night of His crucifixion when He was about to endure such a fate, confirmed His faith and trust in God: *“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” Luke 22:42*

- **Behavior:** In our pursuit of a right relationship with Christ, our faith and trust in Jesus will inevitably lead us to behaviors that clearly manifest the presence of this relationship. In our PDF document *“How to Turn Beliefs into Behaviors”* we outline several behaviors that when exercised, properly demonstrate our faith and belief in Christ. We believe, in just four Scripture verses, Christ summarizes what our behavior must always include:

*“One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘What commandment is the foremost of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 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 12:29-31

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* John 13:34-35

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”* John 14:21

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”* Matthew 7:21

*“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”* John 13:13-15

We must love God, do His will for us (seek to become righteous like Christ), love our neighbor as Christ loves us, keep Christ’s commandments, and serve our fellow man, especially those less fortunate. This is how we will have a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and when our time comes, enter heaven to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Connecting The Dots

Here are a few vital things to remember from all that we have shared with you:

- ✚ God is the Creator and Sovereign over all. God’s power is unimaginable and incomprehensible by man.
- ✚ Jesus and the Father are One.
- ✚ The Holy Trinity is real: God, the Father | God, the Son | God, the Holy Spirit. One God, three roles.
- ✚ The Bible is the inerrant and occasional metaphorical Word of God, and along with the Holy Spirit, is our guide to a right relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ✚ Satan is real and is always seeking to separate us from the one true God through lies, deceit, and false prophets.
- ✚ We are born in sin. We either remain there or because of our repentance, we change our ways and elect to walk with Christ. Thus, you either choose to walk with Christ or you remain in sin. There is no in between.
- ✚ There is a heaven and a hell, and we will spend eternity in one or the other.
- ✚ We must guard our heart from all evil for that is where the Holy Spirit indwells us.
- ✚ Our only access to Fruit of the Holy Spirit and heaven is through Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior.

## The Three Biggest Takeaways

Our website documents hopefully provided a lot of great information to help you get started on your walk with Christ. If we had to pick the top three “takeaways” we hope you will always carry with you from our website, they would be:

**The Myth Behind Christianity:** We suspect a multitude of “Christians” believe Christianity is a religion, and for many it is. But for Biblical Christians, whose principal understanding comes from the Word of God, Christianity is not a religion, but rather a relationship – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that comes first and foremost, before all others.

**The Critical Scripture:** The Bible is full of “critical” Scripture verses, and we have presented some of them above. But if we have to pick one that stands out as foundational in building a right relationship with Jesus, it is Matthew 7:22-23: *“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”* We do not ever want to be in a position where Christ tells us, “I never knew you”. To avoid this, seek to be worthy of living in His heart, so He will feel at home living in yours. We accomplish this by committing to and surrendering our lives to Christ, and by building a repentant, loving, serving, abiding, and enduring relationship with Him. Jesus Christ will know us by how well we embrace Him as our Lord and Savior and live accordingly.

**The Only Opinion That Matters:** When all is said and done, on our day of judgement before Christ, the only opinion that matters is His.