

I Believe in Jesus

(Finding Faith Series - #4)
February 15, 2009

Faith – noun: 1. Confidence or trust in a person or thing.
2. Belief that is not based on proof.

Step 1: Does God exist? The evidence causes me to have **faith** that God exists.

Step 2: What's so special about the Bible? The Bible is so unique and accurate (historically and scientifically) that I have **faith** that it is from God.

Step 3: What is God like? The Bible reveals God as an eternal spirit, perfect in all his attributes, who explains himself most clearly as a loving Father.

Question #4: What about Jesus?

“Finding Faith” in Christianity depends entirely on the truth and truthfulness of Jesus Christ.

Christians believe that Jesus was God incarnate (in the flesh), who came to earth to “show us” the Love of God and die for our sins.

What Did Jesus Claim?

To be YAHWEH	<i>John 8:58 ...before Abraham was born, I AM...</i>
Equality with God	<i>John 5:18 ...making himself equal with God.</i>
To be the Messiah	<i>Mk 14:61-64 “Are you the Christ?” “I am.”</i>
Accepted worship	<i>Mt 28:17 ...they saw him, they worshiped him...</i>
Equal authority	<i>Mt 28:18 All authority in heaven & on earth...</i>

C.S. Lewis said,

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

What Did His Followers Think of Jesus?

Thomas: *My Lord and my God. John 20:28*

Paul: *...in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. Col. 2:9*

John: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. John 1:14.*

Peter: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Mt 16:16*

His followers _____ for those beliefs.

What Evidence Do We Have?

Fulfilled Prophecy

Nearly 200 OT prophecies give specific details of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Miraculous Power

(Nicodemus) came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Sinless Life

*Heb. 4:15 ...we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.
John 8:46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?*

The Resurrection

1 Cor. 15:3-9 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that appeared to Peter... the Twelve... five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living... James... all the apostles...