

The background of the cover is a collage of overlapping, semi-transparent question marks in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and pink. The question marks are of different sizes and are scattered across the entire page, creating a vibrant and thematic visual for the title.

# 基本信仰問答

*Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith*

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中文簡體、英文版合訂本  
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## 前言

怎样帮助信徒坚定信仰？怎样栽培信徒，使信徒可以向别人清楚讲述自己的信仰？这是许多牧者关注的问题。

累积了一些牧会经验，有一点点领悟，我发现有几个基本信仰问题，若能提供简要明了的答案，应该对信徒有帮助。

这几个问题是：

- 一. 怎么知道上帝存在？
- 二. 怎么知道耶稣是上帝？
- 三. 怎么知道圣经是上帝的启示？
- 四. 为什么必须信靠耶稣？

为了方便记忆，每个问题我列出七个答案。信徒反覆温习这些答案，对上帝的信仰必然比较稳固，也必然比较容易有条理地与别人分享这信仰。

祈愿这份材料可以帮助弟兄姊妹信仰根基稳固，灵命健康成长。

李永成  
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## 第一课 「怎么知道上帝存在？」

「上帝」是指天地万物的创造者，不是指神灵鬼怪。

《圣经》说：「上帝是个灵。」(约 4:24)

灵像空气。我们的肉眼看不见空气，空气却充满周围。

我们看不见上帝，但祂是「超乎众人之上，贯乎众人之中，也住在众人之内」(弗 4:6)

我们怎么知道上帝确实存在？

简单来说，最少有以下七点理由：

### 一. 主观感受：

- 个人领悟：
  - 与生俱来就知道：冥冥中有主宰；恶有恶报，善有善报。这是普罗大众的信念。
- 集体表现：
  - 所有民族都有拜祭神灵的活动。
  - 凡是有文字的民族都有「神」这个字。

\* 这就说明在人的心中普遍都存在「有神」的观念。

\* 「有神」是与生俱来的感应；  
「無神」是后天教育的结果。

### 二. 客观考察：

- 个别物体的奇妙结构：花朵、树叶、细胞、原子、核子、遗传因子(DNA 密码)
- 物体运动的奇妙规律：所有物理定律、日月星辰运转
- 物体互动的奇妙系统：万有引力、四季交替、光合作用、人体结构、血液循环...

\* 这些现象表明在背后有极高智慧和能力的设计者和维持者。

### 三. “理性”表明上帝存在：物质自然演化，不可能产生理性。

理性的出现必定是来自理性的源头。

\* 上帝是真理的源头。

耶稣说：「我就是真理。」(约 14:6)

### 四. “感性”表明上帝存在：物质自然演化，不可能产生感性(爱情)。

感性的出现必定是来自感性的源头。

\* 上帝是爱的源头。

《圣经》说：「爱是從上帝来的。凡有爱心的，都是由上帝而生…。上帝就是爱。」

(约一 4:7-8)

五. **“道德”表明上帝存在**：物质自然演化，不可能产生道德是非的观念。  
道德的出现必定是来自道德的源头。

\* 上帝是公义、良善的源头。

《圣经》说：「耶和华(上帝)的典章真实，全然公义。」(诗 19:9)

「耶和华在祂一切所行的，无不公义。」(诗 145:17)

六. **《圣经》告诉我们：上帝存在**

- 《圣经》是影响世界最大的一本书。这本书清楚记载说，上帝存在。

七. **耶稣告诉我们：上帝存在**

- 耶稣是影响世界最大的一个人。耶稣明确表示，上帝存在。
- 耶稣就是上帝——道成肉身。

**结语：**

我们知道上帝确实存在，是根据七点：

- 主观感受
- 客观考察
- 理性存在
- 感性存在
- 道德存在
- 圣经记载
- 耶稣宣告

## 第二课

### 「怎么知道耶稣是上帝？」

#### 一.耶稣自称是上帝：

祂多次公开宣称自己就是天地的主宰上帝。

\* 古往今来从来没有一个伟人自称是上帝。

- 耶稣对敌对祂的犹太人坦然地说：「我与父(上帝)原为一」。  
犹太人因此要用石头打祂，认为祂是僭妄，因为祂把自己当作上帝。(参：约 10:30-33)
- 耶稣对门徒清楚地说：「人看见了我就是看见了父(上帝).....我在父(上帝)里面，父(上帝)在我里面.....」(参：约 14:9-11)

#### 二.别人尊称祂为上帝：

从来没有一个伟人被他同时代的人称为上帝。

耶稣的门徒不单视祂为老师，更承认祂就是上帝。

- 多马对耶稣说：「我的主，我的上帝。」(约 20:28)
- 使徒保罗说：「爱子(耶稣基督)是那不能看见的上帝的像。」(西 1:15)
- 《希伯来书》的作者说：「祂(耶稣基督)是上帝荣耀所发的光辉，是上帝本体的真像。」  
(来 1:3)
- 《圣经》说：「太初有道，道与上帝同在，道就是上帝。  
这道太初与上帝同在，万物是借着祂造的，  
凡被造的没有一样不是借着祂造的，  
生命在祂里头.....道成了肉身住在我们中间。」(约 1:1-4, 14)  
\* 这「道」是指耶稣。

#### 三.祂的言论：

耶稣的言论显示祂不是一般的凡人——

耶稣说：

「天地要废去，我的话却不能废去。」(太 24:35)

「我从天降下，仍旧在天。」(约 3:13)

「那听我话又信差我来者的，就有永生，不至于定罪，是已经出死入生了。」(约 5:24)

「我就是生命的粮，到我这里来必定不饿，信我的永远不渴。」(约 6:35)

「我对你们所说的话就是灵，就是生命。」(约 6:63)

「我是世界的光，跟从我的就不在黑暗里走，必要得着生命的光。」(约 8:12)

「你们是从下头来的，我是从上头来的；你们是属这世界的，我不是属这世界的。」

(约 8:23)

「天父的儿子(耶稣)若叫你们自由，你们就真自由了！」(约 8:36)

「人若遵守我的道，就永远不见死。」(约 8:51)

「还没有亚伯拉罕就有了我。」(约 8:58)

「复活在我，生命也在我，信我的人虽然死了也必复活。」(约 11:25)

「我就是道路、真理、生命，若不借着我没有谁能到父那里去。」(约 14:6)

孔子、老子、释迦牟尼、穆罕默德，没有一个人曾经说过像耶稣那样带着绝对权威的话。任何人说那些话，我们很自然会感到那是狂妄，惟有上帝自己说那些话才会让人觉得是恰如其份。

#### 四.祂的行為：

- 祂平靜風浪。(可 4:35-41)
- 祂廣行神迹奇事、醫病趕鬼。

\* 這些表現正與祂的聲稱相符——祂是創造天地的真神，是生命之主。

#### 五.祂的復活：(太 28:5-6，約 10:18)

當年猶太人的領袖和羅馬政府都不喜歡聽到「耶穌復活」這消息。若「耶穌復活」是耶穌門徒散播的謠言，當權者只要把耶穌的屍體拿出來公開示眾，那謠言自然會澄清。然而，他們找不到耶穌的屍體；那墳墓是空的。因為耶穌復活了！

還有，耶穌的門徒在耶穌被釘十字架之後，他們都非常害怕，躲起來。但過了幾天，他們却公開在耶路撒冷(耶穌遇害的地方)公開宣揚耶穌復活的消息。

沒有人會編造謊言，然後自己冒死去宣揚那謊言；門徒改變，因為他們見過了復活的耶穌。因此，耶穌的門徒很勇敢地四處傳道，建立教會。

\* 今天有教會存在正是耶穌復活的證明。

#### 六.祂的十字架：

十字架本來是羅馬帝國最殘酷的刑具，明顯帶着殘暴、恐怖的形像。

今天，十字架成為教堂的標志，成為救護車的標志，成為慈愛、盼望、拯救的標志。有不少人用十字架做飾物，有不少國家的國旗有十字架的徽號。瑞士每一個山頭都豎立一個十字架。十字架在今天是美善的象徵。

為什麼十字架的意義有如此奇異的改變？因為耶穌曾經被釘死在十字架上，而祂復活了，祂明顯勝過死亡。祂為人舍命贖罪的大愛，給人間帶來救恩和希望。

假如耶穌不是上帝，十字架的意義不可能如此徹底地改變。

#### 七.祂的影響：

耶穌出生于中东巴勒斯坦地，猶大的伯利恆城。祂原是木匠的儿子，生活清貧，于小城拿撒勒長大。三十岁左右开始出来传道，大概三年之后就被钉十字架而死。按《圣经》记载，祂死后第三天复活，之后有四十天之久分别在各处向门徒显现，然后升天。祂在世的年月只有三十多年，比许多伟大的哲学家、宗教家短寿，没有太多时间给祂去传播祂的理想。祂旅行的范围绝少离开巴勒斯坦地。祂没有学过中国功夫，没有读过孙子兵法，没有接受过高等教育，没有著述一本书，祂是无财无势。任何能影响社会的有利条件似乎祂都没有，但奇怪的是，祂对后世的影响非常广阔深远；远远超过任何一位哲学家、宗教家。世人甚至以祂出生的那一年定为公元元年。很明显的，祂是超乎寻常。假如祂不是上帝，怎么可能有这样的影响？

若我们客观、诚实地去比较几个宗教，很容易就找到那一位是真神。

上帝既然能创造有情的人，祂本身当然有情，祂当然喜欢与人接触。祂不单用各样方法——透过大自然，透过《圣经》，向人启示祂自己，祂更亲自进入人类的历史中。祂放下自己的无限，成为有限的人，让人能清楚认识祂。祂的名字叫耶稣！

**结语：**

我们知道耶稣就是上帝，是根据七点：

- 耶稣自称
- 别人尊称
- 祂的言论
- 祂的行为
- 祂的复活
- 祂的十架
- 祂的影响

### 第三课

## 「怎么知道圣经是上帝的启示？」

《圣经》是一本超奇的书；被称为书中之书，又称为天下第一书。

《圣经》为什么有那么大的权威？因为《圣经》是上帝的启示。

我们怎么知道《圣经》是上帝的启示？

最少有七点理由：

#### 一. 圣经的自称：《圣经》的内文多次宣宣称，这书所记载的是上帝的话。

参考经文：

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 出 20:1                          | 「上帝吩咐这一切的话.....」                       |
| 申 6:1                           | 「这是耶和华你们上帝所吩咐教训你们的诫命...。」              |
| 赛 1:18-20                       | 「这是耶和华亲口说的.....」                       |
| 耶 1:7-8, 19                     | 「这是耶和华说的.....」                         |
| 耶 9:23-24                       | 「这是耶和华说的.....」                         |
| 结 14:11, 14, 23; 15:8; 16:8, 14 | 「这是耶和华说的.....」                         |
| 提后 3:16                         | 「《圣经》都是上帝所默示的，于教训、督责、使人归正、教导人学义都是有益的。」 |

#### 二. 作者的表现：

《圣经》作者的表现显明他们是传扬上帝的话：他们宁愿公然顶撞权贵和君王，长久冒险犯难。很明显，那些作者所领受的信息是来自比君王更高的权威——上帝！

(参考经文：赛 1:2-9，耶 20:7-9，结 21:8-12，何 4:1-10，摩 7:10-17)

#### 三. 惊人的言论：《圣经》充满惊人的言论，并非一般道理教训可以比拟。

参考经文：

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 申 8:3   | 「人活着不是单靠食物，乃是靠耶和华口里所出的一切话。」                       |
| 摩 8:11  | 「人饥饿非因无饼，干渴非因无水，乃因不听耶和华的话。」                       |
| 约 5:24  | 「我实实在在的告诉你们，那听我话又信差我来者的，就有永生；不至于定罪，是已经出死入生了。」     |
| 约 6:35  | 耶稣说：「我就是生命的粮。到我这里来的，必定不饿；信我的，永远不渴。」               |
| 约 6:63  | 耶稣说：「叫人活着的乃是灵，肉体是无益的。<br>我对你们所说的话就是灵，就是生命。」       |
| 约 8:12  | 耶稣又对众人说：「我是世界的光。跟从我的，就不在黑暗里走，<br>必要得着生命的光。」       |
| 约 8:36  | 「所以天父的儿子若叫你们自由，你们就真自由了。」                          |
| 约 14:6  | 耶稣说：「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不借着我不，没有人能到父那里去。」               |
| 约 18:37 | 耶稣说：「我为此(作王)而生，也为此来到世间，特为给真理作见证。<br>凡属真理的人就听我的话。」 |

《圣经》的内容显示其中有上帝特殊的启示，远超过当时的人所能理解的。

- 宇宙有一个开始。(创 1:1)——长久以来，大家认为宇宙是永恒不变的。二十世纪太空科学家发现宇宙不住膨胀的现象，才知道宇宙应该是有一个开始。
- 人类本于一源，同出于一母。(创 2:18-25)——二十世纪科学家解读了细胞基因密码(DNA)，才知道人类同出于一母。
- 大地悬于虚空。(伯 26:7)——当时(3500 年前)的人不可能知道地球是悬于太空之中。
- 上帝坐在地球大圈之上。(赛 40:22)——当时(2700 年前)的人不可能知道地球是圆的。
- 人与生俱来有「永恒」的观念。(传 3:11)——「永恒」是个奇妙的观念。我们不能从观察认识永恒，因为我们观察到的东西都不是永恒的。我们不能从研究认识永恒，因为不可能研究观察不到的东西。我们不能从教育认识永恒，因为无法研究的东西就不可能教导别人。所以，按理我们不会有「永恒」的观念。然而我们却不住追求「永恒」。生活安定的人，通常都会追求长寿，甚至希望「万岁万岁万万岁」。我们有「永恒」的观念，因为上帝把「永恒」放在我们心中，因为我们归属于永恒的上帝。

#### 四. 预言的应验：

《圣经》中有许多预言，其中大部份都已准确地应验了，表明《圣经》含藏着超奇的能力。

- 700 B.C. 弥迦先知这样预言：  
「伯利恒、以法他啊，你在犹大诸城中为小，将来必有一位从你那里出来，在以色列中为我作掌权的；祂的根源从亘古，从太初就有。」(弥 5:2)  
700 年后，万王之王耶稣果然在伯利恒出生。
- 680 B.C. 以赛亚先知这样预言：  
「因有一婴孩为我们而生；有一子赐给我们。政权必担在祂的肩头上；祂的名称为『奇妙策士、全能的上帝、永在的父、和平的君』。」(赛 9:6)  
有识之士大概都不会作这样荒谬的预言，说：「将有小孩出生，祂是全能的上帝！」几百年后耶稣出生。祂多方表明，祂就是上帝！
- 以赛亚先知在《以赛亚书》五十三章预言基督受苦的情况，其中的描述与耶稣的遭遇竟然完全符合。(参考：太 26:47-68，27:11-60)
- 《申命记》(申 28:20-25)及《耶利米书》(耶 34:17)都预言以色列国因违背上帝诫命，必招败亡，并且会「在万国中被抛来抛去」。  
于主前 586 年犹大国(以色列人)果然亡于巴比伦。自此以后，犹太人到处迁徙流亡，一如《圣经》的预言。
- 《以西结书》写于主前 580 年，当时以色列与犹大南北两国都已灭亡。北国以色列于主前 721 年亡于亚述。南国犹太于主前 586 年亡于巴比伦。在《以西结书》中却一再预言以色列必会复国。  
参考经文：  
主对我说：「人子啊，这些骸骨就是以色列全家。他们说：『我们的骨头枯干了，我们的指

望失去了，我们灭绝净尽了。」所以你要发预言对他们说，主耶和华如此说：『我的民哪，我必开你们的坟墓，使你们从坟墓中出来，你们就知道我是耶和华。我必将我的灵放在你们里面，你们就要活了。我将你们安置在本地，你们就知道我——耶和华如此说，也如此成就了。』这是耶和华说的。」

主耶和华如此说：「我要将以色列人从他们所到的各国收取，又从四围聚集他们，引导他们归回本地。」(结 37:11-14, 21)

耶和华如此说：「我要使雅各被掳的人归回，要怜悯以色列全家，又为我的圣名发热心。他们在本地安然居住，无人惊吓，是我将他们从万民中领回，从仇敌之地召来。我在许多国的民眼前，在他们身上显为圣的时候，他们要担当自己的羞辱和干犯我的一切罪。因我使他们被掳到外邦人中，后又聚集他们归回本地，他们就知道我是耶和华——他们的上帝；我必不再留他们一人在外邦。」(结 39:25-28)

以色列国果然在 1948 年复国。一个国家亡国二千五百年仍能复国，是史无前例的神迹！

- 《彼得后书》3:10 预言世界末日的情况，谈到那时天上会有巨大的响声，一切有形体的东西都会被大火熔化。在第一世纪这样的讲论实在不容易被理解，但现在二十一世纪，这样的预言就变得非常可能了。这世界若被毁灭，相信必是毁于核子弹的威力之下——一切物质都会被熔化！

## 五.耶稣的确认：

即或有人不承认耶稣的神性，但无可否认耶稣是古今中外获得大多数人公认的伟人；这位伟人的意见我们不能忽视。

耶稣重视《圣经》的教导，耶稣确认《圣经》的权威。

耶稣认为《圣经》是给祂作见证的。耶稣就是《圣经》中的主角

参考经文：

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 太 4:4, 6, 10   | 耶稣坚守《圣经》的教导，<br>祂一再以《圣经》的话去对付魔鬼的试探。      |
| 太 5:18         | 「就是到天地都废去了，律法(《圣经》)的一点一画也不能废去，<br>都要成全。」 |
| 太 24:35        | 「天地要废去，我(耶稣)的话(《圣经》)却不能废去。」              |
| 可 12:24        | 「明白《圣经》晓得上帝大能。」                          |
| 路 24:25-27, 32 | 「凡经上所指着自已(耶稣)的话，都给他们讲解明白了。」              |
| 约 5:39         | 「给我(耶稣)作见证的就是这经。」                        |
| 约 6:63         | 「我(耶稣)对你们所说的话(《圣经》)就是灵，就是生命。」            |
| 约 8:51         | 「人若遵守我(耶稣)的道(《圣经》)就永远不见死。」               |

## 六.對世界的影響：

《圣经》的销售量远超过世界上任何一本书。每年销售超过一百万册的书，已经是了不起：金氏世界纪录(Guinness Book of World Record)，每年平均销售一百七十万册。Jacqueline Susan 所著的娃娃谷(Valley of Dolls)，平均每年销售一百三十万册。这些都是异常畅销的书。而

《圣经·新旧约全书》，每年销售超过两千万本。《圣经》单行本(如新约、诗篇、约翰福音……)销售量更达亿本以上。《圣经》在过去六百年一直是最销的书，而且远远超过其他的畅销书。按联合《圣经》公会(United Bible Societies)公布，2016 年全球销售新旧约全书三千四百万册，另全球以光盘、数码光盘或电子书形式销售的数码圣经共三百万本。

《圣经》的翻译本之多也是全球之最。金氏世界纪录有 25 种不同译本，读者文摘有 19 个译本。《圣经》新旧约全书的译本超过 600 种(2015 年底有 670 种译本)，连同单行本《圣经》译本更达 2,600 种之多(2015 年底是 2,642)，其他书籍望尘莫及。

有许多落后民族，原本没有文字，只有语言。有宣教士进到他们当中学了他们的语言，用拼音法为他们造出文字，然后再把《圣经》翻译过去，《圣经》就成了该民族的第一本书，也成了该民族文字的开始。这些宣教士能学习异族语言，能把语言转为文字，对《圣经》原文(希伯来文、亚兰文、希腊文)要有相当的了解。他们的智慧、学问都一定是超于寻常，而且他们必须愿意花上十年八载的光阴，与那些落后民族共处；同时他们必须是在精壮之年，才可以长期适应落后原始的生活。还有，他们完成翻译《圣经》，并不因此发财，也不会因此得到什么荣誉奖牌。

世界上没有那一本书曾经吸引过一个这样优秀的人，付上那么大的代价，去翻译它成别一种「落后」的文字。但《圣经》却吸引了千万优秀的学者，愿意为它付上心血甚至生命来翻译它。

表明这本蕴含非常重要的真理，值得我们付上最大的代价去传扬它。

## 七.信徒的改变：

古今中外许多人因为读了《圣经》，生命就有改变，就能迁善改过，这是不争的事实，千万的基督徒可以为此作见证。

- 奥古斯丁(Augustine 354-430) 非洲人，青少年时期放荡不羁，后来读了《圣经》(《罗马书》13:2-14) 就悔改信靠上帝，结果成为北非教会的领袖，是教会历史中显赫的名人。
- 马丁路德(Martin Luther 1483-1546) 德国人，因为研读《圣经》(《诗篇》及《罗马书》)明白「因信称义」的道理，洞悉当时教会的流弊，就发起了中世纪的改教运动。
- 约翰牛顿(John Newton 1725-1807) 英国人，本来是贩卖黑奴的头子，无恶不作，后来悔改信主，成了英国著名的布道家。普世闻名的圣诗《奇异恩典》(Amazing Grace)的歌词就是他的作品。《圣经》对约翰牛顿的影响很大。他以《申命记》15:15 作为他一生的座右铭：「要记念你在埃及地作过奴仆，耶和华你的上帝将你救赎。」
- 吴明节 (1916-1990) 河南人，青年时代狂妄自大，对基督教信仰甚为轻藐，时常仗势欺压信徒，打击教会。后来读了《圣经》(《罗马书》1 至 3 章)，彻底悔改，成为蒙主重用的牧师，历任香港信义会监督。

《圣经》感动人、改变人的故事如恒河沙数，不胜枚举。

**结语：**

在耶稣时代《旧约·圣经》已经成形，是犹太人沿用的经典。耶稣的门徒所成立的教会，仍是尊《旧约》为《圣经》。

第一世纪末叶，《新约·圣经》各书卷已在教会流行，到 367 年著名的教父亚他拿修 (Athanasius) 首先列出《新约》27 卷的书目。

397 年众教会的领袖在迦太基 (Carthage) 举行会议，正式承认《新约》27 卷是《圣经》正典 (“Canon”——希腊文，是标准、权威的意思)。

一位有名的学者亚贝 (Abba, Raymond) 这样说：「《圣经》的权威不是一种强求人从外表来相信它的形式上的权威，它是一种工具性的权威。它含有一种质素使我在它面前不得不对真理俯首。」  
《圣经》的本质与权威》(The Nature & Authority of the Bible) P.148。

总括来说，《圣经》之所以有权威，是因为它本身显出权威来。

有一点要补充说明的是：《圣经》并不是一本百科全书。《圣经》的权威并不在生物学、地理学、或太空物理学之范围内，而是在人与上帝之间的个人关系中。《圣经》是人类信仰与生活的准则。

「圣经都是上帝所默示的，于教训、督责、使人归正、  
教导人学义都是有益的，叫属上帝的人得以完全，预备行各样的善事。」  
(提后 3:16-17)

- 《圣经》的来源：由上帝默示
- 《圣经》的对象：给属上帝的人
- 《圣经》的目的：使属上帝的人完全(成长、成熟)  
使属上帝的人行善

我们知道《圣经》是上帝的启示，是根据七点：

- 圣经自称
- 作者表现
- 言论内容
- 预言应验
- 耶稣确认
- 影响世界
- 信徒改变

## 第四课

### 「为什么要信靠耶稣？」

#### 为什么我们要信靠耶稣(上帝)？

知道上帝存在，知道耶稣就是上帝，知道《圣经》是上帝启示，这都很好，但跟我们有什么关系呢？为什么我们要信靠耶稣？

这问题最简单的回答是：信靠耶稣真好！信靠上帝真好！又真，又好！

按这方向，我再给大家提供七个答案：

#### 真——

##### 一. 祂真存在

我们在前面已经讲过，上帝是真实存在的，耶稣是真实存在的。

为什么我们信靠祂？因为祂是真的。假如祂是假的，我们就不应该相信祂，更不能信靠祂。

耶稣真是那位创造我们的上帝，祂真是我们的主。我们应当信靠祂；我们本来就该信靠祂。

《圣经》记载，耶稣最亲爱的门徒约翰这样说：

「论到从起初原有的生命之道(耶稣基督)，就是我们所听见、所看见，亲眼看过，亲手摸过的。这生命已经显现出来，我们也看见过，现在又作见证，将原与(天)父同在且显现与我们那永远的生命，传给你们。」(约壹 1:1-2)

使徒约翰告诉我们：耶稣基督就是那生命之道。这是真的！是他亲眼见过，亲手摸过的。

耶耶稣是真的，信靠耶稣真好！

有什么好？

#### 好——

##### 二. 祂有大能

祂大有能力，因此，可以帮助人。假如祂没有能力，不能帮助人，就不太好。

耶稣是上帝。能够创造宇宙万物的上帝，当然是大有能力！

《圣经》说：「耶和華用能力创造大地，用智慧建立世界，用聪明铺张穹苍。」(耶 10:12)

「祂(上帝)说有，就有；命立，就立。」(诗 33:9)

耶稣大有能力。祂可以平静风浪，祂可以胜过魔鬼，祂可以胜过死亡；祂可以帮助我们。

##### 三. 祂是美善

上帝不单大能，祂也美善。倘若大能而不美善，大能却邪恶，那是魔鬼；不是上帝。大能而美善，才是上帝。

《圣经》说：「各样美善的恩赐和各样全备的赏赐都是从上头来的，从众光之父那里降下来的；在祂并没有改变，也没有转动的影儿。」(雅 1:17)

上帝的美善不会改变。

上帝不单美善，上帝是美善的根本。

在《圣经》中很多次提到：「耶和華(上帝)本为善。」(He is good!)

《圣经》说：「你们要称谢耶和華，因祂本为善；祂的慈爱永远长存！」(诗 107:1; 118:1, 29)

我们信靠上帝，因为祂有大能，祂可以帮助人。

我们信靠上帝，也因为祂是美善，祂愿意帮助人。

#### 四. 祂是爱我——为我舍命赎罪

上帝是爱的源头，也是爱的本体。

《圣经》说：「爱是从上帝来的…。上帝就是爱。」(约壹 4:8)

「上帝爱世人」(约 3:16)。

上帝爱所有的人——美国人、中国人、台湾人、香港人、福清人…。

上帝爱每一个人。上帝爱你和我。

《圣经》说：「祂是爱我，为我舍己。」(加 2:20)

「不是我们爱上帝的，乃是上帝爱我们，差祂的儿子(耶稣)为我们的罪作了挽回祭(赎罪祭)，这就是爱了。」(约壹 4:10)

为什么耶稣要为我们舍命赎罪？

因为我们都是罪人。

《圣经》说：「因为世人都犯了罪，亏缺了上帝的荣耀；如今却蒙上帝的恩典，因基督耶稣的救赎，就白白的称义。」(罗 3:23-24)

你承认你是个罪人吗？

《圣经》中所讲的罪，不单是指杀人、放火、强暴、偷窃…，那些犯法的行为。

《圣经》中所讲的罪，原文是指射箭没有打中目标。

罪是指一个人没有走该走的路，没有活出人性该有的美善。

我们都知道，小孩从小就有罪性的表现；小孩从小就有反叛的表现。当小孩可以用摇头和点头来表达意见的时候，总是“摇头”比较多。当小孩会说“Yes”和“No”的时候，总是说“No”比较多。

当小孩能「拿」和能「给」的时候，总是「拿」比较多。

中文是要学的，英文更是要学的，撒谎是不用学的。与生俱来，生来就会！

我们天生就是自我中心、自私自利；我们天生就会叛逆。不用学的！

小孩是如此，我们成人更是如此；只是成人比较懂得伪装，懂得隐藏。

- 鲁益师(C.S.Lewis, 1898-1963)是二十世纪很伟大的文学家和哲学家。他先后在英国牛津大学和剑桥大学当教授。他是很敬虔的基督徒。他写了很多书，影响许多知识份子信主。他说：「人类有两点奇怪之处。第一，人认为自己应当采取一种行为，这种行为可以称作公道、正当、道德、自然法…。这种正当行为的念头常常萦绕在人的脑际。第二，人实际上没有采取这种行为。」(《反璞归真》P.31)  
鲁益师指出，我们没有达到自己对别人的要求。鲁益师这样讲，是包括他自己——一个大有智慧、德高望重的大学教授，他没有做到自己对别人的要求！我们更是没有做到。

我们知道，行事为人应该诚实、公正、符合道德；我们要求别人，行事为人应该诚实、公正、符合道德。然而，我们自己的表现常常是不诚实、不公正、不符合道德。

我们希望别人做的事，我们自己却常常没有做到。

我们在心中知道，做人应该诚实、公正。我们知道，那是人应该表现的美善。那是上帝放在人心中的良知，那是上帝造人的本意，让人可以彰显上帝的美善的本质。  
活出美善，是人的荣耀，也是上帝的荣耀。

然而，因为人离弃上帝，不敬畏上帝，不遵行上帝的教导，人就妄行己路，人就偏离了该走的方向。人也因此失去了该有的美善，人也因此亏缺了上帝的荣耀。这就是罪。人犯罪的结局就是沉沦，就是墮落在一个没有上帝的地方——地狱。在地狱中，人要永远沉沦，永远受苦。

上帝因为爱我们，祂道成肉身降生在人间，祂的名字叫耶稣。耶稣来拯救我们，为我们舍命在十字架上，为我们赎罪。上帝不愿意一个人沉沦，祂希望人人都悔改，祂希望我们回转信靠祂，让我们得到新的生命。

今天有不少人对耶稣给人的救恩不太在意。不少人认为，信耶稣很好；不信，也没关系。有人存这样的心态，很可能是因为他不知道在地狱里那种「没有上帝的生活」是多么的痛苦。

最近我跟福清的同胞接触比较多，常有机会听他们讲在老家的经历。我也因此更理解为什么有那么多同胞愿意付几十万人民币的代价，甚至冒生命的危险，要逃离家乡。

- 有一位姊妹告诉我，当时政府只容许人民有一个孩子。这位姊妹怀孕，有了第二胎，她就四处躲藏。怀孕到八个月，她被抓到，被拉到医院强迫堕胎。八个月的婴孩，应该可以存活成人了，竟然活活被处死！做母亲的更是哭得呼天抢地！  
那姊妹说，在那医院里满了一屋子都是被强迫堕胎的妇女们。大家可以想像，那是怎样的场景？那是人间地狱！
- 有一位弟兄告诉我：他的妻子怀上第二胎，就逃到乡下亲戚那里去躲藏。政府派人每月到家里调查户口。一个月、两个月见不到那媳妇，政府就知道她可能是怀了孕躲藏起来。公安到处抓人，也到家里威胁他的父母。把他家的大门拆了，把家里的柜子也拆了；因为公安怀疑他们可能把人藏在柜子里，或是藏在柜子后面。整个房子被翻转。  
政府两天、三天在夜里就派人到家里来要人，吓得他父母不敢回家睡。好长时间两个老人躲在山上睡。小百姓，活得很可怜；只是为了要多生一个小孩。这是人间地狱！

中国政府没有公然反对上帝；在宪法上，在名义上，是容许人民有信仰自由。

中国社会不是地狱，但已经是如此可怕！

一个不尊重上帝的政府，自然也不懂得尊重人，自然会带来许多痛苦。这情况让我们稍为看到一点地狱的恐怖。地狱是一个完全拒绝上帝的地方，那将会是怎样的生活？根据《圣经》的启示，地狱是一片黑暗的地方，在那里有不死的虫，有不灭的火。（太 25:41，可 9:48）  
那里的人都在哀哭切齿！（太 25:30）

上帝不愿意看到我们如此沉沦灭亡，因此，祂来为我们舍命赎罪。

我们只要诚心悔改、信靠耶稣，就可以出死入生。

信靠耶稣是我们得救的唯一盼望。

《圣经》说：「除祂(耶稣)以外，别无拯救；因为在天下人间，没有赐下别的名，我们可以靠着得救。」(徒 4:12)

许多福清同胞到美国来，都要找一个中介给他开路。

我们要离开魔鬼的权势，要进入上帝的国度，也必需靠赖一个中介。

《圣经》说：「在上帝和人中间，只有一位中保，乃是降世为人的基督耶稣；祂舍自己作万人的赎价。」(提前 2:5-6)

中介要收钱，收很多的钱。耶稣不收钱，反倒为我们舍命赎罪。这是何等大的恩典！中介要收钱，收很多的钱。耶稣不收钱，反倒为我们舍命赎罪。这是何等大的恩典！

为什么我们要信靠耶稣？

因为我们被罪恶捆绑，我们在罪恶中沉沦。

耶稣是我们唯一的拯救。

「祂是爱我，为我舍己！」

我们必须信靠耶稣，才能脱离罪恶，才能得救。这是我们必须信靠耶稣的主要原因。

## 五. 祂與我同在

耶稣说：「我要求父，父就另外赐给你们一位保惠师，叫祂永远与你们同在，就是真理的圣灵。」(约 14:16-17)

「人若爱我，就必遵守我的道；我父也必爱他，并且我们要到他那里去，与他同住。」(约 14:23)

《圣经》说：「我们只管坦然无惧的来到施恩的宝座前，为要得怜恤，蒙恩惠，作随时的帮助。」(来 4:16)

- 我不止一次听到有基督徒作见证说：没有信主之前，他怕黑、怕鬼，晚上不敢一个人睡。睡觉不敢关灯。信靠耶稣以后，就不再害怕了，可以一个人睡了。因为他知道，耶稣与他同在，魔鬼再不能伤害他。

为什么我们要信靠耶稣？

因为祂常与我们同在，我们也实在需要祂的同在，我们需要祂随时的帮助。

## 六. 祂引导前路

耶稣不单与我们同在，不单陪伴我们，祂还引导我们走正路，祂引导我们踏上光明的前途。

耶稣说，祂是好牧人，我们是祂的羊。

耶稣说：「牧人既放出自己的羊来，就在前头走，羊也跟着祂。」(约 10:4)

《圣经》说：「耶和華是我的牧者，我必不致缺乏。祂使我躺卧在青草地上，领我在可安歇的水边。祂使我的灵魂苏醒，为自己的名引导我走义路。」(诗 23:1-3)

- 我在十二、岁的时候决志信主，领受洗礼。信主之后，好几年对信仰都不是很认真；只是个礼拜天的基督徒。星期一到星期六都是个“表里一致”的大罪人，没有什么基督徒的味道。

高中毕业以后，没有钱念大学，要去找工作。觉得前路茫茫，感到真是需要倚靠上帝。那时候就从新立志，要专心跟随主。

当时在团契中学到一首诗歌：「主凡事引导」我非常喜欢其中歌词，让我很受感动。这诗歌的歌词这样说：(一)救世主凡事引导我，我何需别有所求，

主爱怜我何用多疑，我一生蒙主眷佑，  
今因信享天上平安，蒙安慰何等喜乐，  
我深知无论遇何事，主必为我安排妥；  
我深知无论遇何事，主必为我安排妥。

(二)救世主凡事引导我，崎岖路安然走过，  
遇试炼主赐恩相助，生命粮日日赐我。  
我步履虽困倦无力，我心灵虽渴难名，  
但我见灵磐现我前，快乐泉源涌不停；  
但我见灵磐现我前，快乐泉源涌不停。

(三)救世主凡事引导我，主慈爱何等丰富，  
主应许在天父家里，为我备安乐住处，  
到那日我复活变化，如展翼飞光明所，  
千万年我仍要歌唱，耶稣凡事引导我；  
千万年我仍要歌唱，耶稣凡事引导我。

唱着那诗歌，我把自己交托给主，决定一生跟从主，祈求祂引导我的人生。

主耶稣真是一步一步引导我的前路。我先在巴士公司找到一份工作，后来转到飞机工程公司。在 25 岁的时候，我感受到上的呼召，要我全职投入事奉；我就进入神学院接受装备。在香港的神学院毕业之后，教会认为我还要多学习一点，把我送来美国读研究院。之后我回香港的教会事奉。1981 年七月开始到夏威夷在这教会当牧师。在过去这三十多年，除了在这教会里讲道，我去过中国多个地方传道，包括在黑龙江的大庆，在内蒙古的包头，在河南的信阳，在四川的成都和广安，还有在瑞士的日内瓦、洛桑、沃韦...。一路走来，我看见许多人因为信主，生命有美好的改变。

跟随主的路，有高有低；不是一帆风顺，却是恩典丰富，多姿多彩。

为什么要信靠耶稣？

因为我们需要祂引导我们走上光明的道路。

## 七. 祂预备天家——赐我归宿

耶稣说：「你们心里不要忧愁；你们信上帝，也当信我。在我父的家里有许多住处；若是没有，我就早已告诉你们了。我去原是为你们预备地方去。我若去为你们预备了地方，就必再来接你们到我那里去，我在那里，叫你们也在那里。」(约 14:1-3)

诗人说：「祢(上帝)要以祢的训言引导我，以后必接我到荣耀里。」(诗 73:24)

主耶稣不单引导我们，祂是一路引导我们到永恒的天家。祂让我们带着荣美的身体，进入荣美的居所。祂让我们的人生有一个真正美好的结局。

在基督耶稣里我们有永恒的盼望。

- 2018年4月29日的周刊，登载了明立中弟兄的见证。他患了癌症，已经割去左边的肾，癌细胞已经转移到脊椎，病情相当严重。前不久他还患上肺炎。假如你在这样的情况中，你会有什么感受？你会有什么表现？

一般人都可能会很担心，可能很害怕，可能很沮丧...

在明弟兄的见证中，我们没有看到忧伤，更没有看到绝望；他是满怀感恩。看他传过来的照片，他是满脸笑容。

为什么明弟兄有这样阳光的表现？

因为他坚定信靠耶稣。他相信耶稣会与他同行。他相信耶稣会随时帮助他。他相信耶稣会引导他走向更美好前途。

当那一天他走完在这世上路，他相信耶稣会带领他进入荣美的天家。

为什么要信靠耶稣？

因为耶稣为我们预备了永恒的归宿。

信靠耶稣，我们的人生会有一个完美的结局。

#### 结语：

我们为什么要信靠耶稣？

这是第四个基本信仰问题。

今天给大家提供了七个答案，我们温习一下：

1. 祂真存在
2. 祂有大能
3. 祂是美善
4. 祂是爱我——为我舍命赎罪
5. 祂与我同在
6. 祂引导前路
7. 祂预备天家

在这七点中，我讲得最详细的是那一点？是在中间的第四点。

这是我们信靠耶稣最主要的原因，因为「除祂(耶稣)以外，别无拯救；因为在天下人间，没有赐下别的名，我们可以靠着得救。」(徒 4:12)

主耶稣不单拯救我们，祂还与我们一生同行，祂引导我们直到永恒的天家。信靠耶稣真是有福，我们要把一生交托给祂，专心跟随祂。

愿意信靠耶稣的人，可以用以下的祷文向上帝祷告：

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## 决志信主祷告

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天父上帝，我感谢祢，赐下耶稣为我舍命赎罪。  
我愿意悔改，离开罪恶，信靠耶稣。  
我愿意接受耶稣设立的洗礼，洗去我的罪。  
我承认：耶稣是我的救主和我生命的主。  
我决定：从今以后，一生遵行耶稣基督的教导。  
愿圣灵进入我心中，带领我走圣洁和光明的路。  
奉耶稣基督的名祷告。阿们！

已经决志信靠耶稣的人，应该尽快参加慕道班(基本真理研讨班)，预备领受洗礼。  
洗礼是主耶稣设定向人施恩的途径，要洗去人的罪，让人领受圣灵。  
洗礼也是基督徒重生的确据。

耶稣说：「信而受洗必然得救。」 (可 16:16)

《圣经》说：

「你们各人要悔改，奉耶稣基督的名受洗，叫你们的罪得赦，  
就必领受所赐的圣灵。」 (徒 2:38)

「现在你为什么耽延呢？起来，求告祂(耶稣)的名受洗，洗去你的罪。」 (徒 22:16)

「岂不知我们这受洗归入基督耶稣的人是受洗归入祂的死吗？所以，  
我们借着洗礼归入死，和祂一同埋葬，原是叫我们一举一动有新生的样式，  
像基督借着父的荣耀从死里复活一样。我们若在祂死的形状上与祂联合，  
也要在祂复活的形状上与祂联合。」 (罗 6:3-5)

「祂便救了我们；并不是因我们自己所行的义，乃是照祂的怜悯，  
借着重生的洗和圣灵的更新。」 (多 3:5)

## 《基本信仰问答》

### 英文版序

常听到一些调查报告说，在教会长大的孩子，进入大学后，很多都没有继续去教会参加崇拜，渐渐疏离从小接受的信仰，甚至放弃。这是我的隐忧。怎样可以帮助我们教会的孩子坚定信靠上帝，一生稳行义路？这是我深切的关怀。

绝大部份在夏威夷长大的孩子都喜欢去美国大陆读大学。他们远离父母，远离熟悉的教会，独自进入充满挑战和引诱的大学校园，面对越来越嚣张的反基督教言论，他们必须有扎实的信仰基础才能抵御风浪。

五年前(2018)，我写了这本小册子《基本信仰问答》，针对四个问题：

- 一. 怎么知道上帝存在？
- 二. 怎么知道耶稣是上帝？
- 三. 怎么知道圣经是上帝的启示？
- 四. 为什么必须信靠耶稣？

为了方便记忆，每个问题我提供七个答案，相信可以帮助信徒坚定信仰。

过去几年，本教会的孩子在离开夏威夷到海外升学之前，我尽可能邀请孩子和他的父母一同聚餐。饭后打开这《基本信仰问答》，跟那孩子讲解其中的内容。我相信，孩子若对这基本信仰有清楚的理解，以后当他遇到生活困难或思想挑战的时候，这信仰可以帮助他坚定前行。

大部份在美国长大的孩子看不懂中文。我把这小书交给孩子的父母，希望父母能常与孩子温习其中的内容。然而，这方法不是很理想，因为不少父母的英语表达能力不是很好。因此我动意把这小书翻成英文，让孩子们可以带着上大学，以后可以随时翻看温习。

1981年我们夫妻开始到本教会事奉。第一次参加国语大专团契，聚会人数很少，连我们夫妻只有六人，其中一位契友是林文礼姊妹。过去多年，文礼姊妹是我忠心的好同工。在许多聚会中她与我配搭事奉；她是非常优秀的翻译。感谢文礼姊妹帮忙把这小书翻成英文。

盼望这英文版的《基本信仰问答》可以伴随本教会的青年进入大学，进入社会，建立家庭。愿上帝借着这小书赐福给我们教会的孩子们。阿们！

### 建议

若家里有念初中或以上的孩子，我建议父母按序给孩子讲解一遍这书的内容。一次讲一课，跟孩子好好讨论，解答孩子的问题。四课讲完，以后每天晚餐的时候与孩子背诵其中一课的结论。譬如，家长问：我们怎么知道上帝存在？

孩子回答：1.主观感受    2.客观考察    3.理性存在    4.感性存在  
5.道德存在    6.圣经记载    7.耶稣宣告

每半年，家长与孩子再温习一遍每一课的内容；最好先由孩子讲解，然后家长补充。这样重复练习，相信可以帮助孩子把这信仰的重点牢记在心，并可以在生活中体会。

李永成

2023年12月12日

# **Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith**

## **Foreword**

How can believers strengthen their faith? How can believers be cultivated so they can clearly express their faith to others?

This is a question that concerns many pastors.

After over 40 years of pastoral experience and some divine insights, I have concluded that there are several basic questions about our faith. If I can provide concise and clear answers to these questions, I trust they should be helpful to the believers.

These questions are:

1. How do we know God exists?
2. How do we know that Jesus is God?
3. How do we know that the Bible is inspired by God?
4. Why is it necessary to trust Jesus?

For ease of memory, I listed seven answers to each of the questions. As believers review the answers repeatedly, their faith in God will strengthen, and it will become easier to share this faith with others in an orderly manner.

I pray that this material can help brothers and sisters build a solid foundation of faith and promote a healthy spiritual growth.

Simon Lee

5/24/2018

## **First Lesson**

### **How Do We Know God Exists?**

"God" refers to the creator of all things, and not as idols and ghosts.

The Bible says, "God is a spirit." (John 4:24)

Spirits are like the air. We cannot see the air with our physical eyes, but it fills our surroundings.

We cannot see God, but He is "above all, and through all, and in all." (Ephesians 4:6)

How do we know God exists?

In short, there are at least the following seven reasons:

#### **1. Subjective feeling**

- Personal comprehension:
    - Inherently know that there is a master in the universe; evil will be rewarded with evil, and good will be rewarded with good. This is the popular belief.
  - Collective performance:
    - All ethnic groups have activities to worship their gods.
    - All nations with written language have the word "God."
- \* This shows that the concept of "there is a God" is common in the minds of man.
- \* "God"(Theism) is an innate feeling and natural response.
- \* "Godlessness"(Atheism) is the result of acquired education.

#### **2. Objective inspection**

- The magnificent structures of individual objects: flowers, leaves, cells, atoms, nuclei, genetic elements (DNA codes).
  - The amazing law of the motion of objects: the laws of physics, the movement of the sun, the moon, and the stars.
  - The marvelous system of the interaction of objects: universal gravitation, changing of the seasons, photosynthesis, human body structure, blood circulation...
- \* These phenomena indicate that behind it all, there is a master designer and keeper with extremely high intelligence and abilities.

#### **3. "Rationality" indicates the existence of God**

- The natural evolution of matter cannot produce rationality. A mineral or a rock even with many million years, cannot produce the ability to reason.
  - The emergence of reason must have come from the source of reason.
- \* God is the source of truth.
- Jesus said, "I am the truth." (John 14:6)

#### **4. "Sensibility" indicates the existence of God**

- The natural evolution of matters cannot produce sensibility (love).
  - The emergence of sensibility must have come from the source of sensibility.
- \* God is the source of love.
- The Bible says, "Love is from God, --- God is love."(1 John 4:7-8)

**5. "Moral" shows the existence of God**

- The natural evolution of matter cannot produce the concept of moral right and wrong.
- The emergence of morality must have come from the source of morality.
- \* God is the source of justice and goodness.

The Bible says, "The ordinances of the Lord (God) are true and righteous altogether." (Psalm 19:9)  
"The LORD is righteous in all His ways." (Psalm 145:17)

**6. The Bible tells us that God exists**

- The Bible is the most influential book in the world. This book clearly states that God exists.

**7. Jesus told us God exists**

- Jesus is the most influential person in the world. Jesus made it clear that God exists.
- Jesus is God - the Word in flesh.

Conclusion: We know that God exists based on these seven points:

1. Subjective feeling
2. Objective inspection
3. Existence of rationality
4. Existence of sensibility
5. Existence of morality
6. Biblical tells us
7. Jesus told us

## Second Lesson

### How Do We Know Jesus Is God?

#### 1. Jesus claimed to be God

He had repeatedly proclaimed Himself to be the Lord and God of heaven and earth.

\* There has never been a great man who claimed to be God.

Jesus said frankly to the Jews who opposed him, "I and the Father (God) are one." The Jews therefore stoned him, and considered him a blasphemer, because he made himself God. (John 10:30-33)

Jesus said clearly to his disciples, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (God)...I am in the Father (God), and the Father (God) is in me..." (John 14: 9-11)

#### 2. Others call Him God

There has never been a great man who was called God by His contemporaries.

Jesus' disciples not only regarded him as a teacher, but also recognized him as God.

Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God." (John 20:28)

The Apostle Paul said, "The Son (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God." (Colossians 1:15)

The author of Hebrews said, "He (Jesus Christ) is the radiance of the glory of God, the express image of his being." (Hebrews 1:3)

The Bible says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God, and by Him all things were made. Without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."  
(John 1:1-4,14)

\* The "Word" refers to Jesus.

#### 3. His words

Jesus' words showed that He was not just a mortal.

Jesus said,

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

"I came down from heaven, and I am still in heaven" (John 3:13)

"He who hears my words and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has passed from death to life." (John 5:24)

"I am the bread of life; come to me, you will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst."  
(John 6:35)

"The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63)

"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

"You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world." (John 8:23)

"If the Son of the Father (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed!" (John 8:36)

"Whoever keeps my teaching shall never see death." (John 8:51)

"Before Abraham, there was I." (John 8:58)

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, though he dies." (John 11:25)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Confucius, Laozi, Shakyamuni, Mohammed, none of them have ever spoken with absolute authority like Jesus. We may feel that the person who says those things is arrogant, but only God Himself can say those things with authority.

#### **4. His actions**

He calmed the storm. (Mark 4:35-41)

He performed miracles, healed the sick, and cast out demons.

\* These abilities are in line with His claims — He is the true God who created the heaven and the earth, and He is the Lord of life.

#### **5. His resurrection** (Matthew 28:5-6, John 10:18)

The Jewish leaders and the Roman government did not like to hear the news of "Jesus' resurrection." If the "resurrection of Jesus" was a rumor spread by Jesus' disciples, then the rumors would naturally be dispelled if the authorities showed Jesus' body to the public. However, they could not find Jesus' body; the tomb was empty. Because Jesus has resurrected!

Also, after Jesus' was crucified, the disciples were very scared and went into hiding. But a few days later, they publicly announced the news of Jesus' resurrection in Jerusalem (the place where Jesus was killed.)

No one would want to make up a lie and risks their own life to spread the lie; the disciples were transformed because they had seen the resurrected Jesus. Therefore, the disciples of Jesus boldly preached and established churches everywhere.

\* The existence of the church today is the proof of the resurrection of Jesus.

#### **6. His cross**

The cross was originally the cruelest instrument of torture in the Roman Empire, and it obviously carried a cruel and terrifying image.

Today, the cross is the symbol of the church, the emblem on the ambulance, and the symbol of love, hope, and salvation. Many people use the cross as an ornament, and the national flags of many countries bear the cross as the emblem. A cross is erected on every hill in Switzerland. The cross is a symbol of goodness today.

Why has the meaning of the cross changed so drastically? Because Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and He clearly triumphed over death. The great love of God who sacrificed his Son to redeem the sins of man brought salvation and hope to the world.

If Jesus is not God, the meaning of the cross could not have changed so drastically.

## **7. His influence**

Jesus was born in Palestine in the Middle East, in the city of Bethlehem in Judah. He was the son of a carpenter who lived in poverty and grew up in the small town of Nazareth. He began to preach at the age of thirty and was crucified to death about three years later.

According to biblical records, He was resurrected on the third day after his death. He appeared to his disciples in various places for forty days, and then ascended to heaven. He only lived little more than thirty years, shorter than many great philosophers and religious figures, and there was not much time for Him to spread his ideals.

He rarely traveled beyond Palestine. He had never learned Chinese Kung Fu, read Sun Tzu's Art of War, received higher education, or written a book. He had no wealth or power. It seemed that He did not have any favorable qualities to influence society, but amazingly, His influence became broad and far-reaching on future generations, far more than any philosopher or religious leader. The world even set the year of His birth as the first year of AD (Anno Domini, the year of our Lord.) Obviously, He was extraordinary. If He is not God, how could He have been so influential? If we compare several religions objectively and honestly, it is easy to find which one is the true God.

Since God can create human beings with feelings, He of course has feelings and certainly liked to be in contact with man. He not only used various methods — through nature and the Bible—to reveal Himself to man, but He also personally entered human history. He had to let go of His infinite being and became a finite person, so that man can truly know Him. His name is Jesus!

## **Conclusion:**

We know that Jesus is God based on seven points:

1. Jesus claimed to be God
2. Others called him God
3. His words
4. His actions
5. His resurrection
6. His cross
7. His influence

## **Third Lesson**

### **How Do We Know the Bible Is Inspired by God?**

The Bible is a super-unique book; it is called the book of books; it's also known as the best book in the world.

Why does the Bible have such great authority? Because the Bible is inspired by God.

How do we know that the Bible is inspired by God?

There are at least seven reasons:

#### **1. Biblical claims**

The text in the Bible has repeatedly claimed what is recorded in this book is the word of God.

Reference scriptures:

"All these words which God commanded..." (Exodus 20:1)

"This is the commandment which the LORD your God commanded to teach you..." (Deuteronomy 6:1)

"This is the word of the Lord himself..." (Isaiah 1:18-20)

"This is the word of the Lord..." (Jeremiah 1:7-8, 19)

"This is what the Lord has said..." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

"This is what the Lord has said..." (Ezekiel 14:11, 14, 23; 15:8; 16:8, 14)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God for teaching, for reproof, for correction, it is beneficial to teach righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16)

#### **2. The writers' actions**

The biblical writers showed that they were preaching the word of God. For a long time, they would rather openly defy the powerful and the king and risk their lives. Clearly, those writers received messages from a higher authority, not from the kings, but from God!

(Isaiah 1:2-9, Jeremiah 20:7-9, Ezekiel 21:8-12, Hos 4: 1-10, Amos 7:10-17)

#### **3. Astonishing discourses:**

The Bible is full of astonishing discourses, which other general principals and teachings cannot compare to.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

"It is not for want of bread that a man hungers, nor a thirst for water, but for hearing the voice of the Lord." (Amos 8:11)

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me, you will have eternal life; you will not be condemned, but you have passed from death to life." (John 5:24)

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry; whoever believes in me, never thirsty." (John 6:35)

Jesus said, "It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.

The words I speak to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63)

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, you must have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Jesus Said, "Therefore if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Jesus said, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth.  
Everyone who is of the truth listens to my words. " (John 18:37)

The contents of the Bible show God's special revelations, far beyond the comprehension of the people at that time.

- The universe had a beginning. (Genesis 1:1)  
For a long time, people believed that the universe is constant and unchanging. It wasn't until the 20th century when scientists discovered the universe is in fact expanding, did we know that the universe should have had a beginning, a starting point.
- Human beings originate from one source and come from one mother. (Genesis 2:18-25)  
In the 20th century, scientists uncovered the secret of the genetic code, which led to the knowledge that all human beings came from the same mother.
- The earth hangs in the void. (Job 26:7)  
At that time, 3500 years ago, no one could have known that the earth hangs in the universe.
- God sits above the great circle of the earth. The Earth is round. (Isaiah 40:22)  
At that time, 2700 years ago, no one could have known that the earth is round.
- Human beings are born with the concept of "eternity." (Ecclesiastes 3:11)  
'Eternity' is a strange concept. We cannot learn about eternity through observation because things we can observe are not eternal. We cannot learn about eternity through research, because without observation, nothing can be researched. We cannot learn about eternity through education, because without research, nothing can be taught. So, logically it is impossible for us to understand the concept of eternity. Yet we continue to pursue eternity. Those who are settled and comfortable will often pursue longevity, wishing to live for eternity. We understand the concept of eternity because God has put eternity in our hearts and because we belong to God who is eternal.

#### **4. Fulfillment of prophecies**

There are many prophecies in the Bible, most of which have been accurately fulfilled, indicating that the Bible contains supernatural powers.

- The prophet Micah prophesied in 700 BC:  
"Bethlehem and Ephrata, though you are small among the towns of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler in Israel, whose origins are from of old, from the beginning of time" (Micah 5: 2)  
700 years later, Jesus, the king of kings, was born in Bethlehem.
- The prophet Isaiah prophesied in 680 BC:  
"For unto us a child is born; to us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'" (Isaiah 9:6)

No sensible person would have made such an absurd prophecy, saying, " A child will be born, and he will be God! "

Hundreds of years later Jesus was born. He has shown in many ways that He is God!

- The prophet Isaiah predicted the suffering of Christ in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, and the

description in it completely matched what happened to Jesus. (Matthew 26:47-68, 27:11-60)

- Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 28:20-25) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 34:17) both prophesied that the nation of Israel would suffer defeat because of its disobedience to God's commandments, and they would be made “abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth.”  
In 586 BC, the Kingdom of Judah (Israelites) fell to Babylonians. Since then, the Jews have migrated and exiled everywhere, just like the prophecy in the Bible.
- "Ezekiel" was written in 580 BC, when Israel and Judah had been destroyed. The Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 721 BC. The Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylon in 586 BC. In the Book of Ezekiel, it was repeatedly prophesied that Israel will be restored.

Reference scriptures:

The Lord said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are withered, our hope is lost, we are destroyed. 'So prophesy to them and say, so is the Sovereign Lord said, "My people, I will open your graves, and I will bring you out of them, and you will know that I am the Lord. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will put you in this land you will know me — thus said the Lord, and so it has come to pass.' This is what the Lord has said."

Thus says the Sovereign Lord, "I will gather the children of Israel from all the countries where they go, and I will gather them from all around and bring them back to their own land" (Ezekiel 37:11-14,21) .

Thus says the Sovereign Lord, "I will bring back the captivity of Jacob, I will have mercy on all the house of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name. They will live in safety in their land, and no one will frighten them; I will bring them back from all the peoples, from the land of their enemies. When I am sanctified in them before the eyes of many peoples, they will bear their reproach and all their sins against Me. For I sent them captive among the Gentiles and gathered them When they return to their own country, they will know that I am the Lord their God; and I will not leave any of them in a foreign land anymore." (Ezekiel 39:25-28)

Israel was restored in 1948. It was an unprecedented miracle that a country can reborn after 2,500 years of exile!

2 Peter 3:10 prophesizes the end of the world. It says that there will be a loud noise in the sky, and all tangible things will be melted by fire. It was not easy to understand such words in the first century, but now in the 21st century, such a prophecy has become very possible. If this world is to be destroyed, I believe it will be destroyed by the power of nuclear bombs — all matter will be melted!

## 5. **Jesus confirmed**

Even if some people do not recognize the divinity of Jesus, it is undeniable that Jesus was a great man who has been recognized by people throughout the world, thus we cannot ignore the opinions of this great man.

Jesus valued the teaching of the Bible, and Jesus affirmed the authority of the Bible.

Jesus considered the Bible to be his testimony. Jesus is the protagonist in the Bible. (John

5:39,46)

Reference scriptures:

Jesus insisted on the teaching of the Bible, He repeatedly used the words from the Bible to deal with the temptations of the devil. (Matthew 4:4, 6, 10)

Jesus said, "Even if heaven and earth pass away, not an iota or a tittle shall pass away from the Law (the Bible). Everything must be fulfilled."

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my (Jesus) words (the Bible) shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

Jesus said, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." (Mark 12:24)

"Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself." (Luke 24:25-27, 32)

Jesus said, "These are the scriptures that testify of me." (John 5:39)

Jesus said, "The words (the Bible) that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63)

Jesus said, "Whoever keeps my word (the Bible) shall never see death." (John 8:51)

## **6. Impact on the world**

The sales volume of the Bible far exceeds that of any other book in the world. A book that sells over a million copies a year is very remarkable. The Guinness Book of World Records sells an average 1.7 million copies a year, and the Valley of Dolls by Jacqueline Susan sells an average of 1.3 million copies a year. These are exceptional bestsellers. More than 20 million copies of the Bible, the Old and the New Testaments, are sold every year. More than 100 million copies of the Bible booklets (such as New Testament, Psalms, John's Gospel...) are sold every year. The Bible has been the best-selling book for the past six hundred years, far more than any other bestsellers. According to the United Bible Societies, 34 million copies of the Old and New Testaments and 3 million digital versions of the Bibles in the form of CDs or e-books were sold in 2016 worldwide.

The number of translated versions of the Bible is also the largest in the world. There are 25 different translations for Guinness World Records and 19 translations for Reader's Digest. There are more than 600 translations of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible (670 translations at the end of 2015), and there are as many as 2,600 translations of the single version of the Bible (2,642 at the end of 2015), which is beyond the reach of any other books.

There are many indigenous people who originally had no written languages but only verbal languages. Missionaries came to their tribes and learned their languages, created characters using the phonetic method, and translated the Bible using their new written languages. The Bible became the first book for these people and at the same time the first written language of those people. The missionaries who learned the native languages and converted the languages into characters must have had a good understanding of the original languages of the Bible (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). Their wisdom and knowledge must have been extraordinary, and they must have spent many years in the prime of their lives living with the indigenous people and adopting to their backward and primitive way of life. In addition, they did not become rich or receive any honorary medals for completing the translation of the Bible.

There has not been any book in the world that has attracted so many outstanding people who paid

high prices to translate a book into various native languages. The Bible has attracted tens of thousands of excellent scholars, who were willing to labor and even pay with their lives to translate the Bible. This implies that this book is worthy of many personal sacrifices so the truth can be spread to all mankind.

## **7. Transformation of believers**

It is an indisputable fact that many people from all over the world have transformed their lives and changed from their past because they read the Bible. Millions of Christians can testify to this.

1. Augustine (354-430), an African who in his youth led a life of debauchery, repented and believed in God after reading the Bible (Romans 13:2-14), and eventually became the leader of the North African church. He was a prominent person in the history of the church.
2. Martin Luther (1483-1546), the German who initiated the Reformation Movement in the Middle Ages because of his understanding of the principle of "justification by faith" by studying the Bible (Psalms and Romans) and his insights into the abuse of the church at that time.
3. John Newton (1725-1807), the Briton who was the leader of the black slave trade who could commit all kinds of evil, later repented and believed in the Lord and became a famous preacher in England. The lyrics of the world-famous hymn "Amazing Grace" was written by him. The Bible had a great influence on John Newton. He used Deuteronomy 15:15 as the motto in his life, "Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you."
4. Wu Mingjie (1916-1990), originally from Henan, was arrogant and conceited, and he despised the Christian faith in his youth. He often used his power to oppress believers and attack the church. Later, he read the Bible (Romans chapters 1 to 3), repented thoroughly, and became a pastor who was valued by the Lord. He served as the supervisor of the Lutheran Church in Hong Kong.

The stories in the Bible that moved and transformed people are as numerous as the sands in the Ganges River, too many to count.

## **Conclusion**

At the time of Jesus, the Old Testament of Bible had been written, and it was a classic used by the Jews. The church established by Jesus' disciples still respected the Old Testament as the Bible.

At the end of the first century, the books of the New Testament became popular in the church. In 367, the influential church father Athanasius, first listed the table of contents of the 27 books of the New Testament.

In 397, leaders of the churches at Carthage held a meeting to formally recognize the 27 books of the New Testament as the canon of the Bible ("canon" in Greek means standard and authority).

A well-known scholar Raymond Abba said, "The authority of the Bible is not a formal authority that forces people to believe it from the outside, it is an instrumental authority. It contains a quality that makes us bow before the truth." (The Nature & Authority of the Bible P.148.)

In conclusion, the Bible is authoritative because it reveals the authority itself.

One thing to add: The Bible is not an encyclopedia. The authority of the Bible is not in the realm of biology, geography, or space physics, but in the personal relationship between man and God. The Bible is the standard of human belief and life.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God for teaching, for reproof, for correction, it is profitable to teach righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- The sources of the Bible: Inspired by God
- The object of the Bible: To the man of God
- Purpose of the Bible: To perfect (grow, mature) the man of God and make them do good

We know that the Bible is God's revelation based on seven points:

1. Biblical claims
2. Writers' actions
3. Astonishing discourses
4. Fulfillment of prophecies
5. Jesus confirmed
6. Impact on the world
7. Transformation of believers

## **Fourth Lesson**

### **Why Trust in Jesus?**

#### **Why should we trust in Jesus (God)?**

Knowing that God exists, knowing that Jesus is God, and knowing that the Bible is inspired by God are all very well, but what do they have to do with us? Why should we trust in Jesus?

The simplest answer to this question is: He is true and He is good!

Following this direction, I will provide you with seven answers:

#### **Truth**

##### **1. He really exists**

As we have said before, God exists, and Jesus exists.

Why do we trust in Him? Because He is real. If He is not real, we should not believe in Him, much less trust Him.

Jesus is really the God who created us, He is really our Lord. We should trust in Him; and we should always have trusted in Him from the very beginning.

According to the Bible, Jesus' dearest disciple John said:

"Concerning the original Word of Life (Jesus Christ) from the beginning, which we have heard, seen, and touched with our own hands. This life has been manifested, we have seen it, and now testify that eternal life that is with the Father and has been manifested in us is proclaimed to you." (1 John 1:1-2)

The Apostle John tells us that Jesus Christ is the Word of Life. This is real! He had seen it with his own eyes and touched it with his own hands.

Jesus is real and it is good to trust in Jesus!

What 's so good about it?

#### **Goodness**

##### **2. He is almighty**

He is so powerful that He can help anyone and everyone. If He is incapable and unable to help, it would not be very good.

Jesus is God. God who had created the universe and everything in it, is of course very powerful!

The Bible says,

"The Lord created the earth by his power, established the world by his wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by his understanding." (Jeremiah 10:12)

"He (God) said it was, and it was; He commanded, and it was done." (Psalm 33:9)

Jesus is powerful. He can calm the storm, He can overcome Satan, He can overcome death, and He can help us.

### **3. He is good**

God is not only powerful, but He is also good. If He is powerful and not good, and if He is powerful but evil, he would be the devil, he would not be God. God is powerful and God is good.

The Bible says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation nor shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

God's goodness does not change.

God is not only good, but also the root of goodness.

It is mentioned many times in the Bible that "The Lord (God) is good." (He is good!)

The Bible says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1; 118:1, 29)

We trust God because He is powerful, and He can help us.

We trust God also because He is good, and He wants to help us.

### **4. He loves me — He sacrificed His life for me**

God is the source of love and the substance of love.

The Bible says, "Love is from God.... God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

"God so loved the world" (John 3:16).

God loves all people — Americans, Chinese, Taiwanese, people from Hong Kong and Fuqing....

God loves everyone. God loves you and me.

The Bible says, "He loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatian 2:20)

The Bible says, "It is not that we love God, but that God loves us and sent His Son (Jesus) as a propitiation (sin offering) for our sins. This is love." (1 John 4:10)

Why did Jesus die for our sins?

Because we are all sinners.

The Bible says, "For all people have sinned and fell short of the glory of God; but now they are justified freely by the grace of God through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)

Do you admit that you are a sinner?

The sins mentioned in the Bible do not only refer to murder, arson, rape, theft ..., those acts that violate the law.

The sin mentioned in the Bible in its original language refers to shooting arrows and not hitting the target.

Sin means that a person does not walk the path that should be taken and does not live out the goodness innate in human nature.

We all know that children exhibit sinful behavior from an early age and children exhibit rebellious behavior from an early age. When children can express their opinion by shaking or nodding their heads, there is always more head shaking than nodding. When children can say yes or no, there is always more no's than yes's. When children have learned to give and take, there is always more taking than giving. Chinese is a language to be learned and so is the English language. Lying is not something we learn because we are born with the ability!

We are born self-centered and selfish, and we are born rebellious. There is no need to learn human nature!

This is true with children, and it is even more true with adults. The difference is that adults know how to disguise much better.

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was a great writer and philosopher in the twentieth century. He successively worked as a professor at Oxford University and Cambridge University. He was a very devout Christian. He wrote many books, influencing many intellectuals to believe in the Lord. He said, "There were two odd things about the human race. First, that they were haunted by the idea of a sort of behavior they ought to practice, what you might call fair play, or decency, or morality, or the Law of Nature. Second, that they did not in fact do so." ("Mere Christianity" P.13)

C. S. Lewis pointed out that we are not behaving as we expect others to behave. When C.S. Lewis said this, he included himself — a university professor with great wisdom and high morals. He did not fulfill his own requirements of others! We are even worse than him.

We know that we should act honestly, fairly, and ethically, and we ask others to act honestly, fairly, and ethically. Yet our own behavior is often dishonest, unjust, and unethical. We often fail to do what we expect others to do.

We know in our hearts that human beings should be honest and fair and that's how we should behave. It is the conscience that God puts in man's hearts, and it is God's original intention in creating man, so that man can demonstrate God's good nature.

To live out goodness is to bring glory to man and to God.

However, because mankind has forsaken God, does not fear God, does not follow God's teachings, but go their own way and deviate from the direction they should go. Man has also lost the goodness he should have and because of this, man has fallen short of the glory of God. This is sin. The result of man's sin is perdition, that is, falling into a place without God, or hell. In hell, man will perish and suffer forever.

Because God loves us, He became flesh and was born into the world. His name is Jesus. Jesus came to save us, died for us on the cross, and made atonement for our sins. God does not want anyone to perish. He wants everyone to repent. He wants us to turn and trust Him so that we can have a new life.

Many people today don't care much about the salvation from Jesus. Many people think that it is good to believe in Jesus, but it is also OK if you don't believe in Jesus. Some people have such a mentality probably because they don't know how painful it is to "live without God" in hell.

Recently, I have had a lot of contact with my compatriots from Fuqing, and I often hear them talking about their experiences back home. Because of their stories, I understand why so many compatriots are willing to pay hundreds of thousands of RMB, and even risk their lives, to flee their homeland.

- A sister told me at that time, the government only allowed one child per family. This sister became pregnant with her second child, so she had to go into hiding. On the eighth month of her pregnancy, she

was caught and taken to the hospital for a forced abortion. An eight-month-old baby, who should have survived to become an adult, was executed alive! As the mother, she cried uncontrollably!

The sister said the hospital was full of women who had been forced to have abortions. Can you imagine what kind of scene that was? This was hell on earth!

- A brother told me that his wife fled into hiding with relatives in the countryside when she was pregnant with their second child. The government sent officers to check the household registration every month. If his wife had not been seen in a month or two, the government would know she might have been pregnant and have gone into hiding. At that time, the police were arresting people everywhere, and they threatened his parents who lived with him at home. The gate of his house was removed and the cabinets in the house were also disassembled because the police suspected that his wife might have been hiding in the cabinets or behind them. The whole house was turned upside down. The government would send the police to his house every few days, which frightened his parents so badly that they dared not go home to sleep. For a long time, the two elderly parents hid on the mountain and slept there. These were ordinary citizens living poorly and all they wanted was to have one more child. This was hell on earth!

The Chinese government does not openly oppose God in the constitution or in name, it allows people to have freedom of belief on the surface.

Chinese society is not hell, but it is already very scary!

A government that does not respect God does not know how to respect its people, and naturally it will bring a lot of suffering. This situation allows us to see a bit of the horrors of hell. What would life be like if hell was a place where God was completely rejected?

According to the book of Revelations in the Bible, hell is a dark place where there are immortal worms and an unquenchable fire. (Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:48)

The people there are weeping and gnashing their teeth! (Matthew 25:30)

God does not want to see us sink and perish like this, so He came to sacrifice his life for us to atone for our sins.

If we sincerely repent and trust in Jesus, we can be moved from death to life.

Trusting in Jesus is our only hope of salvation.

The Bible says, "Salvation is found in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

When the Fuqing compatriots come to the United States, they had to find a mediator to open the way for them.

If we want to leave the power of the devil and enter the kingdom of God, we must also rely on a mediator.

The Bible says, "Between God and man, there is only one mediator, but the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people." (I Timothy 2: 5-6)

The Chinese mediator charges money, a lot of money. Jesus does not take money but gave his life freely to atone for our sins. What a great grace this is!

Why should we trust Jesus?

Because we are bound by sin, and we are lost in sin.

Jesus is our only salvation.

"He loved me and gave Himself up for me!"

We must trust in Jesus to be free from sin to be saved. This is the main reason we must trust in Jesus.

### **5. He is with us**

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and the Father will give you another Comforter to be with you forever, the Holy Spirit of truth." (John 14:16-17)

Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my teaching; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and live with him." (John 14:23)

The Bible says, "Let us only come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, find favor, and be a help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

- More than once I have heard Christians testify that before they believed in the Lord, they were afraid of the darkness and ghosts. They dared not sleep alone at night, and they dared not turn off the lights when sleeping. After trusting in Jesus, they are no longer afraid and can sleep alone. Because they know that Jesus is with them so the devil can no longer hurt them.

Why should we trust Jesus?

Because He is always with us, we really need His presence, we always need His help.

### **6. He guides the way**

Jesus is not only with us, not only accompanying us, but he guides us on the right path, and he guides us into a bright future.

Jesus said that He is the good shepherd, and we are His sheep.

Jesus said, "When the shepherd has let out his sheep, he goes ahead, and the sheep follow him." (John 10:4)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He has made me lie down in green pastures; the way of righteousness." (Psalm 23:1-3)

- I was baptized twelve or thirteen years old when I committed myself to the Lord. However, after believing in the Lord, I did not take my faith very seriously for several years and I was just a Sunday Christian. From Monday to Saturday, I was a "consistent" sinner without the fragrance of a Christian. After graduating from high school, I had no money to attend college, so I had to find a job. I felt that the road ahead was uncertain, and I really needed to rely on God. At that time, I made up my mind anew to follow the Lord wholeheartedly. Back then, I learned a hymn at my fellowship: "The Lord Leads in All Things." I liked the lyrics very much, and I was very moved. The lyrics of this hymn say:

*All the way my Savior leads me,  
What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy?  
Who through life has been my Guide?  
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,  
Here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*All the way my Savior leads me,  
Cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for every trial,  
Feeds me with the living Bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter  
And my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! A spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! A spring of joy I see.*

*All the way my Savior leads me,  
Oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day  
This my song through endless ages:  
Jesus led me all the way;  
This my song through endless ages:  
Jesus led me all the way.*

Singing this hymn, I committed myself again to the Lord. I decided to follow the Lord for the rest of my life, and I asked Him to guide me for the rest of my life.

The Lord Jesus really guided my way step by step. I got a job first with a bus company and then with an aircraft engineering company. At the age of 25, I felt a calling by God to dedicate myself to ministry full-time. I entered the seminary to be equipped. After graduating from a seminary in Hong Kong, the church thought I needed to study a little more and sent me to graduate school in the United States.

After that I returned to serve in the church in Hong Kong. In July 1981, I was called to Hawaii to serve as the pastor of this church – The Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu. In the past 37 years, I have preached in this church, and I have preached in many places in China, including Daqing in Heilongjiang, Baotou in Inner Mongolia, Xinyang in Henan, Chengdu and Guangan in Sichuan, and in Geneva, Lausanne, Vevey, Switzerland... Along the way, I have seen many wonderful changes in people's lives because of their belief in the Lord.

There are ups and downs along the path of following the Lord and it is by no means smooth sailing, but it is a life rich in grace and full of liveliness.

Why trust in Jesus?

Because we need Him to guide us down the path of light.

## **7. He prepares a heavenly home, an eternal destination**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled; if you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house there are many dwellings; if there were not, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place

for you. If I go, I have prepared a place for you, and I will come again and take you to me, and where I am, you may also be.” (John 14:1-3)

The psalmist said, "You (God) will guide me with your precepts, and afterward you will receive me into glory." (Psalm 73:24)

The Lord Jesus not only guides us, but He also guides us all the way to our eternal home in heaven. He allows us to enter a beautiful dwelling with a beautiful body. He allows our lives to have a truly happy ending.

In Christ Jesus we have eternal hope.

- On April 29, 2018, we published the testimony of Brother Ming Li-chung in the church bulletin. He suffered from cancer and had his left kidney removed. The cancer cells had metastasized to the spine and his condition was quite serious. At that time, he was also suffering from pneumonia. How would you feel if you were in this situation? What will you do?

In this situation the average person may be worried, may be scared, or may be depressed ...

In Brother Ming's testimony we did not see sadness or despair, but we saw gratitude. Looking at the photos he sent over, he was all smiles.

Why did Brother Ming behave so brightly and so positively?

Because he firmly believes in Jesus. He believes that Jesus will walk with him. He believes Jesus will help him all the time. He believes that Jesus will lead him to a better future.

When he finishes his journey in this world, he believed that Jesus would lead him into a glorious heavenly home.

Why trust in Jesus?

Because Jesus has prepared an eternal destination for us.

Trusting in Jesus, and our lives will have a perfect ending.

### **Conclusion:**

Why should we trust Jesus?

This is the fourth basic question our faith.

Today I provide you with seven answers, let's review them:

1. He really exists
2. He is almighty
3. He is good
4. He loves me and He died for my sins
5. He is with me
6. He guides the way
7. He prepares a heavenly home

Of these seven points, which one did I explain in the most detail? It is the fourth point – He loves me, and He died for my sins.

This is the main reason why we trust in Jesus, because "Salvation is found in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

The Lord Jesus not only saves us, but He also walks with us all through our lives, and He guides us to our eternal home in heaven. It is such a blessing to trust in Jesus as we commit our whole life to Him and follow Him wholeheartedly.

Those who are willing to trust and receive Jesus can pray to God with the following prayer:

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**Prayer to Receive Jesus Christ as Savior**

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Father God, I thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins.  
I am willing to repent, turn away from sin, and trust in Jesus.  
I am willing to accept the baptism instituted by Jesus to wash away my sins.  
I confess: Jesus is my Savior and Lord of my life.  
I have decided: From now on, I will follow the teachings of Jesus Christ all my life.  
May the Holy Spirit enter my heart and lead me on a holy and bright path.  
I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

Those who have made up their minds to believe in Jesus should attend a baptismal class (catechism – basic Christianity) as soon as possible to prepare for baptism.

Baptism is the way set by the Lord Jesus to bestow grace on them, to wash away their sins and allow them to receive the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is also an assurance of Christian rebirth.

*Jesus said, "Believe and be baptized and you will be saved." (Mark 16:16)*

*" Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. " (Acts 2:38)*

*" Now why are you delaying? Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His (Jesus) Name. " (Acts 22:16)*

*" Know ye not that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, We were buried with him by baptism into death, that we might be born new in every act likeness, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. If we are in the likeness of his death to be united to him is also to be united to him in the likeness of his resurrection." (Romans 6:3-5)*

*"He saved us, not because of any righteous works we had done, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)*

## Prologue to *Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith*

I often read in surveys that many young adults who grew up in church do not continue to attend church after entering college. Gradually they alienate from the faith they grew up with, and sometimes they even give up their faith.

This is exactly my fear. How we can help the young adults of our church to firmly trust in God and walk steadily on the path of righteousness throughout their lives? This is something I care about very deeply.

Most young adults who grew up in Hawaii go to college on the US mainland where they are alone, far away from their parents and their home church. They enter a college campus full of challenges and temptations and face increasingly arrogant anti-Christian rhetoric. Only a firm conviction and a solid foundation of faith can withstand these stormy times.

Five years ago (2018), I wrote the *Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith* to help believers strengthen their faith. In the past few years, before the young adults of our church leave Hawaii for college, I try my best to invite them to dinner along with their parents. After dinner, I would open this material and explain the contents to the college-bound young adults. I believe if they have a clear understanding of the basics tenets of our faith, then when they encounter difficulties in life or ideological challenges in the future, their faith can help them move forward firmly.

Most children who grew up in the United States cannot read Chinese very well. I would give this material to their parents, hoping the parents would frequently go over the contents with their children. However, this method is not ideal because many parents are not fluent in expressing themselves in English. Because of this, I was moved to translate *Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith* into English so that our young adults can take it to college and review the content at any time.

In 1981, my wife and I began serving at our church. The first time we attended the Mandarin College Fellowship, there were only six people including my wife and me. One of the attendees was sister Wenli Lin. Wenli has been a good and loyal co-worker of mine for many years. She has worked with me in many meetings as my English interpreter. I thank Wenli for helping to translate this material into English.

I hope this English version of *Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith* will accompany the young adults of our church as they enter college, enter society, and eventually when they start having their own families.

May God bless the children and the young adults of our church through this material. Amen!

### Suggestion

If you have children in junior high school or higher, I suggest that you explain the contents of the *Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith* to them. You can go over the lessons one at a time, and have a good discussion with your children and answer their questions. After all four lessons are completed, you can memorize and recite one of the four lesson conclusions together over at dinner every night.

For example, a parent would ask: How do we know that God exists? The child would answer:

1) subjective feeling, 2) objective inspection, 3) existence of rationality, 4) existence of sensibility,

5) existence of morality, 6) the Bible says, 7) Jesus told us.

Every six months on a rotational basis, parents and children can review the contents of each lesson once more. It is best for the children to explain the contents first, then the parents can add to them. Repeated practice, I believe, will help children take to heart the foundation of our faith and to experience them in their lives.