

Be Ready:
Common Q&A on Your Walk with Jesus

1 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)
- “the hope” = elpis (G1680) = confidence, faith, expectation, joy

How do we get ready to give this “answer”?

2 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.”

- “knowledge” = gnosis (G1108) = SCIENCE!

Question #1 – How do you know God is Real?

Related Common Questions:

- Why do you believe in God?
- How do you know the Bible is real?
- How do you know Jesus existed?
- How do you know all of this just wasn't made up?

Answer #1: Your Testimony

Your testimony is oftentimes the very reason people ask you the questions above – the reason why people become curious about your faith in Jesus Christ. The outward pouring out of the love of Jesus in your heart is a powerful thing for many to see.

Acts 8:9-25

⁹ But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

¹⁰ To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

¹¹ And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

¹³ **Then Simon himself believed also:** and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

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,

¹⁹ Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

²⁰ But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

²⁴ Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

²⁵ And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Acts 8:26-30, 35-39

²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias (AY-SIGH-US) the prophet.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

[SKIP to vs. 35]

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Answer #2: Design

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 = $10^{2,685,000}$

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

By definition, you are a miracle!

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)

Answer #3: History

- ~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* – 643 manuscripts
 - Sophocles – 193 manuscripts
 - Aristotle – 49 manuscripts
- Variants in the Biblical manuscripts?
 - FACT: The manuscripts from both the NT and OT match up over 97%

No other book in the history of mankind has as much bibliographical evidence and accuracy as the Word of God!

This shouldn't be surprising...

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 discernor 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.”

Question #2 – How do you know Salvation is through faith and not by works?

Related Common Questions:

- Don't I have to be a "good person" to get into heaven?
- Don't I have to do good things to get into heaven?
- How can God accept me into heaven if I'm a sinner?

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

BUT WAIT... doesn't it say that faith without works is dead?! Yes, technically. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth, let's understand exactly what this is talking about:

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 speaking of justification before MEN (think "testimony"), not justification before GOD! Big difference! James is not saying that "good works" is a requirement for salvation. Salvation is by grace (through faith) **ALONE**, a freely given gift from God, not of works.

BUT WAIT... so if salvation is by grace through faith, then can I just go out and sin willfully?! Sure, you can. However, salvation brings about a changed heart (the new man), and a changed heart brings about a new person.

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?

II 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.

Question #3 – How do you know the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues?

Related Common Questions:

- Wasn't speaking in tongues an old thing that doesn't exist anymore?
- Aren't I filled when I'm saved?
- All children of God have the Holy Spirit, right?

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.

Salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit (evidenced by speaking in tongues) are two different things.

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? Did he see something? Hear something? Maybe he saw/heard these ones crying out in tongues of men and angels???

Now what about the ones who believe the infilling of Spirit was for a time but is no longer applicable today? They typically point to this passage...

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.

- "perfect" = telios = complete, completeness
- "That which is perfect is come" = when Jesus Christ comes back to catch his Bride in the air!

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.

Question #4 – What is this “Bride of Christ”?

Related Common Questions:

- I thought everyone just gets raptured together, right?
- Why would God choose favorites?
- Bride of Christ? That sounds a little weird, marrying Jesus, you know.
- What is this “mystery” you guys keep talking about?
- Ranks in the resurrection? Huh?

The “Bride” = a group of believers that run to win God’s best and win. The “prize” they win is taking Jesus Christ as bridegroom (i.e., marrying Jesus), ruling and reigning with Him for eternity.

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

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”? We know it has something to do with being filled with all the fullness of God. It has something to do with the width and the length and the height and the depth, to know the love of Christ which passeth all understanding...

The “high calling” is not about gaining Christ as Savior, but Christ as **Bridegroom**!

Now how do you know this “prize” is speaking of this wedding day with Jesus Christ?! How do we get from “prize” to “Bride”?

2 Timothy 4:7-8

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

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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 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.

It is a race, saints. And a race has winners and losers. NO participation trophies!

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.

There will be different companies of believers, and only the fully mature ones (the "huios" sons and daughters) will be joint-heirs (married) with Jesus Christ on the throne. That's the PRIZE!

NOW RUN AND GO GET IT!