

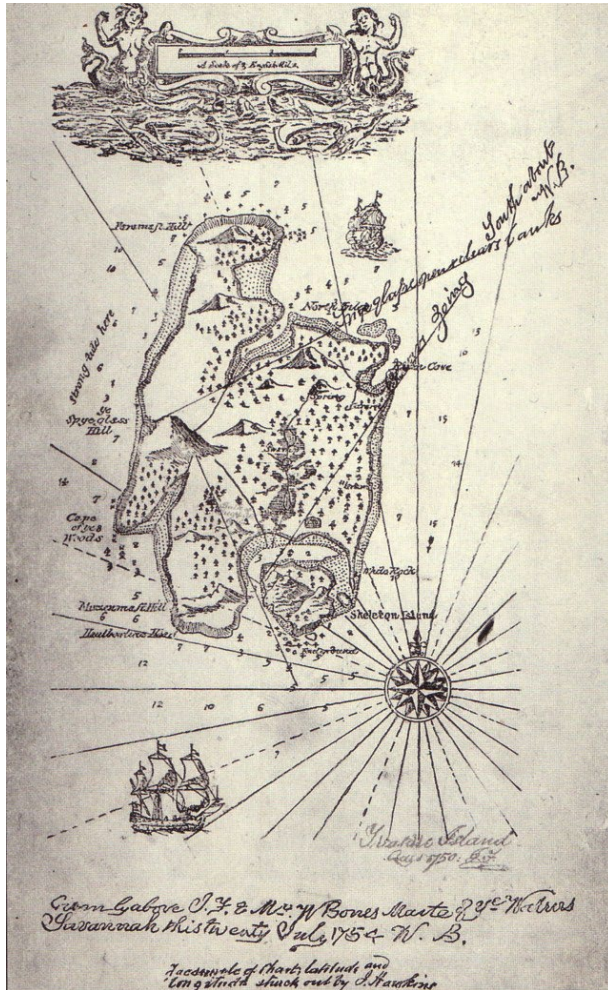
2022

Treasure Maps



High School Class
Church Camp 2022
Living Waters Tabernacle

EXAMPLES



Treasure Map from Treasure Island
By: Robert Louis Stevenson



Treasure Map from Sir Francis Drake (attack
on St. Augustine, Florida), circa 1586

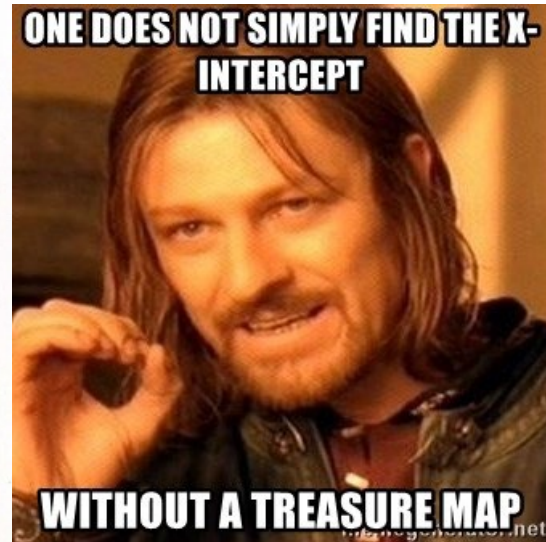
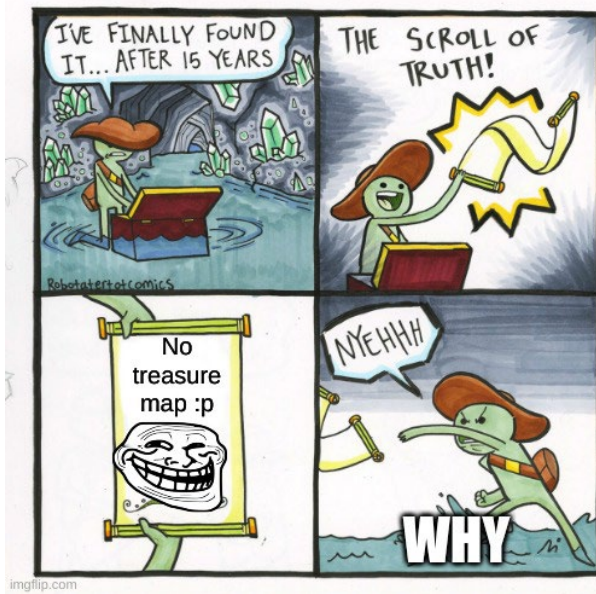


The Flying Dutchman's Treasure Map, circa 1999



Austin's Treasure Map

MEMES



Don't be like Bad Luck Brian

**You found a
shipwreck**



**A buried
treasure map**



**The location
is nearby**



**The chest has
been looted**



**You're playing
singleplayer**



PREPARATION

To talk to others about Jesus and really explain to them why you believe in the deeper things of the Lord, you must study the Word and be prepared to talk about why you believe what you believe! Ask the Lord for encouragement to study His Word.

Ask the Lord to set your affections on the things above and not of this earth!

Colossians 3:2 – “Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth.”

I Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

- “reason” – *logos* (G3056) – logical reasoning or motive; gathered together in the mind, and expressed in words
- “the hope” – *elpis* (G1680) – expectation of good, hope; joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

How do we talk about this “hope” within us? With meekness and fear.

- Meekness → mild disposition, gentle spirit, humility
- Fear → reverence, respect

FILL IN THE BLANKS: “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you for the _____ for your _____ that is in you with _____ and _____.”

II Peter 3:18 – “But grow in grace AND in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.”

- “grace” – *charis* (G5485) – divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life
- “knowledge” – *gnosis* (G1108) – act of knowing, science

Romans 10:17 – “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

What do you get when you hear something over and over again? _____!

Philippians 1:7 – I am set for the defense of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:19 – “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

TREASURE MAP #1: GOD IS REAL



The “Copper Scroll”

Recovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1952
Historians estimate it was drafted between 50-100 A.D.

Your Testimony

Your testimony is oftentimes the very reason people will ask you questions about your faith—about why you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Your testimony oftentimes is PROOF that God is real. The internal change that Jesus does to your heart is revealed by the outward outpouring of love that you cannot contain most of the time. This is a powerful sight to see, especially for a non-believer!

Ways that your testimony speaks to others:

- By your Love (John 13:34-35)
- By your Life (Matt. 5:13-16)
- By your Words (I Thes. 5:11; Eph. 4:29)
- By your Humility (James 4:6)
- By your Trials (Phil. 4:12-13)

Some Examples in the Bible. **Write down your observations of each testimony. What was it that caused the person to give their heart to the Lord?**

Example #1 – Simon (Acts 8:9-25)

Example #2 – Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

Example #3 – Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem (Ruth 1)

1 Cor. 6:19-20 – “What?!?! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**” → *Your testimony starts with your choices/actions.*

The Design Odds

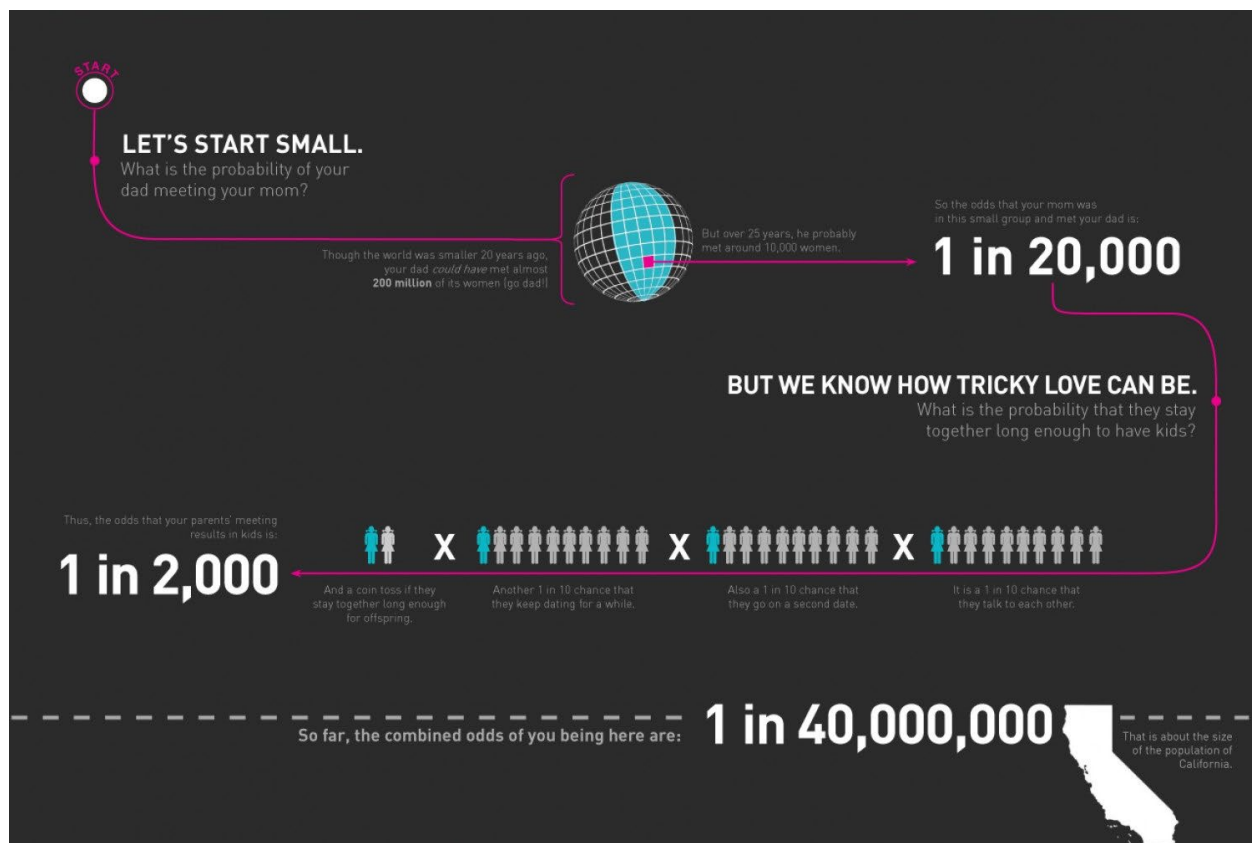
Look around us. The order and beauty of nature has amazed humans since the beginning of time. Proof of God's existence? Look at our hands, eyes, brains, the development from baby human to a full-grown adult, etc. Amazing! But just how amazing?!

Probability of Your Existence = $10^{2,685,000}$

The chance of your father meeting your mother, the chances of them talking, the chances of them meeting again, the chances of them turning into a long-term relationship, the chances that they marry and have YOU!

SOURCE: <https://visual.ly/community/infographic/science/what-are-odds> (by Dr. Ali Binazir from Harvard)

By definition, you are a miracle!



NOW THINGS ARE GOING TO GET PRETTY INTERESTING.

Why? Because we are about to deal with eggs and sperm, which come in large numbers.



Mom has about 100,000 eggs in her lifetime.



Dad makes about 4 trillion sperm during the years you could have been born.

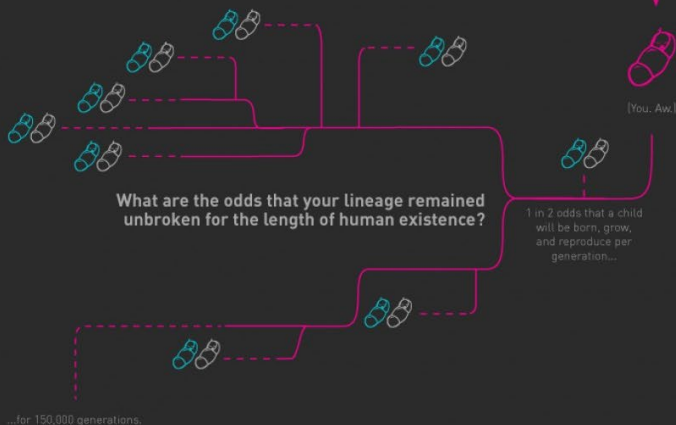
What are the odds that the 1 egg...



...met the 1 sperm, which together made you (and not your brother)?

1 in 400,000,000,000,000,000
(1 in 400 quadrillion)

That is approximately the volume in cubic meters of the Atlantic Ocean (3.236×10^{17} cubic meters).



What are the odds that your lineage remained unbroken for the length of human existence?

1 in 2 odds that a child will be born, grow, and reproduce per generation...

...for 150,000 generations.

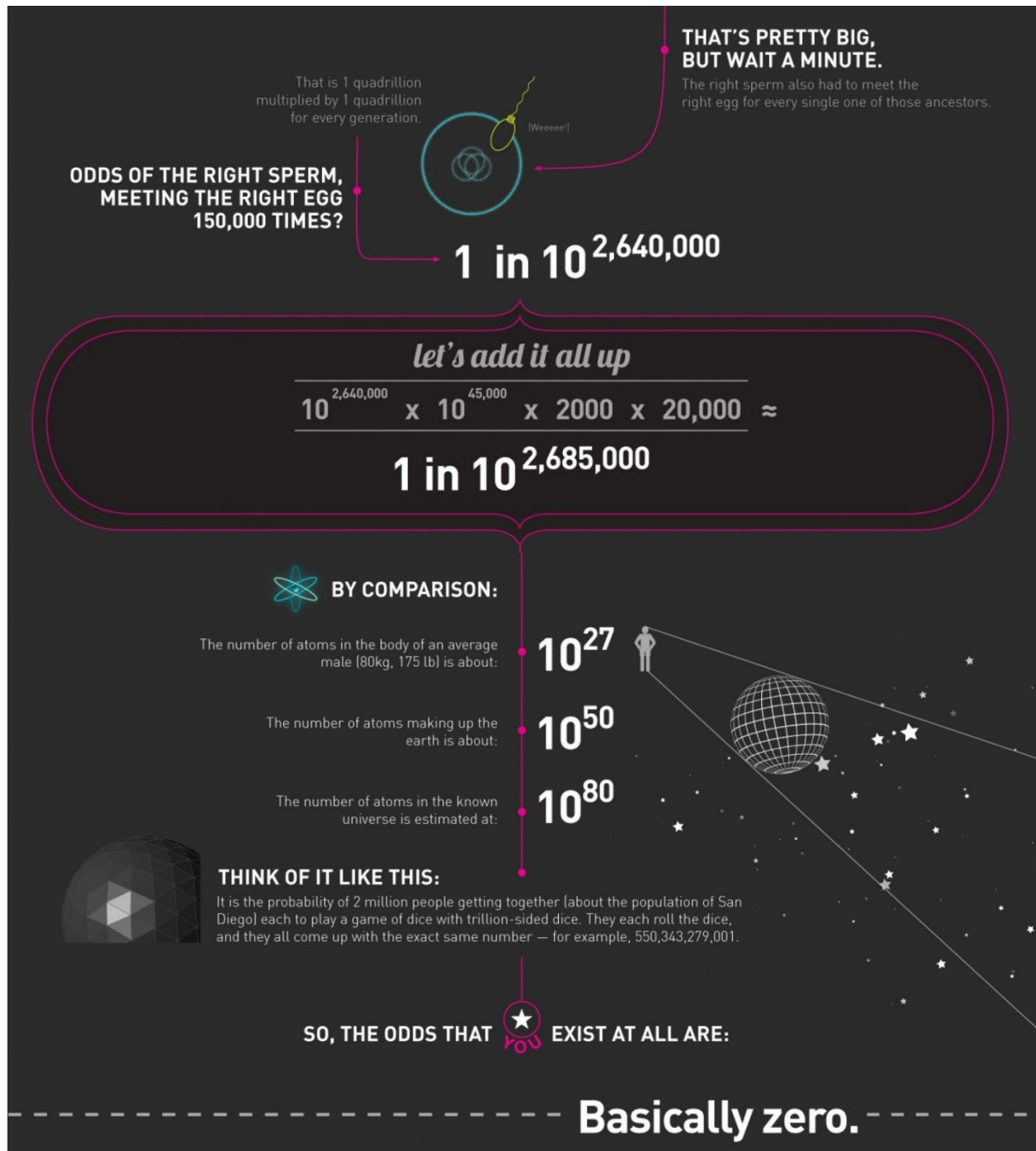
(You. Aw.)

1 in $10^{45,000}$

That's a 10 with 45,000 zeroes after it.

How large is that number?

That number is not just larger than all of the particles in the universe — it is larger than all the particles in the universe if each particle were itself a universe.



Probability of the Universe = $10^{(10^{123})}$ → That's 10 to the power of 1 followed by 123 0's...
Whoa...

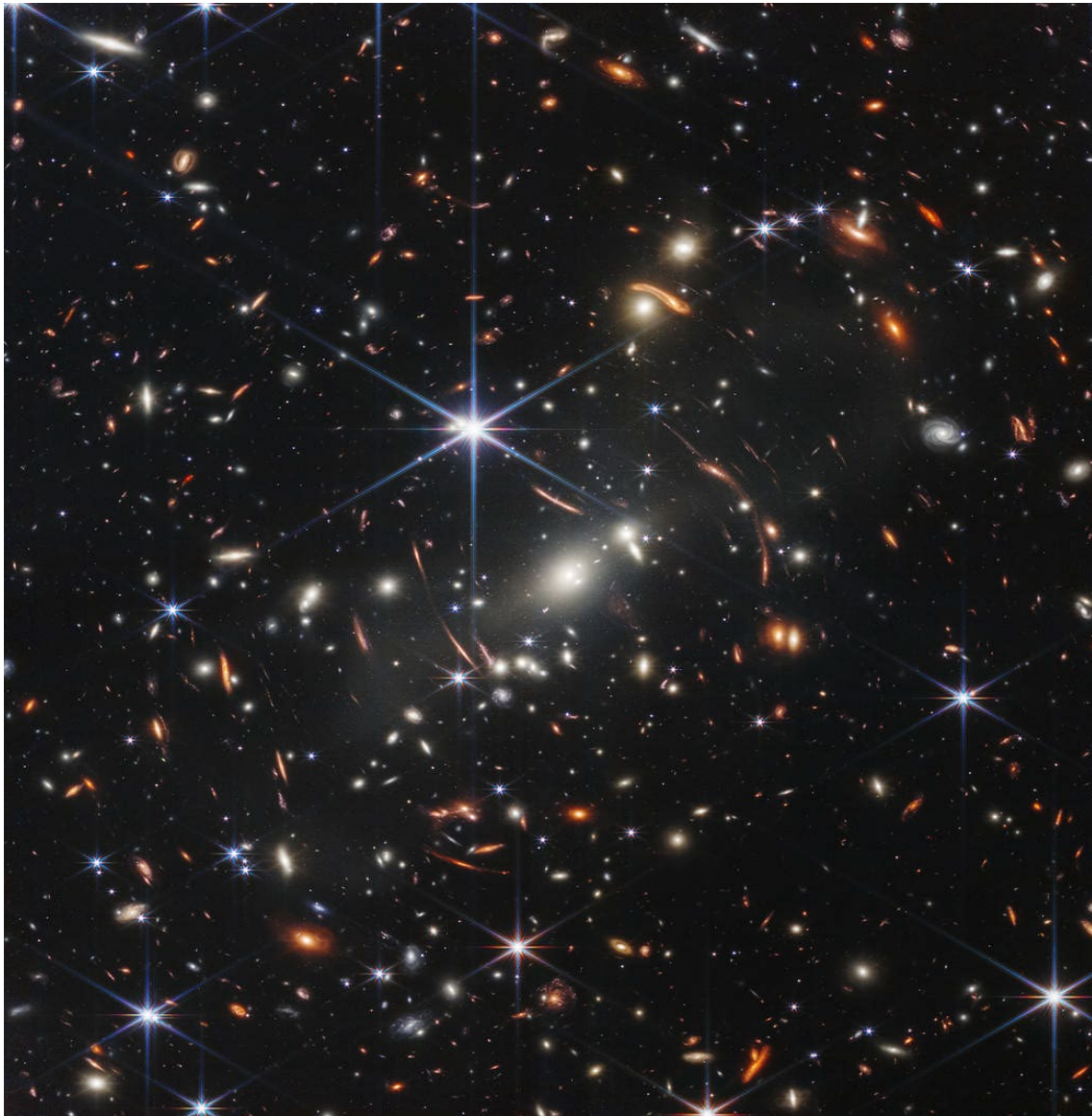
SOURCE: *The Emperor's New Mind* by Sir Roger Penrose (Oxford Mathematician)

The universe is fine-tuned. If we jointly consider all the laws of nature that must be fine-tuned for life as we know it to exist, we would be unable to write down such an

enormous number, since the necessary digits would be greater than the number of elementary particles in the universe.

“The cliché that ‘life is balanced on a knife-edge’ is a staggering understatement in this case: no knife in the universe could have an edge that fine.” – Professor Paul Davies, renowned physicist at ASU

New James Webb Telescope Images





The “Carina Nebula”

The enormity of the universe is virtually impossible to grasp. NASA explains that the SMACS 0723 image is “approximately the size of a grain of sand held at arm’s length.” So find a grain of sand, hold it up to the night sky, and imagine that in it are thousands of galaxies we can see with the most powerful telescope we’ve ever constructed—and certainly countless more galaxies we cannot yet see.

Isaiah 40:28 – “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”

Jeremiah 32:17 – “Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

The History

The Bible is the most documented book in all of history. It has the most historical and bibliographical evidence than any other book in the history of mankind.

- ~80,000 total manuscripts between New Testament and Old Testament
 - 20,000 New Testament
 - 60,000 Old Testament
- Compared to other ancient books?
 - Homer's *Iliad* ~1800 manuscripts
 - Demosthenes's *Orations/Speeches* ~440 manuscripts
 - Caesar's *The Gallic Wars* ~250 manuscripts
- Variants in the Biblical manuscripts?
 - The manuscripts from both the NT and OT match up over 97%

Biblical Manuscripts Compared to Selected Ancient Sources					
Author	Ancient Source	Date of Original	Earliest Manuscript	Gap from Original	Manuscript Copies
Plato	<i>Dialogues/Tetralogies</i>	4th cent. BC	3rd cent. BC	c. 150 years	c. 210-240
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	9th cent. BC	c. 400-415 BC	c. 450 years	c. 1800+
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	5th cent. BC	2nd-1st cent. BC	c. 450 years	c. 100+
Thucydides	<i>History of the Peloponnesian Wars</i>	5th cent. BC	3rd cent BC	c. 200 years	c. 185
Demosthenes	<i>Orations/Speeches</i>	4th cent. BC	1st cent. BC	c. 300 years	c. 440+
Aristophanes	Assorted works	448-385 BC	AD 900	c. 1,300 years	10
Sophocles	<i>Plays</i>	5th cent. BC?	3rd cent. BC	c. 200 years	c. 220+
Julius Caesar	<i>The Gallic Wars</i>	58-44 BC	9th cent. AD	c. 900 years	c. 250
Tacitus	<i>Annals of Imperial Rome</i>	AD 58-120	9th-11th cent. AD	c. 800-1000 years	c. 33+
Suetonius	<i>The Twelve Caesars</i>	AD 118-120	9th cent. AD	c. 800 years	c. 8+
Pliny, the Elder	<i>Natural History</i>	1st cent. AD	5th/14th-15th cent. AD	c. 400-1500 years	c. 200
Greek New Testament Manuscripts		AD 45-100	AD 117-325	30-300 years	5,856
Non-Greek New Testament manuscripts (translations)					18,000+
Total New Testament manuscripts					c. 24,000
Old Testament scrolls and codices (in various collections)⁴					c. 42,000
Total biblical manuscripts					c. 66,000+

Source: Adapted and updated from H. Wayne House and Joseph M. Holden, *Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), Chart 43.

Note – this comparison is from 2006 (16 years ago). We've added approx. 15,000 more manuscripts to the NT and OT in that timeframe from archaeological discoveries.

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

I Peter 1:25 – “But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

How about the **apostles**? Didn't they just make this all up? Let's take a closer look.

- Peter, originally called Simon, was crucified.
- Andrew was crucified.
- James (son of Zebedee) was killed by sword.
- Philip was crucified.
- Bartholomew was crucified.
- Thomas was killed by spear.
- Matthew was killed by the sword.
- James (son of Alphaeus) was crucified.
- Thaddaeus was killed by arrows.
- Simon, the zealot, was crucified.

All it would've taken to “debunk” Jesus is just one of the apostles stepping forward and telling everyone that it was a “lie” or a “joke,” the apostle would've saved his life.... But that did not happen! We can trust the apostles' testimonies because 11 of them died martyrs' deaths because they stood on solid ground for two truths: Christ is Lord and Christ rose from the dead. All it would take is one of them to speak out and reveal the ruse. But none of them did. The spirit gave them the Word. They preached the Word. And they died for the Word. Because why? Because it is real, more real than any other Word spoken.

1. They were eyewitnesses.
 - a. **II Peter 1:16** – “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of his majesty**.”
2. They had to be convinced.
 - a. Remember when the apostles thought Jesus died, they thought it was all over. When Jesus was arrested, they went and hid (Mark 14:50). When they were told the tomb was empty, they did not believe it (Luke 24:11). It was only after ample and convincing evidence did they believe.
3. They became courageous.
 - a. The bold conduct of the apostles immediately after they were convinced of the Resurrection of Jesus solidifies the truth. Peter, who denied Christ, stood up even at the threat of death and proclaimed that Jesus was alive. The authorities arrested the followers of Christ and beat them, yet they were soon back on the street speaking out about Jesus (Acts 5:40-42). The steadfastness of the apostles even to death cannot be explained away. There's only one explanation – Jesus is the Son of God!

Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?

If you Google the name Jesus today, you instantly get about 844 million hits. Over 300,000 books on Amazon are about Jesus. Given the smorgasbord of competing views, can we still have confidence in the historical Jesus? Many people want to regard Jesus not as God, but as a good, moral man or as an exceptionally-wise prophet who spoke many profound truths. Scholars often adopt that conclusion as the only acceptable one that people can reach by the intellectual process without realizing the fallacy of such reasoning...

Jesus claimed to be God. His claim must be either true or false.

First, consider if the claim to be God was false. If it were false, then we have two alternatives: Jesus either knew it was false (Liar) or he didn't know it was false (Lunatic). If it's true (like we know it is), then he is Lord of Lords, King of Kings.

Liar? No way.

- Wherever Jesus has been proclaimed, we see lives changed for the good, nations changed for the better, thieves become honest, alcoholics become sober, hateful individual become channels of love.
- Jesus willingly went to that cross and died. If he was lying, Jesus could've simply saved his life by backing away from the claims that he was the son of God at the last minute. But this didn't happen.

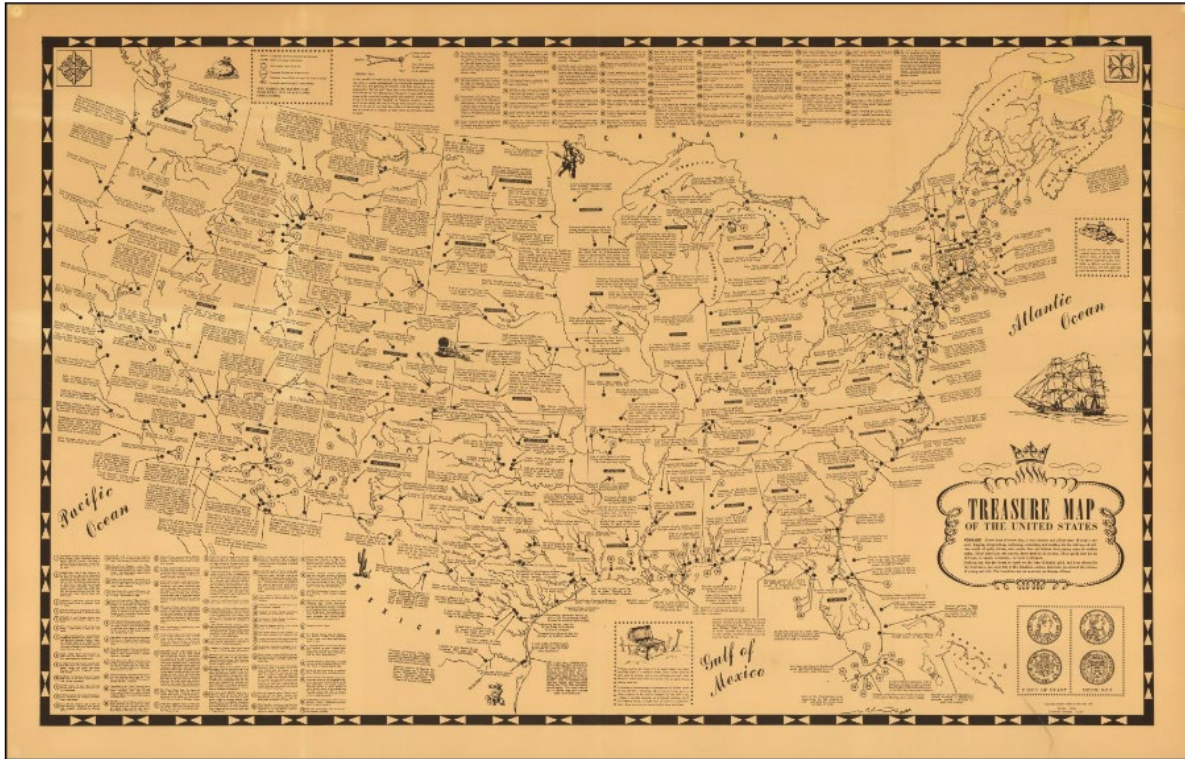
Lunatic? No way.

- Today, someone who claimed to be God would be treated as someone who believed he was Batman – deranged, deluded, crazy.
- In Jesus's teachings, we don't see any crazy imbalances or impulsive abnormalities, but a soundness. His poise and composure, starting from a young boy in the temple, was nothing short of amazing.

Lord? Yes!

- Ignatius of Antioch (AD 110): "God incarnate . . . God Himself appearing in the form of man."
- Justin Martyr (AD 100-165): "being the Firstbegotten word of God, is even God."
- Even consider the Non-Christian writers who made it clear that the early Christians in the 1st and 2nd century A.D. understood Jesus as divine, the son of God:
 - Greek satirist Lucian of Samosata (AD 170)
 - Roman philosopher Celsus (AD 177)
 - Roman governor Pliny the Younger (AD 112)

TREASURE MAP #2: **EVERLASTING SALVATION**



1947 Map of 130+ buried treasures in the United States
Published by Walter Drake & Sons

Scriptures

If eternal life can be lost, it is not “eternal.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift of God**:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Philippians 3:9

⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 10:27-31

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and my Father are one.

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

I John 3:1-2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Romans 8:38,39

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- “Eternal” or “Everlasting” life is referenced 25 times in just the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) alone.

“Works” Are “Filthy Rags”

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:20-23

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to his mercy** he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 3:1, 3 - O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

We must recognize that even our righteous acts come as a result of God within us, not of ourselves. Our righteous acts do not produce salvation but are, in fact, evidence of our salvation. (James 1:22, 2:14-26)

WHEN YOU FINALLY REALIZE THAT ALL YOUR “GOOD”
WORKS ARE FILTHY RAGS, THAT YOU CAN’T EARN GOD’S
LOVE, AND YOU REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.



But... Faith Without Works is Dead?

Many people will use the following passage in James as a “Gotcha” to show that salvation comes from works. Let’s take a closer look...

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James is talking about being justified before **men**, not **God** (contrast with Paul’s words in Eph. 2:8,9).

- James is talking about our walk with the Lord, the progress and proof of our salvation.
- Vs. 21 is our best evidence → When was Abraham justified *by God*? When he offered Isaac upon the altar? No! It was when he first believed! (*see* Gen. 12:4, Gen. 15:6, Heb. 11:8)
- Vs. 25 → Was Rahab justified *by God* when she received the messengers? No! She was justified before that when she accepted and believe on the Lord. (*see* Joshua 2:9-11).
- Then consider this → two of the biggest sinners are used by James as examples here... what do you think of an apostle using a murderer and an adulterer to demonstrate the faith of God by works??? Gotcha!
 - But note here – it’s not the **sin** that is magnified but rather the turn-around story for both Abraham and Rahab. No matter where you are in life, no matter how dark a place, Jesus is ready to save you.

- God justifies the ungodly who believe on Him, and every man is ungodly until he believes. We were all sinners and ungodly until we believe on Jesus. Recall – “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Unlimited Grace

So, with unlimited grace, we can just go out and sin and do bad things and all is good, right?

The short answer is “sure, you can,” but as a child of God, you’re not going to want to. For the new believer, continuing to live sinfully is not an option because our conversion resulted in a completely new nature. Paul speaks of this in Romans 6:1-2

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

If we’re dead to sin, how can we still live in it? Remember, we have a new man and an old man. The old man is dead. Practically speaking, how can a dead man sin? He can’t. Hence, the old things have passed away.

Salvation in Jesus means you have a changed heart, and a changed heart means a changed person. Once you’re saved, you’re a new person.

2 Cor. 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Paul says, “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” **I Cor. 6:12**

- What does “expedient” mean? **Good, Profitable**

This shows what it means to “not be under the law.” The law is not made for a righteous man but for a lawless and disobedient person. Why then do we insist on keeping the law?

The law is no longer our master. It has no jurisdiction or dominion over us. Paul further says in **Galatians 5:16** – “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit (not after the law), and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Galatians 3:1-11 → “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?” → **READ ALL 11 VERSES!**

What is bewitching the Galatians?

Gal. 2:21 – “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, **then Christ is dead in vain.**” → POWERFUL STATEMENT!

ACTIVITY #1 – SMALL GROUP TREASURE HUNT

Instructions: You will have **15 minutes** for your group to come up with an answer to the following questions and/or statements. Please select one person in your group to present your answer. If you can't figure out who is going to present, then I will randomly call on someone in the group, no cap.

BONUS: The 4 people who present will be entered into a separate drawing for a SPECIAL TREASURE! This could be a candy bar, a fidget spinner, a mechanical pencil (with no eraser), an expired gift card, cold-hard cash money, or perhaps something else!

As needed, use the verses we've already covered and the verses listed here.

Other Verses

- John 10:27-31
- Titus 1:2
- I John 2:25
- Hebrews 9:12
- I John 5:11
- Romans 6:16-17
- II Cor. 5:17
- John 3:3,5 – flesh vs. spirit
- John 1:12, 13 – If we are born of God, and thus became sons and daughters of God, are we not divine?
- I John 3:9
- Eph. 2:8,9
- Gal. 2:20
- Phil. 3:9

Group A

“In order for me to go to heaven, don't I have to be a good person?”

Group B

“You can lose your salvation if you break the 10 Commandments.”

Group C

“I don't understand. How could God allow people into heaven who are sinners?”

Group D

“Wait, so I have unlimited grace? So I can just go out and sin and do whatever I want, since Jesus is always going to forgive me?”

TREASURE MAP #3: **THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



God: "I have a plan for your life"
What it feels like:



Who is the Holy Spirit?

Comforter, Guider, Spirit of Life (Rom. 8:2), Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29), Spirit of Prophecy (Rev. 19:10), Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4). Spirit of Wisdom (Eph. 1:17), Spirit of Justice (Isaiah 28:6), Spirit of Glory (I Peter 4:14)

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26

²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:12-15

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Romans 8:14

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit?

- Jesus had been with his disciples for over three years, and yet, many deeper truths could not be articulated to the disciples because – without the Holy Spirit – the disciples would be unable to understand (John 16:12). The disciples needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit to comprehend the breadth and depth of God’s love and truth.
- The Holy Spirit would guide the disciples into “all truth”
- The Holy Spirit would empower God’s children to “grow in the grace and knowledge” of Jesus Christ
- Ultimately, the Holy Spirit enables God’s people to run the race to win Christ as bridegroom. The Holy Spirit is your admission ticket to be part of the race to WIN HIS BEST!

The Infilling of the Holy Spirit (Speaking in Tongues)

Salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit (evidenced by speaking in tongues) are two different things. Recall, the disciples were already saved at this time, so being filled with the Holy Spirit could not have happened at the same time these men were saved.

Acts 19:1-6

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

² He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.**

³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

⁴ Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues**, and prophesied.

Acts 2:4 (Day of Pentecost)

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 8:14-18 (Story of Simon, remember?)

¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

¹⁶ (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

¹⁷ Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money

How did Simon know these ones were receiving the Holy Ghost?

The infilling of the Holy Spirit gives us Spirit-enlightened eyes. Speaking in tongues is our love language given to us from God to praise His Son.

Romans 8:26

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

“That Which is Perfect is Come”

Some people will try to point to the following scripture as showing that speaking in tongues happened at one point in history but is no longer applicable today. Let’s take a closer look...

I Cor. 13:8-10

⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; **whether there be tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

What is the prerequisite for tongues to cease? (hint: the answer is in vs. 10)

- “perfect” – *telios* (G5046) – complete, completeness, of full age, mature

Where else do we find “telios” in the Word of God?

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are **of full age** (*telios*), even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

II Tim. 4:7

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have **finished** (*teleo*) my course, I have kept the faith:

Philippians 3:13-15

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as be **perfect** (*telios*), be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Vs. 15 (Translated): *Let all of us who are “telios” (fully mature) focus on pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!*

So, what does “that which is perfect is come” referring to?

The Spirit of Truth Will Guide You into All Truth

John 16:13

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into **all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a **gateway** into ALL Truth! The deeper truths and mysteries of the Word will be revealed to you once you have the power of the Spirit. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is an essential step to growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord. Consider the disciples—who spent over 3 years with Jesus himself—they needed the Holy Spirit in order to “bear” the things that Jesus could not tell them. They needed the Holy Spirit to show them “things to come.”

Some examples of those who grew up in the Holy Spirit.

- Barnabas (Acts 11:24)
- Timothy (II Tim. 1:6)

ACTIVITY #2 – SMALL GROUP TREASURE HUNT

Instructions: You will have 15 minutes for your group to come up with an answer to the following questions and/or statements. Please select one person in your group to present your answer. If you can't figure out who is going to present, then I will randomly call on someone in the group, no cap.

BONUS: The 4 people who present will be entered into a separate drawing for a SPECIAL TREASURE! This could be a candy bar, a fidget spinner, a mechanical pencil (with no eraser), an expired gift card, cold-hard cash money, or perhaps something else!

As needed, use the verses we've already covered and the verses listed here.

Verses

- John 14:16-17
- John 16:12-15
- Romans 8:26
- Acts 2:1-4
- Acts 19:1-6
- Acts 8:14-18
- I Cor. 14:18,19

Group A

"I was filled with the Holy Spirit when I was saved."

Group B

"You don't need to speak in tongues to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The whole speaking in tongues thing ended several hundred years ago."

Group C

"People spoke in tongues long ago, but tongues is no longer for today."

Group D

"Why do I need the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Can't I just study the Word myself and not worry about speaking in tongues?"

TREASURE MAP #4: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST



Circa 1606 (El Dorado has never been found)

The Race

The “race” is the race to win Christ as Bridegroom. The “race” itself refers to your growth in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The more spiritually mature you become, the more you feast on the “strong meat.” The more you feast on the “strong meat,” the faster you will run in the race!

I Cor. 9:24-25

²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in **a race** run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Philippians 3:11-14

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

What is the “high calling”?

Paul ran this race, and he noted that this race was not easy. The race is full of obstacles – full of trials, full of temptations, full of hardships. What does Paul say about his experience running this race?

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

The Prize

The “prize” is taking Jesus Christ as bridegroom (i.e., marrying Jesus), which means ruling and reigning with Him on the throne for eternity. The “prize” is a **crown**.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Revelation 3:11

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy **crown**.

Revelation 4:8,9

⁸ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

⁹ And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

I Cor. 2:9

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that **love** him.

Revelation 21:9-11

⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

¹¹ **Having the glory of God**: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

The Bride is in the midst of the throne (Rev. 7:17), ruling and reigning with Jesus. She has the “glory of God.” The prize is sitting on the throne with Jesus as his Bride!

The Winner

The “Bride” = a group of believers that run to win God’s best and win. There will be winners and losers. There are no participation trophies.

I Cor. 9:24-25

²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but **one receiveth the prize**? So run, that ye may obtain.

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Philippians 3:8

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that **I may win Christ.**

- *Pause here and think about this... Paul was already saved, so if (as some Christians believe) that the Bride of Christ include the entire Church, then why would Paul be “hoping” that he would win Christ? That he “may” win Christ? If the Bride included in the entire church, then Paul would’ve already won Christ the moment he was save... but that is obviously not what the Word says, not what Paul’s Gospel says. The Bride is the full overcomer, not the baby Christian drinking milk, but the fully mature son (the “huios” son) who feasts on the strong meat!*

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

I Cor. 15:20-23

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But every man in **his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Cor. 15:41-42

⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: **for one star differeth from another star in glory.**

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead.

Romans 8:17

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

- “children” – *teknon* (G5043) – child, immature, babe
- “joint-heirs” – *sygkleronomos* (G4789) – a joint participant, a fellow heir

What are the requirements to be a “joint-heir”?

The “mystery” revealed...

Ephesians 3:2-6

² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

³ How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

⁵ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs (*sygkleronomos*), and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Paul says the mystery is that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs with Christ. This cannot be referring to salvation because the fact that Gentiles could be saved was already known. That was not a mystery, and specifically, that was not a mystery to be revealed by the Holy Spirit. So this must be speaking of something different, something greater, something bigger: Jesus Christ is going to have a Bride.

In Revelation, we see different groups of people in heaven:

- 24 Elders (Rev. 4:4) – full overcomers of the Old Testament (e.g., Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joseph, etc. – *see* Hebrews 11) sitting “round about the throne”
- The Bride (Rev. 4:6-9) – the “four living ones” – the redeemed saints who are full overcomers in Christ sitting “in the midst of the throne”; these are the joint-heirs, the Lamb’s Wife, the ones who will be seated in the midst of the throne with Jesus.
 - 1 Thess. 4:16-17 → “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

- Innumerable Multitude (Rev. 7:9) – largest group of believers that come out of the tribulation; a tear will be wiped away from their eyes; they will be holding palms and waving them, crying out with a loud voice “Salvation to our God”



What are some characteristics of a Bridal saint (i.e., joint-heir)? (see I Thess. 5:2-8, Phil. 3:8, Phil. 4:8, 1 Cor. 2:9, Eph. 4:13)

I Cor. 2:9

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

- *Agape* (G25) – unconditional love, the highest form of love
- The same “love” used in Gal. 2:20 (“...I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”).

In other words, the preparation that Paul is speaking of here is not for all Christians, but only for those who love Jesus with an *agape* love—the deepest, highest form of love. Perhaps, the Bride?

Where does this *agape* love come from that is characteristic of the Bride? Why none other than the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5

⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love (*agape*) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Virtuous Woman (Proverbs 31:10-31) – This is how King Solomon closes out Proverbs...

YOU are the Virtuous Woman. It is a metaphor – the “virtuous woman” embodies the Bride. Here are her characteristics:

- She can be trusted (vs. 11)
- She works with her hands and isn't hesitant to do the hard work, working overtime (vs. 13-15)
- She is a testimony to many (her "fruit" is her testimony that becomes an entire vineyard) (vs. 16)
- She puts on the armor of God – girding her loins with strength and strengthens her arms (she hits the gym jk but fr) (vs. 17)
- She helps those in need (vs. 20)
- She trusts the Lord for her household and is not afraid of the trials that come upon her house (the snow) because she knows the blood of the Lamb covers her home (the scarlet) (vs. 21)
- People know her for her strength and her honor (vs. 25)
- She speaks wisdom and is kind (vs. 26)
- Her family loves her because she loves them (vs. 28)
- Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all (vs. 29) → ***It is NOT about works. It is about the heart. It is about the "woman that feareth the Lord" – that is who wins Christ. That is who shall be praised (vs. 30)***

Other Bridal-type stories exhibiting Bridal characteristics

- Ruth
- Esther
- Rebekah (from Isaac and Rebekah) → Genesis 24
- Rahab → Joshua 2
- The Shulamite → Song of Solomon

"How do you keep it together during tough times?"

Me:



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Verses

- Col. 1:27
- 2 Cor. 3:18
- Phil. 3:11-14
- Eph. 3:1-9
- Eph. 4:13
- I Cor. 15:41-42
- Romans 8:17

Group A

"I thought everyone just gets raptured together, right?"

Group B

"So what would I have to do to be in the Bride of Christ?"

Group C

"Bride of Christ? Marrying Jesus? That sounds a little weird."

Group D

"Why would I want to be part of the Bride of Christ? What are the benefits?"