

Chapter 1 : We Say We Believe God's Word, But Do We Act Like It?

You see, those Christians who compromise with God's Word and claim that God used evolution to create have no good response for claims like those of Stephen Fry. If God did use millions of years of evolutionary processes, then He is responsible for all the death, suffering, disease, extinction, pain, cancer, and other evils in this world.

No single answer works every time. Therefore, you must first ask questions and discover what the person believes before you start defending the Bible. Ask if the person is an atheist, a Muslim, a skeptic, or an agnostic. Ask if he believes in evolution, aliens, or nothing. Ask if the person believes in God. If so, which kind? Does he believe that God is in us all, or that God is part of the universe, or if God is a personal being? You have to ask questions before you begin teaching. You must prepare the ground before planting the seeds. See if they agree with the facts concerning history, the Bible, Christianity, or other topics. Find out if the person is just being difficult or actually wants to talk. All of these things are important and affect how the conversation will go. Take an atheist, for example. A Muslim, on the other hand, believes in a god but will undoubtedly bring up alleged contradictions in the Bible in an attempt to discredit it. A Hindu might not even know what the Bible really is. You must ask questions to find out about the person. Does he believe in God or not? If the person does not believe in God, then you must discuss this before getting to the Bible. If the person believes in God, then Ask what religion the person is: Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Mormon, etc. Ask why the person does not believe the Bible is the word of God. Ask "why" to the answer. Sometimes it is good to repeat the answer in the form of a question. If the person says the Bible has contradictions, ask "Why do you believe the Bible has contradictions? Do you have any solid reasons for this? Examine the answers given to you to see if they are illogical, inaccurate, or emotional. Sometimes people have inaccurate information about the Bible. But the truth is that it is not fiction and it has not been changed. Sometimes people just hate religion, God, or anything that imposes morals. Other times people hate the idea that Jesus is God in flesh, or that He is the only way to salvation. Emotions must not be brushed aside. Listen to their responses and gently correct and point people to God.

Chapter 2 : Prayer - How Does Prayer Work - What Will God Answer

Have you noticed it's easier to believe what God says about Himself than what He says about you? Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8, NIV). We read those words and shout, "Amen! Hallelujah!" But He also said, "YOU are the light of the world" (Matthew 5, NIV, emphasis added). Hmmm.

Does God Answer Our Prayers? How does prayer work? Find out what God will answer When I was an atheist, I had a good friend who prayed often. She would tell me every week about something she was trusting God to take care of. And every week I would see God do something unusual to answer her prayer. Do you know how difficult it is for an atheist to observe this week after week? After a while, "coincidence" begins to sound like a very weak argument. The biggest reason is that she had a relationship with God. She wanted to follow God. And she actually listened to what he said. In her mind, God had the right to direct her in life, and she welcomed him doing just that! When she prayed for things, it was a natural part of her relationship with God. She felt very comfortable coming to God with her needs, her concerns, and whatever issues were current in her life. Furthermore, she was convinced, from what she read in the Bible, that God wanted her to rely on him like that. She pretty much exhibited what this statement from the Bible says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: They may know that God exists, and they might even worship God from time to time. Further, they have never received from God complete forgiveness for their sin. What does that have to do with it you ask? Here is an explanation. But your iniquities have separated you from your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. When people begin to ask God for something, what usually takes place? They begin with, "God, I really need your help with this problem They might not know that they can come into a relationship with God so that God will hear them. This is the foundation for God answering your prayer. How Does Prayer Work? You must first begin a relationship with God. Imagine that a guy named Mike asks the president of Princeton University to co-sign a car loan for him. Yet, if the daughter of this president asked her dad to co-sign a car loan for her, it would be no problem. With God, when the person is actually a child of God, when the person belongs to God, he knows them and hears their prayers. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. Do you have a relationship with him that warrants God answering your prayers? Or is God pretty distant, pretty much just a concept in your life? For those who do know him and rely on him, Jesus seems to be wildly generous in his offer: Here is another qualifier: And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him. And this is where it gets tough. We live within the limits of time and limits of knowledge. We have only limited information about a situation and the implications of future action on that situation. How an event plays out in the course of life or history is only something he knows. And he may have purposes far beyond what we could even imagine. So, God is not going to do something simply because we determine that it must be his will. What Does It Take? What is God Inclined to Do? The entire Bible is a description of the kind of relationship God wants us to experience with him and the kind of life he wants to give us. Here are just a few examples: He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for [trust] him! Like someone rising out of his chair to come to your help, "He rises to show you compassion. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends,"¹⁰ which is what Jesus did for us. And so, "If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Certainly people get sick, even die; financial problems are real, and all sorts of very difficult situations can come up. God tells us to give our concerns to him. Even as the situation remains dismal, "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. When the whole world seems to be falling apart, God can keep us together. This is when a person can be very grateful that they know God. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Probably any Christian could list examples like this in their own lives. But if the circumstances do not improve, God can still give us his peace in the midst of it. Jesus said, "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. It is based on the very character of God. A car traveling on the Golden Gate Bridge is fully supported by the integrity of the bridge. What gets the car safely to the other side is the integrity of the bridge, which the driver was willing to trust. In the same way, God asks us to trust his integrity, his character He says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. He asks us to take any concerns to him in prayer and he will act upon it according to his will. As we deal with difficulties we are to cast our cares on him and receive from him a peace that defies the circumstances. The basis for our hope and faith is the character of God himself. The better we know him, the more apt we are to trust him. For more on the character of God, please see "Who is God? The first prayer God answers is your prayer to begin a relationship with God.

Chapter 3 : Who God Says You Are | Ministry to Youth

Address God by name. You might say, "Dear God," "Our Heavenly Father," "Jehovah," or any other name you have for God. You can even pray to Jesus, if you like.

As young people, they are in the process of discovering their identity. Use this lesson to help students know what God really thinks about them. For me, that was definitely true. When I was a teenager I allowed my peers to shape my identity. In those early years of being a Christian, I allowed God to shape and mold my identity. Instead of going to others to define who I was, I went to God. And allow that to define their identity. What the rest of the world thinks about you does not matter in comparison to what God thinks about you. Based on what the Bible says, He thinks some incredible things about you! Supplies Printed handouts included below with scripture references Four white t-shirts Two different colors of pompoms little cotton balls. Feel free to substitute anything else here. Importantâ€”do this before they put the t-shirts on in order to avoid any awkward moments. Once the shirts are covered in Vaseline, have the two volunteers from each team put them on. Put one team on each side of the room and give them each a color of pompoms. Volunteers cannot block their t-shirts with their arms or hands. If the volunteers are running too fast and no pompoms are sticking, then change it up. The team with the most points wins! TEACH In this world, you are going to constantly be bombarded with what different people think about you. Whether it be your family or friends, strangers, or companies who are only telling you what they think about you because they want to sell you something, it seems that everyone has an opinion. So, what exactly does God think about you? God thinks that you are worth fighting for. But He loved you so much that He wanted to be with you forever, so He made the ultimate sacrifice to fight sin and make a way for your salvation. Obviously, you are worth fighting for! When a famous artist creates a new painting, fans from all over the world will fly in to see it. And the artist who made you is so much better than any of those artists. I feel like a coward, not a soldier. But here we have the Word of God saying not only are we winners, but more than conquerors. Through Him who loved us. You are loved and accepted as-is by God. No matter who else in your life you haveâ€”whether you have a wonderful family who loves you and tons of loyal, loving friends, or whether you have parents who could not care less about you and no friends to speak ofâ€”none of that matters when it comes to how loved you are. Because God just goes ahead and blows everyone out of the water when it comes to love. You are worth loving with an kind of love that lasts forever. He loves you just the way you are. When you mess up, he loves you. He loves the way you are right now, in this moment, as-is. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. The Mighty Warrior who saves takes great delight in you. It would be nice to hear from anyone that you are worth delighting in, but from God? We often allow what others think of us to shape how we think of ourselves. But that needs to stop. From now on, you need to think about yourself the way that God thinks about you. When you have the creator of the universe saying these things about you, does it really matter what anyone else thinks about you? Now, think about how you felt just now hearing those things that God thinks and says about you. We have a responsibility to stand up for each other and to shine the light of Jesus on each other. That means that when you talk and think about others, you should do so with how they feel in mind. Do you want them to feel the way you know how it feels when someone says something mean about you, or do you want them to feel the way you how it feels to know what God thinks about you? When you get to the end of the paper, just start over, going around until everyone has had a chance to remind someone of what God thinks of them. When you have the opportunity to say what you think to other people, use these words whenever possible. Take this handout home with you. Hang it on your wall. Put it somewhere you can see it every day. Look up these verses this week and really soak in just what God thinks about you. Have you have felt something was worth fighting for? What does that say about how God thinks we are worth fighting for? How does that make you feel? In your own words, what does it mean to be more than a conquerer? How can you choose what opinions you let stick to you and which ones you let slide off?

Chapter 4 : How to Say a Well Rounded Prayer to God: 13 Steps (with Pictures)

We can have an awareness of all biblical doctrines, we can know all the theological terms, we may be able to translate the Bible from the original Greek and so on, but the principle of Micah is the principle that the man of God must follow: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

No birthdays, Christmas, or any other holidays All the other kids are doing fun Thanksgiving drawings of Turkeys by tracing their hands. That looks like so much fun! Noneâ€™not even my birthday. God says birthdays are bad. Having to go door-to-door preaching every Saturday and sometimes Sunday as well I barely got any sleep when I was a Witness. I commuted an hour and a half to work each way and worked long hours. I needed the weekends to catch up on my sleep debt, but instead I had to get up at the crack of dawn to go out preaching. The elders, on the other hand, do have access to your performance records. If your performance lags on the job, your invitations for dinner and movies suddenly stop. You are constantly judged by everyone else, especially the elders. No sex before marriage Nothing. At least the Mormons do that weird soaking thing. Why would you get close to someone whom God was going to execute at Armageddon? Keeping up with their ever-changing, made-up doctrine When I first became a Witness, blood was not allowed to be consumed in any form, whether it was blood pudding or a life-saving blood transfusion. When I left the religion, they had changed the rule to allow for blood fractions. Prediction for the end of the world turned out to be false? New Lightâ€™just move the date forward. A policy is a little too costly due to lawsuits? New Lightâ€™just change the policy. The result is that you look like an asshole every time someone sneezes as you just sit there staring at them blankly. The elders once told me that I had negatively influenced my former roommate. My former roommate worked for Blockbuster Video, and he had searched my records to snoop on the movies I had been watching. He decided to go through my private records at work, and yet I was the bad guy because I rented Die Hard. I lived in constant fear that someone would see me walk into an R-rated movie, catch me playing a violent video game, see me talking to a girl, know that I had non-Witness friends, find out that I liked rap music, etc. Leaving that religion was the best decision I ever made. More From Thought Catalog.

Chapter 5 : Looking for true peace? | Peace With God

I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." He made me just the way He made me for just the special purpose I was created for. There is special work He has for me to do that can only.

One of our biggest problems in our Christian walk and growth and within the Church as a whole, IS: You MAY say you believe in the Bible. That means that you are a doer of the Word and not a hearer only as found in James 1: If you believe it, yet fail to do it, it looks like you do not believe it, does it not? Actually the same is true of everyone that we come into contact with. If I tell you something and you believe me, that means that you also believe my word, because I and my word are one. If we SAY we believe everything God says in His Word about me, about you or the circumstances of our lives, IF we really believed, then we could do nothing but ACT like we believe and Do what God has asked us to do to overcome our problems, our sicknesses and our fears. Let us call to mind just one example. Remember how our Lord said that WE were to take charge and have the responsibility for things here in this world? Why would Satan do anything I instructed him to do? It is not us at all that is doing or getting the job done, but only GOD working through us. It is important for us to memorize some important passages in the Bible because we need to have them at our finger tips when needed. For instance, in the New Testament: Most Christians if they know this verse at all, only remember the last part: What else do we need to know? Well, we need to always pray in the Present. Wee, what does that mean? It means that we have a present tense God, whose name is: Let us go back, one more time and review a passage we have already looked at, but this time really go through it. He also does not say Understand, that you receive them. He simply says, Believe it. Look folks, let us really get down to it and get busy and really understand what and how to pray, OK. Let us take Mark When you have this principle down -- I mean really understand it, then perhaps you will start praying JUST a little bit differently. Let us take this process, point by point until we really understand what this verse in Mark Go you believe you are reading this lesson right now? If you say "YES" you are missing the whole point. Let us look at the next part of this verse, now. We must learn to release, let go of, the desire for what ever it is that we just prayed for, for NOW we have it. Remember, once again, any time you pray, has to be NOW. Praying and believing when you pray -- works the same way. The verse goes on to tell us: It is so simple that almost everyone stumbles over it. Only after that are you going to have them. Please notice, that you will not have those things when you pray. Otherwise, you would not have to shall have them later. Shall have them, is future tense, but the future is predicated or based on, the present. It is important here that we remind ourselves that the future is never going to come to pass UNTIL and after, the present has come to pass -- and the present is that: Jesus does not say. It could be one second after you pray, or one year after you pray. Folks, what did Jesus our Lord tell us? Say the verse again: If you did not believe that you received anything, when you prayed, you are NOT going to have anything manifested later. Here again, the words that come out of our own mouths, defeat us and empower Satan to remain with us, bringing us thoughts of failure and defeat, uselessness, low self-esteem and self-worth by convincing us that our prayers are no good, that nothing works and there fore that God does not care for or hear us. How do you know that you did NOT believe, by the words out of your own mouth. Do you realize what you are saying, in actuality? The only alternative you leave open when you say or proclaim verbally those kinds, of statements IS: That Jesus lied to you. If He did that, we are in big trouble, because He may have lied to us about all the rest of the things He said. He may have even lied to us about our salvation. Saying it, confessing it, staying with it and standing ON IT causes it to come to pass. It is when I am believing, thinking, saying and acting like the Word is true. After your initial prayer of claiming what you desire, the only prayer you should pray relative to the item for which you have just prayed would be a prayer of thanksgiving. It would be simply saying, "Father, I thank you. I believe that I have received it. You have to keep it in the present tense. One final thought to recap what we have studied in this lesson. Let us turn in our Bibles to 1 John 5: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we KNOW that we have the petitions i. It does not say, And if we ask anything according to his will, and we are sincere, God hears us. It simply says that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. So, all the emotional fervor, tears flowing,

feelings being expressed will NOT assure you that your prayers will be answered. That is praying by emotion and feeling. It is not praying according to the Will of God. The Bible says that God confirms his Word with signs following Mark So we need to learn to go to our Bibles when we have a need, find a scripture supporting our request.

Chapter 6 : 10 Things That Sucked About Growing Up A Jehovah's Witness | Thought Catalog

And "it is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians). God's will is knowable and provable. Romans says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has positive answers! All things are possible! He replied, What is impossible for people is possible with God. I will give you rest! Then Jesus said, Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light. My grace is sufficient! My power works best in weakness. I will rescue and honor them. I will direct your steps! You can do all things! And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. It will be worth it! But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. I will supply all your needs! And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. I have not given you a spirit of fear! For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. Cast all your cares on ME! Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. I give you wisdom God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. I will never leave you or forsake you! Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.

Chapter 7 : How can I know God's will for my life? What does the Bible say about knowing God's will?

What angers God is a willful sin, when you know you are sinning, but keep on participating in that sin. While giving up sex may be difficult, God calls us to remain sexually pure until marriage. Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me--and I in him--bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing John I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father John But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3: We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin Romans 6: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus Romans 8: For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death Romans 8: And if children, then heirs namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ --if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him Romans 8: See also Ephesians 1: He is the reason you have a relationship with Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

â€ 1 Corinthians 1: But the one united with the Lord is one spirit with him 1 Corinthians 6: But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and who makes known through us the fragrance that consists of the knowledge of him in every place 2 Corinthians 2: But their minds were closed. For to this very day, the same veil remains when they hear the old covenant read. So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away--look, what is new has come 2 Corinthians 5: God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God 2 Corinthians 5: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female--for all of you are one in Christ Jesus Galatians 3: So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son, then you are also an heir through God Galatians 4: For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery Galatians 5: Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ Ephesians 1: For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love Ephesians 1: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace Ephesians 1: And when you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation --when you believed in Christ--you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit Ephesians 1: But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you are saved Ephesians 2: For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them Ephesians 2: But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ Ephesians 2: See also Ephesians 5: Walk as children of the light Ephesians 5: But our citizenship is in heaven--and we also await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

â€ 1 Philippians 3: And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Philippians 4: And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus Philippians 4: Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God Colossians 3: When Christ who is your life appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him Colossians 3: Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience

â€ 1 Colossians 3: We know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you

â€ 1 Thessalonians 1: The more we embrace these truths from Scripture about who we have become in Christ, the more stable, grateful, and fully assured we will be in this world.

Chapter 8 : Saro's Corner: 50 words to use instead of "good" in your speeches

You say: "I can't manage" God says: I will supply all your needs! And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Here are six straightforward reasons to believe that God is really there. No statements of, "You just have to believe. But first consider this. Here then, are some reasons to consider The complexity of our planet points to a deliberate Designer who not only created our universe, but sustains it today. But here are a few: If Earth were smaller, an atmosphere would be impossible, like the planet Mercury. If Earth were larger, its atmosphere would contain free hydrogen, like Jupiter. The Earth is located the right distance from the sun. If the Earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze. Any closer and we would burn up. The Earth remains this perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67, mph. It is also rotating on its axis, allowing the entire surface of the Earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day. And our moon is the perfect size and distance from the Earth for its gravitational pull. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so ocean waters do not stagnate, and yet our massive oceans are restrained from spilling over across the continents. Plants, animals and human beings consist mostly of water about two-thirds of the human body is water. It has wide margin between its boiling point and freezing point. Water allows us to live in an environment of fluctuating temperature changes, while keeping our bodies a steady Water is a universal solvent. This property of water means that various chemicals, minerals and nutrients can be carried throughout our bodies and into the smallest blood vessels. Without affecting the makeup of the substances it carries, water enables food, medicines and minerals to be absorbed and used by the body. Water has a unique surface tension. Water in plants can therefore flow upward against gravity, bringing life-giving water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees. Water freezes from the top down and floats, so fish can live in the winter. But on our Earth, there is a system designed which removes salt from the water and then distributes that water throughout the globe. Evaporation takes the ocean waters, leaving the salt, and forms clouds which are easily moved by the wind to disperse water over the land, for vegetation, animals and people. It is a system of purification and supply that sustains life on this planet, a system of recycled and reused water. Your brain takes in all the colors and objects you see, the temperature around you, the pressure of your feet against the floor, the sounds around you, the dryness of your mouth, even the texture of your keyboard. Your brain holds and processes all your emotions, thoughts and memories. At the same time your brain keeps track of the ongoing functions of your body like your breathing pattern, eyelid movement, hunger and movement of the muscles in your hands. The human brain processes more than a million messages a second. This screening function is what allows you to focus and operate effectively in your world. The brain functions differently than other organs. There is an intelligence to it, the ability to reason, to produce feelings, to dream and plan, to take action, and relate to other people. It has automatic focusing and handles an astounding 1. Yet evolution alone does not fully explain the initial source of the eye or the brain -- the start of living organisms from nonliving matter. The universe had a start - what caused it? Scientists are convinced that our universe began with one enormous explosion of energy and light, which we now call the Big Bang. This was the singular start to everything that exists: Astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, a self-described agnostic, stated, "The seed of everything that has happened in the Universe was planted in that first instant; every star, every planet and every living creature in the Universe came into being as a result of events that were set in motion in the moment of the cosmic explosion The Universe flashed into being, and we cannot find out what caused that to happen. It had a start Scientists have no explanation for the sudden explosion of light and matter. The universe operates by uniform laws of nature. Much of life may seem uncertain, but look at what we can count on day after day: How is it that we can identify laws of nature that never change? Why is the universe so orderly, so reliable? There is no logical necessity for a universe that obeys rules, let alone one that abides by the rules of mathematics. It is easy to imagine a universe in which conditions change unpredictably from instant to instant, or even a universe in which things pop in and out of existence. The fact that there are rules at all is a kind of miracle. All instruction, all teaching, all training comes with intent. Someone who

writes an instruction manual does so with purpose. Did you know that in every cell of our bodies there exists a very detailed instruction code, much like a miniature computer program? As you may know, a computer program is made up of ones and zeros, like this: The way they are arranged tell the computer program what to do. The DNA code in each of our cells is very similar. These are arranged in the human cell like this: There are three billion of these letters in every human cell!! Well, just like you can program your phone to beep for specific reasons, DNA instructs the cell. DNA is a three-billion-lettered program telling the cell to act in a certain way. It is a full instruction manual. One has to ask These are not just chemicals. Natural, biological causes are completely lacking as an explanation when programmed information is involved. You cannot find instruction, precise information like this, without someone intentionally constructing it. We know God exists because he pursues us. He is constantly initiating and seeking for us to come to him. I was an atheist at one time. And like many atheists, the issue of people believing in God bothered me greatly. What causes us to do that? When I was an atheist, I attributed my intentions as caring for those poor, delusional people To be honest, I also had another motive. As I challenged those who believed in God, I was deeply curious to see if they could convince me otherwise. Part of my quest was to become free from the question of God. If I could conclusively prove to believers that they were wrong, then the issue is off the table, and I would be free to go about my life. I have come to find out that God wants to be known. He created us with the intention that we would know him. He has surrounded us with evidence of himself and he keeps the question of his existence squarely before us. I am not the only one who has experienced this. Malcolm Muggeridge, socialist and philosophical author, wrote, "I had a notion that somehow, besides questing, I was being pursued. Lewis said he remembered, " I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: Yet over the following several months, I became amazed by his love for me. Unlike any other revelation of God, Jesus Christ is the clearest, most specific picture of God revealing himself to us. None of them ever claimed to be equal to God. That is what sets Jesus apart from all the others. Though he talked about his Father in heaven, it was not from the position of separation, but of very close union, unique to all humankind. Jesus said that anyone who had seen Him had seen the Father, anyone who believed in him, believed in the Father. He said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Unlike other teachers who focused people on their words, Jesus pointed people to himself. He did not say, "follow my words and you will find truth. He had power over objects He performed miracles over nature People everywhere followed Jesus, because he constantly met their needs, doing the miraculous. Jesus revealed that although he views us as sinners, worthy of his punishment, his love for us ruled and he came up with a different plan. God himself took on the form of man and accepted the punishment for our sin on our behalf. Perhaps, but many loving fathers would gladly trade places with their child in a cancer ward if they could. The Bible says that the reason we would love God is because he first loved us. Jesus died in our place so we could be forgiven.

But if you want to be forgiven by God and come into a relationship with him, you can do so right now by asking him to forgive you and come into your life. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock.

By Mike Bennett Talk about Someone who has everything! Finding a gift that will please God can seem challenging! But thankfully the Bible tells us not only what God hates such as in Proverbs 6: And best of all, what pleases God is also what will make us happiest and most satisfied. Have Faith in God. This passage identifies faith—belief in God and believing He will do what He says He will do—as a prerequisite for pleasing God. It also gives a prime example of this kind of faith: Enoch knew that ungodly deeds bring evil results and must be replaced by godly deeds—walking the way God walks—for this world to experience real peace and joy. When we believe in God and believe what He says, we will also be pleasing to Him. Our bimonthly Discern magazine covers issues like this regularly. Digital subscriptions are available worldwide; print subscriptions are currently available in the United States, Canada and much of Europe. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. The Bible contrasts two mind-sets: Thus having the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and leading us is another prerequisite for pleasing God. Leading up to the passage in Romans 8, the apostle Paul explained his own experience with the two mind-sets. Does this please God? God loves to add to His family. The passage praises His mercy, His knowledge He knows the names of all the stars! The Bible tells us to fear God, not because it is good for Him, but because it is good for us to accurately recognize that He is more powerful than anything else. Acknowledging this shows our deep respect for Him. The proper fear and respect of God will motivate us to avoid sin Exodus It reminds us that God will hold us accountable for our actions. Fearing God allows us to rely on Him and revere Him—which can deepen our love for the All-Powerful God who cares enough to stoop down and deliver a puny little human like me! What Does It Mean? Jesus truly was the Son of God, and there is no one who has pleased God more! We should all hear Him and follow His example. His laws and commands are beneficial; and as a result of obeying Him, we grow in godly, righteous character—we become more like Him! The fact that obeying God is pleasing to Him is expressed in various ways throughout the Bible. In fact, the Bible was given to us to show us His will and to help us in a sense read His mind. Studying the Bible, meditating on it and praying about it are keys to gaining deeper understanding of His will. Give the Sacrifice God Wants. We saw earlier that God rejected sacrifices that were gained through disobedience. These reflect His teaching on love expressed in the two great commandments that summarize the rest of His law: And the second is like it: In this life He offers awesome benefits, such as: And in the future, He has an incredible gift in store for His faithful flock: Both are free and available for immediate download. You need this life-changing knowledge today! Choose your preferred format to start your subscription.