

blind faith?
“What About Jesus?”
June 12, 2011

Questions: Is Christianity based on “*blind faith*”? Are their answers for the most important spiritual questions in life?

Mind – answers help clear the mind to make room for faith.

Heart – empathetic listening and love helps clear the heart of anger and disappointment with God and the Church.

*In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** (apologetic) to everyone who **asks** you to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

As Christians are we: 1. Uninformed? 2. Unloving?

REVIEW: What about the Bible? The purpose of the Bible is to reveal who God is, how we can know Him, & his plan for our lives

A. Question: What about Jesus’ life, teaching, miracles, divine claims, death, resurrection, and ascension?

MESSAGE: Everything hinges on the resurrection!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; 14-17; Acts 1:1-3

The resurrection of Jesus, and all who believe in him, is what the Apostles preached, and the Church was founded upon.

A. Resurrection Objection Theories: (is there evidence?)

1. **Fraud** – Disciples stole body; hoax.
2. **“Swoon”** – Jesus wasn’t really dead.
3. **Hallucination** – Disciples only saw visions of Jesus.

B. Then WHO is Jesus? (Josh McDowell)

1. **Lunatic** - serious psychological issues and God complex with followers who were easily duped.

2. **Liar** – purposefully and immorally misrepresented himself for personal gain.
3. **Legend** – his life & work has been exaggerated over time.
4. **Lord** – virgin birth, sinless life, authoritative teaching, powerful miracles, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, and ascension give evidence for faith.

C.S. Lewis – *Jesus cannot be a great moral teacher and make the claims he made. He was a lunatic, or devil from hell...he left no other options open to us except that he was the Son of God.*

C. Evidence For The Resurrection

1. Eye-witness accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul) stating up to 500 other eye witnesses.
2. Violent opposition from those who tried to discredit him.
3. Radical life changing effect on disciples and followers (many of whom died for their faith).
4. Explosive spread of Christianity to other nations.
5. Jewish believers following Jesus over the religious teachings of their family, friends, priests, etc., even changing the day they worshipped to resurrection day!

D. APPLICATION: *If Jesus is the resurrected Lord, what does that mean for my life? What about his teachings? What about life after death? What does that mean for those I love?*

**** Who in my life is God drawing to himself that needs my listening ear, and informed faith? PRAY!**

Question for Spiritual Conversations:

1. What do you believe about Jesus’ claim to be God and his resurrection? Where do those beliefs come from?

Additional Resources:

Starting Point by Andy Stanley

10 Most Common Objections to Christianity by Alex McFarland

Letters From A Skeptic by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd

When Skeptics Ask by Norman L. Geisler

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis