



基本 信仰 問 答

Q&A on the Fundamentals of Christian Faith

李永成牧師著
中、英文版合訂本
By Rev. Simon Lee

前言

怎樣幫助信徒堅定信仰？怎樣栽培信徒，使信徒可以向別人清楚講述自己的信仰？這是許多牧者關注的問題。

累積了一些牧會經驗，有一點點領悟，我發現有幾個基本信仰問題，若能提供簡要明瞭的答案，應該對信徒有幫助。

這幾個問題是：

- 一. 怎麼知道上帝存在？
- 二. 怎麼知道耶穌是上帝？
- 三. 怎麼知道聖經是上帝的啟示？
- 四. 為甚麼必須信靠耶穌？

為了方便記憶，每個問題我列出七個答案。信徒反覆溫習這些答案，對上帝的信仰必然比較穩固，也必然比較容易有條理地與別人分享這信仰。

祈願這份材料可以幫助弟兄姊妹信仰根基穩固，靈命健康成長。

李永成
5/24/2018

第一課 「怎麼知道上帝存在？」

「上帝」是指天地萬物的創造者，不是指神靈鬼怪。

《聖經》說：「上帝是個靈。」(約 4:24)

靈像空氣。我們的肉眼看不見空氣，空氣卻充滿周圍。

我們看不見上帝，但祂是「超乎眾人之上，貫乎眾人之中，也住在眾人之內」(弗 4:6)

我們怎麼知道上帝確實存在？

簡單來說，最少有以下七點理由：

一. 主觀感受：

● 個人領悟：

● 與生俱來就知道：冥冥中有主宰；惡有惡報，善有善報。這是普羅大眾的信念。

● 集體表現：

● 所有民族都有拜祭神靈的活動。

● 凡是有文字的民族都有「神」這個字。

* 這就說明在人的心中普遍都存在「有神」的觀念。

* 「有神」是與生俱來的感應；

「無神」是後天教育的結果。

二. 客觀考察：

● 個別物體的奇妙結構：花朵、樹葉、細胞、原子、核子、遺傳因子(DNA 密碼)

● 物體運動的奇妙規律：所有物理定律、日月星辰運轉

● 物體互動的奇妙系統：萬有引力、四季交替、光合作用、人體結構、血液循環…。

* 這些現象表明在背後有極高智慧和能力的設計者和維持者。

三. “理性”表明上帝存在：物質自然演化，不可能產生理性。

理性的出現必定是來自理性的源頭。

* 上帝是真理的源頭。

耶穌說：「我就是真理。」(約 14:6)

四. “感性”表明上帝存在：物質自然演化，不可能產生感性(愛情)。

感性的出現必定是來自感性的源頭。

* 上帝是愛的源頭。

《聖經》說：「愛是從上帝來的。凡有愛心的，都是由上帝而生…。上帝就是愛。」

(約壹 4:7-8)

五. “道德”表明上帝存在：物質自然演化，不可能產生道德是非的觀念。
道德的出現必定是來自道德的源頭。

* 上帝是公義、良善的源頭。

《聖經》說：「耶和華(上帝)的典章真實，全然公義。」(詩 19:9)

「耶和華在祂一切所行的，無不公義。」(詩 145:17)

六. 《聖經》告訴我們：上帝存在

- 《聖經》是影響世界最大的一本書。這本書清楚記載說，上帝存在。

七. 耶穌告訴我們：上帝存在

- 耶穌是影響世界最大的一個人。耶穌明確表示，上帝存在。
- 耶穌就是上帝——道成肉身。

結語：

我們知道上帝確實存在，是根據七點：

- 主觀感受
- 客觀考察
- 理性存在
- 感性存在
- 道德存在
- 聖經記載
- 耶穌宣告

第二課 「怎麼知道耶穌是上帝？」

一. 耶穌自稱是上帝：

祂多次公開宣稱自己就是天地的主宰上帝。

* 古往今來從來沒有一個偉人自稱是上帝。

- 耶穌對敵對祂的猶太人坦然地說：「我與父(上帝)原為一」。
猶太人因此要用石頭打祂，認為祂是僭妄，因為祂把自己當作上帝。(參：約 10:30-33)
- 耶穌對門徒清楚地說：「人看見了我就是看見了父(上帝)……我在父(上帝)裡面，父(上帝)在我裡面……」(參：約 14:9-11)

二. 別人尊稱祂為上帝：

從來沒有一個偉人被與他同時代的人稱為上帝。

耶穌的門徒不單視祂為老師，更承認祂就是上帝。

- 多馬對耶穌說：「我的主，我的上帝。」(約 20:28)
- 使徒保羅說：「愛子(耶穌基督)是那不能看見的上帝的像。」(西 1:15)
- 《希伯來書》的作者說：「祂(耶穌基督)是上帝榮耀所發的光輝，是上帝本體的真像。」
(來 1:3)
- 《聖經》說：「太初有道，道與上帝同在，道就是上帝。
這道太初與上帝同在，萬物是藉着祂造的，
凡被造的沒有一樣不是藉着祂造的，
生命在祂裡頭……道成了肉身住在我們中間。」(約 1:1-4,14)
* 這「道」是指耶穌。

三. 祂的言論：

耶穌的言論顯示祂不是一般的凡人——

耶穌說：

「天地要廢去，我的話卻不能廢去。」(太 24:35)

「我從天降下，仍舊在天。」(約 3:13)

「那聽我話又信差我來者的，就有永生，不至於定罪，是已經出死入生了。」(約 5:24)

「我就是生命的糧，到我這裡來必定不餓，信我的永遠不渴。」(約 6:35)

「我對你們所說的話就是靈，就是生命。」(約 6:63)

「我是世界的光，跟從我的就不在黑暗裡走，必要得着生命的光。」(約 8:12)

「你們是從下頭來的，我是從上頭來的；你們是屬這世界的，我不是屬這世界的。」

(約 8:23)

「天父的兒子(耶穌)若叫你們自由，你們就真自由了！」(約 8:36)

「人若遵守我的道，就永遠不見死。」(約 8:51)

「還沒有亞伯拉罕就有了我。」(約 8:58)

「復活在我，生命也在我，信我的人雖然死了也必復活。」(約 11:25)

「我就是道路、真理、生命，若不藉着我沒有人能到父那裡去。」(約 14:6)

孔子、老子、釋迦牟尼、穆罕默德，沒有一個人曾經說過像耶穌那樣帶着絕對權威的話。任何人說那些話，我們很自然會感到那是狂妄，惟有上帝自己說那些話才會讓人覺得是恰如其份。

四. 祂的行為：

- 祂平靜風浪。(可 4:35-41)

- 祂廣行神蹟奇事、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，他們卻公開在耶路撒冷(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誌，成為救護車的標誌，成為慈愛、盼望、拯救的標誌。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。

為甚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。祂為人捨命贖罪的大愛，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：

耶穌出生於中東巴勒斯坦地，猶大的伯利恆城。祂原是木匠的兒子，生活清貧，於小城拿撒勒長大。三十歲左右開始出來傳道，大概三年之後就被釘十字架而死。按《聖經》記載，祂死後第三天復活，之後有四十天之久分別在各處向門徒顯現，然後升天。祂在世的年月只有三十多年，比許多偉大的哲學家、宗教家短壽，沒有太多時間給祂去傳播祂的理想。祂旅行的範圍絕少離開巴勒斯坦地。祂沒有學過中國功夫，沒有讀過孫子兵法，沒有接受過高等教育，沒有著述一本書，祂是無財無勢。任何能影響社會的有利條件似乎祂都沒有，但奇怪的是，祂對後世的影響非常廣闊深遠；遠遠超過任何一位哲學家、宗教家。世人甚至以祂出生的那一年定為公元元年。很明顯的，祂是超乎尋常。假如祂不是上帝，怎麼可能有這樣的影響？

若我們客觀、誠實地去比較幾個宗教，很容易就找到那一位是真神。

上帝既然能創造有情的人，祂本身當然有情，祂當然喜歡與人接觸。祂不單用各樣方法——透過大自然，透過《聖經》，向人啟示祂自己，祂更親自進入人類的歷史中。祂放下自己的無限，成為有限的人，讓人能清楚認識祂。祂的名字叫耶穌！

結語：

我們知道耶穌就是上帝，是根據七點：

- 耶穌自稱
- 別人尊稱
- 祂的言論
- 祂的行為
- 祂的復活
- 祂的十架
- 祂的影響

第三課

「怎麼知道聖經是上帝的啟示？」

《聖經》是一本超奇的書；被稱為書中之書，又稱為天下第一書。

《聖經》為甚麼有那麼大的權威？因為《聖經》是上帝的啟示。

我們怎麼知道《聖經》是上帝的啟示？

最少有七點理由：

一. 聖經的自稱：《聖經》的內文多次宣稱，這書所記載的是上帝的話。

參考經文：

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 出 20:1 | 「上帝吩咐這一切的話……」 |
| 申 6:1 | 「這是耶和華你們上帝所吩咐教訓你們的誡命……」 |
| 賽 1:18-20 | 「這是耶和華親口說的……」 |
| 耶 1:7-8, 19 | 「這是耶和華說的……」 |
| 耶 9:23-24 | 「這是耶和華說的……」 |
| 結 14:11, 14, 23; 15:8; 16:8, 14 | 「這是耶和華說的……」 |
| 提後 3:16 | 「《聖經》都是上帝所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、教導人學義都是有益的。」 |

二. 作者的表現：

《聖經》作者的表現顯明他們是傳揚上帝的話：他們寧願公然頂撞權貴和君王，長久冒險犯難。很明顯，那些作者所領受的信息是來自比君王更高的權威——上帝！

(參考經文：賽 1:2-9，耶 20:7-9，結 21:8-12，何 4:1-10，摩 7:10-17)

三. 驚人的言論：《聖經》充滿驚人的言論，並非一般道理教訓可以比擬。

參考經文：

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 申 8:3 | 「人活着不是單靠食物，乃是靠耶和華口裡所出的一切話。」 |
| 摩 8:11 | 「人饑餓非因無餅，乾渴非因無水，乃因不聽耶和華的話。」 |
| 約 5:24 | 「我實實在在的告訴你們，那聽我話又信差我來者的，就有永生；不至於定罪，是已經出死入生了。」 |
| 約 6:35 | 耶穌說：「我就是生命的糧。到我這裡來的，必定不餓；信我的，永遠不渴。」 |
| 約 6:63 | 耶穌說：「叫人活着的乃是靈，肉體是無益的。
我對你們所說的話就是靈，就是生命。」 |
| 約 8:12 | 耶穌又對眾人說：「我是世界的光。跟從我的，就不在黑暗裡走，必要得着生命的光。」 |
| 約 8:36 | 「所以天父的兒子若叫你們自由，你們就真自由了。」 |
| 約 14:6 | 耶穌說：「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉着我，沒有人能到父那裡去。」 |
| 約 18:37 | 耶穌說：「我為此(作王)而生，也為此來到世間，特為給真理作見證。
凡屬真理的人就聽我的話。」 |

《聖經》的內容顯示其中有上帝特殊的啟示，遠超過當時的人所能理解的。

- 宇宙有一個開始。(創 1:1)——長久以來，大家認為宇宙是永恆不變的。二十世紀太空科

學家發現宇宙不住膨脹的現象，才知道宇宙應該是有一個開始。

- 人類本於一源，同出於一母。(創 2:18-25)——二十世紀科學家解讀了細胞基因密碼 (DNA)，才知道人類同出於一母。
- 大地懸於虛空。(伯 26:7)——當時(3500 年前)的人不可能知道地球是懸於太空之中。
- 上帝坐在地球大圈之上。(賽 40:22)——當時(2700 年前)的人不可能知道地球是圓的。
- 人與生俱來有「永恆」的觀念。(傳 3:11)——「永恆」是個奇妙的觀念。我們不能從觀察認識永恆，因為我們觀察到的東西都不是永恆的。我們不能從研究認識永恆，因為不可能研究觀察不到的東西。我們不能從教育認識永恆，因為無法研究的東西就不可能教導別人。所以，按理我們不會有「永恆」的觀念。然而我們卻不住追求「永恆」。生活安定的人，通常都會追求長壽，甚至希望「萬歲萬歲萬萬歲」。我們有「永恆」的觀念，因為上帝把「永恆」放在我們心中，因為我們歸屬於永恆的上帝。

四. 預言的應驗：

《聖經》中有許多預言，其中大部份都已準確地應驗了，表明《聖經》含藏着超奇的能力。

- 700 B.C. 彌迦先知這樣預言：
「伯利恆、以法他啊，你在猶大諸城中為小，將來必有一位從你那裡出來，在以色列中為我作掌權的；祂的根源從亙古，從太初就有。」(彌 5:2)
700 年後，萬王之王耶穌果然在伯利恆出生。
- 680 B.C. 以賽亞先知這樣預言：
「因有一嬰孩為我們而生；有一子賜給我們。政權必擔在祂的肩頭上；祂的名稱為『奇妙策士、全能的上帝、永在的父、和平的君』。」(賽 9:6)
有識之士大概都不會作這樣荒謬的預言，說：「將有小孩出生，祂是全能的上帝！」
幾百年後耶穌出生。祂多方表明，祂就是上帝！
- 以賽亞先知在《以賽亞書》五十三章預言基督受苦的情況，其中的描述與耶穌的遭遇竟然完全符合。(參考：太 26:47-68，27:11-60)
- 《申命記》(申 28:20-25)及《耶利米書》(耶 34:17)都預言以色列國因違背上帝誡命，必招敗亡，並且會「在萬國中被拋來拋去」。
於主前 586 年猶大國(以色列人)果然亡於巴比倫。自此以後，猶太人到處遷徙流亡，一如《聖經》的預言。
- 《以西結書》寫於主前 580 年，當時以色列與猶大南北兩國都已滅亡。北國以色列於主前 721 年亡於亞述。南國猶太於主前 586 年亡於巴比倫。在《以西結書》中卻一再預言以色列必會復國。
參考經文：
主對我說：「人子啊，這些骸骨就是以色列全家。他們說：『我們的骨頭枯乾了，我們的指望失去了，我們滅絕淨盡了。』所以你要發預言對他們說，主耶和華如此說：『我的民哪，我必開你們的墳墓，使你們從墳墓中出來，你們就知道我是耶和華。我必將我的靈放在你

們裡面，你們就要活了。我將你們安置在本地，你們就知道我——耶和華如此說，也如此成就了。」這是耶和華說的。」

主耶和華如此說：「我要將以色列人從他們所到的各國收取，又從四圍聚集他們，引導他們歸回本地。」(結 37:11-14, 21)

主耶和華如此說：「我要使雅各被擄的人歸回，要憐憫以色列全家，又為我的聖名發熱心。他們在本地安然居住，無人驚嚇，是我將他們從萬民中領回，從仇敵之地召來。我在許多國的民眼前，在他們身上顯為聖的時候，他們要擔當自己的羞辱和干犯我的一切罪。因我使他們被擄到外邦人中，後又聚集他們歸回本地，他們就知道我是耶和華——他們的上帝；我必不再留他們一人在外邦。」(結 39:25-28)

以色列國果然在 1948 年復國。一個國家亡國二千五百年仍能復國，是史無前例的神蹟！

- 《彼得後書》3:10 預言世界末日的情況，談到那時天上會有巨大的響聲，一切有形體的東西都會被大火熔化。在第一世紀這樣的講論實在不容易被理解，但現在二十一世紀，這樣的預言就變得非常可能了。這世界若被毀滅，相信必是毀於核子彈的威力之下——一切物質都會被熔化！

五. 耶穌的確認：

即或有人不承認耶穌的神性，但無可否認耶穌是古今中外獲得大多數人公認的偉人；這位偉人的意見我們不能忽視。

耶穌重視《聖經》的教導，耶穌確認《聖經》的權威。

耶穌認為《聖經》是給祂作見證的。耶穌就是《聖經》中的主角。

參考經文：

- 太 4:4, 6, 10 耶穌堅守《聖經》的教導，
祂一再以《聖經》的話去對付魔鬼的試探。
- 太 5:18 「就是到天地都廢去了，律法(《聖經》)的一點一畫也不能廢去，
都要成全。」
- 太 24:35 「天地要廢去，我(耶穌)的話(《聖經》)卻不能廢去。」
- 可 12:24 「明白《聖經》曉得上帝大能。」
- 路 24:25-27, 32 「凡經上所指着自已(耶穌)的話，都給他們講解明白了。」
- 約 5:39 「給我(耶穌)作見證的就是這經。」
- 約 6:63 「我(耶穌)對你們所說的話(《聖經》)就是靈，就是生命。」
- 約 8:51 「人若遵守我(耶穌)的道(《聖經》)就永遠不見死。」

六. 對世界的影響：

《聖經》的銷售量遠超過世界上任何一本書。每年銷售超過一百萬冊的書，已經是了不起：金氏世界紀錄(Guinness Book of World Record)，每年平均銷售一百七十萬冊。Jacqueline Susan 所著的娃娃谷(Valley of Dolls)，平均每年銷售一百三十萬冊。這些都是異常暢銷的書。而《聖經·新舊約全書》，每年銷售超過兩千萬本。《聖經》單行本(如新約、詩篇、約翰福

音……)銷售量更達億本以上。《聖經》在過去六百年一直是最銷的書，而且遠遠超過其他的暢銷書。按聯合《聖經》公會(United Bible Societies)公佈，2016 年全球銷售新舊約全書三千四百萬冊，另全球以光盤、數碼光盤或電子書形式銷售的數碼聖經共三百萬本。

《聖經》的翻譯本之多也是全球之最。金氏世界紀錄有 25 種不同譯本，讀者文摘有 19 個譯本。《聖經》新舊約全書的譯本超過 600 種(2015 年底有 670 種譯本)，連同單行本《聖經》譯本更達 2,600 種之多(2015 年底是 2,642)，其他書籍望塵莫及。

有許多落後民族，原本沒有文字，只有語言。有宣教士進到他們當中學了他們的語言，用拼音法為他們造出文字，然後再把《聖經》繙譯過去，《聖經》就成了該民族的第一本書，也成了該民族文字的開始。這些宣教士能學習異族語言，能把語言轉為文字，對《聖經》原文(希伯來文、亞蘭文、希臘文)要有相當的了解。他們的智慧、學問都一定是超於尋常，而且他們必須願意花上十年八載的光陰，與那些落後民族共處；同時他們必須是在精壯之年，才可以長期適應落後原始的生活。還有，他們完成翻譯《聖經》，並不因此發財，也不會因此得到甚麼榮譽獎牌。

世界上沒有那一本書曾經吸引過一個這樣優秀的人，付上那麼大的代價，去繙譯它成別一種「落後」的文字。但《聖經》卻吸引了千萬優秀的學者，願意為它付上心血甚至生命來翻譯它。

表明這本蘊含非常重要的真理，值得我們付上最大的代價去傳揚它。

七. 信徒的改變：

古今中外許多人因為讀了《聖經》，生命就有改變，就能遷善改過，這是不爭的事實，千萬的基督徒可以為此作見證。

- 奧古斯丁 (Augustine 354-430) 非洲人，青少年時期放蕩不羈，後來讀了《聖經》(《羅馬書》13:2-14) 就悔改信靠上帝，結果成為北非教會的領袖，是教會歷史中顯赫的名人。
- 馬丁路德 (Martin Luther 1483-1546) 德國人，因為研讀《聖經》(《詩篇》及《羅馬書》) 明白「因信稱義」的道理，洞悉當時教會的流弊，就發起了中世紀的改教運動。
- 約翰牛頓 (John Newton 1725-1807) 英國人，本來是販賣黑奴的頭子，無惡不作，後來悔改信主，成了英國有名的佈道家。普世聞名的聖詩《奇異恩典》(Amazing Grace) 的歌詞就是他的作品。《聖經》對約翰牛頓的影響很大。他以《申命記》15:15 作為他一生的座右銘：「要記念你在埃及地作過奴僕，耶和華你的上帝將你救贖。」
- 吳明節 (1916-1990) 河南人，青年時代狂妄自大，對基督教信仰甚為輕藐，時常仗勢欺壓信徒，打擊教會。後來讀了《聖經》(《羅馬書》1 至 3 章)，徹底悔改，成為蒙主重用的牧師，歷任香港信義會監督。

《聖經》感動人、改變人的故事如恆河沙數，不勝枚舉。

結語：

在耶穌時代《舊約·聖經》已經成形，是猶太人沿用的經典。耶穌的門徒所成立的教會，仍是尊《舊約》為《聖經》。

第一世紀末葉，《新約·聖經》各書卷已在教會流行，到 367 年著名的教父亞他拿修 (Athanasius) 首先列出《新約》27 卷的書目。

397 年眾教會的領袖在迦太基 (Carthage) 舉行會議，正式承認《新約》27 卷是《聖經》正典 (“Canon”——希臘文，是標準、權威的意思)。

一位有名的學者亞貝 (Abba, Raymond) 這樣說：「《聖經》的權威不是一種強求人從外表來相信它的形式上的權威，它是一種工具性的權威。它含有一種質素使我在它面前不得不對真理俯首。」
《聖經》的本質與權威》(The Nature & Authority of the Bible) P.148。

總括來說，《聖經》之所以有權威，是因為它本身顯出權威來。

有一點要補充說明的是：《聖經》並不是一本百科全書。《聖經》的權威並不在生物學、地理學、或太空物理學之範圍內，而是在人與上帝之間的個人關係中。《聖經》是人類信仰與生活的準則。

「聖經都是上帝所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、
教導人學義都是有益的，叫屬上帝的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事。」
(提後 3:16-17)

- 《聖經》的來源：由上帝默示
- 《聖經》的對象：給屬上帝的人
- 《聖經》的目的：使屬上帝的人完全(成長、成熟)
使屬上帝的人行善

我們知道《聖經》是上帝的啟示，是根據七點：

- 聖經自稱
- 作者表現
- 言論內容
- 預言應驗
- 耶穌確認
- 影響世界
- 信徒改變

第四課 「為甚麼要信靠耶穌？」

為甚麼我們要信靠耶穌(上帝)？

知道上帝存在，知道耶穌就是上帝，知道《聖經》是上帝啟示，這都很好，但跟我們有甚麼關係呢？為甚麼我們要信靠耶穌？

這問題最簡單的回答是：信靠耶穌真好！信靠上帝真好！又真，又好！

按這方向，我再給大家提供七個答案：

真——

一. 祂真存在

我們在前面已經講過，上帝是真實存在的，耶穌是真實存在的。

為甚麼我們信靠祂？因為祂是真的。假如祂是假的，我們就不應該相信祂，更不能信靠祂。

耶穌真是那位創造我們的上帝，祂真是我們的主。我們應當信靠祂；我們本來就該信靠祂。

《聖經》記載，耶穌最親愛的門徒約翰這樣說：

「論到從起初原有的生命之道(耶穌基督)，就是我們所聽見、所看見，親眼看過，親手摸過的。這生命已經顯現出來，我們也看見過，現在又作見證，將原與(天)父同在且顯現與我們那永遠的生命，傳給你們。」(約壹 1:1-2)

使徒約翰告訴我們：耶穌基督就是那生命之道。這是真的！是他親眼見過，親手摸過的。

耶穌是真的，信靠耶穌真好！

有甚麼好？

好——

二. 祂有大能

祂有能力，因此，可以幫助人。假如祂沒有能力，不能幫助人，就不太好。

耶穌是上帝。能夠創造宇宙萬物的上帝，當然是大有能力！

《聖經》說：「耶和華用能力創造大地，用智慧建立世界，用聰明鋪張穹蒼。」(耶 10:12)

「祂(上帝)說有，就有；命立，就立。」(詩 33:9)

耶穌大有能力。祂可以平靜風浪，祂可以勝過魔鬼，祂可以勝過死亡；祂可以幫助我們。

三. 祂是美善

上帝不單大能，祂也美善。倘若大能而不美善，大能卻邪惡，那是魔鬼；不是上帝。大能而美善，才是上帝。

《聖經》說：「各樣美善的恩賜和各樣全備的賞賜都是從上頭來的，從眾光之父那裡降下來的；在祂並沒有改變，也沒有轉動的影兒。」(雅 1:17)

上帝的美善不會改變。

上帝不單美善，上帝是美善的根本。

在《聖經》中很多次提到：「耶和華(上帝)本為善。」(He is good!)

《聖經》說：「你們要稱謝耶和華，因祂本為善；祂的慈愛永遠長存！」(詩 107:1; 118:1, 29)
我們信靠上帝，因為祂有大能，祂可以幫助人。

我們信靠上帝，也因為祂是美善，祂願意幫助人。

四.祂是愛我——為我捨命贖罪

上帝是愛的源頭，也是愛的本體。

《聖經》說：「愛是從上帝來的...。上帝就是愛。」(約壹 4:8)

「上帝愛世人」(約 3:16)。

上帝愛所有的人——美國人、中國人、台灣人、香港人、福清人...

上帝愛每一個人。上帝愛你和我。

《聖經》說：「祂是愛我，為我捨己。」(加 2:20)

「不是我們愛上帝，乃是上帝愛我們，差祂的兒子(耶穌)為我們的罪作了挽回祭(贖罪祭)，這就是愛了。」(約壹 4:10)

為甚麼耶穌要為我們捨命贖罪？

因為我們都是罪人。

《聖經》說：「因為世人都犯了罪，虧缺了上帝的榮耀；如今卻蒙上帝的恩典，因基督耶穌的救贖，就白白的稱義。」(羅 3:23-24)

你承認你是個罪人嗎？

《聖經》中所講的罪，不單是指殺人、放火、強暴、偷竊...，那些犯法的行為。

《聖經》中所講的罪，原文是指射箭沒有打中目標。

罪是指一個人沒有走該走的路，沒有活出人性該有的美善。

我們都知道，小孩從小就有罪性的表現；小孩從小就有反叛的表現。當小孩可以用搖頭和點頭來表達意見的時候，總是“搖頭”比較多。當小孩會說“Yes”和“No”的時候，總是說“No”比較多。當小孩能「拿」和能「給」的時候，總是「拿」比較多。

中文是要學的，英文更是要學的，撒謊是不用學的。與生俱來，生來就會！

我們天生就是自我中心、自私自利；我們天生就會叛逆。不用學的！

小孩是如此，我們成人更是如此；只是成人比較懂得偽裝，懂得隱藏。

- 魯益師(C.S.Lewis, 1898-1963)是二十世紀很偉大的文學家和哲學家。他先後在英國牛津大學和劍橋大學當教授。他是很敬虔的基督徒。他寫了很多書，影響許多知識份子信主。他說：「人類有兩點奇怪之處。第一，人認為自己應當採取一種行為，這種行為可以稱作公道、正當、道德、自然法...。這種正當行為的念頭常常縈繞在人的腦際。第二，人實際上沒有採取這種行為。」(《反璞歸真》 P.31)
魯益師指出，我們沒有達到自己對別人的要求。魯益師這樣講，是包括他自己——一個大有智慧、德高望重的大學教授，他沒有做到自己對別人的要求！我們更是沒有做到。

我們知道，行事為人應該誠實、公正、符合道德；我們要求別人，行事為人應該誠實、公正、符合道德。然而，我們自己的表現常常是不誠實、不公正、不符合道德。

我們希望別人做的事，我們自己卻常常沒有做到。

我們在心中知道，做人應該誠實、公正。我們知道，那是人應該表現的美善。那是上帝放在人心中的良知，那是上帝造人的本意，讓人可以彰顯上帝的美善的本質。
活出美善，是人的榮耀，也是上帝的榮耀。

然而，因為人離棄上帝，不敬畏上帝，不遵行上帝的教導，人就妄行己路，人就偏離了該走的方向。人也因此失去了該有的美善，人也因此虧缺了上帝的榮耀。這就是罪。人犯罪的結局就是沉淪，就是墮落在一個沒有上帝的地方——地獄。在地獄中，人要永遠沉淪，永遠受苦。

上帝因為愛我們，祂道成肉身降生在人間，祂的名字叫耶穌。耶穌來拯救我們，為我們捨命在十字架上，為我們贖罪。上帝不願意一個人沉淪，祂希望人人都悔改，祂希望我們回轉信靠祂，讓我們得到新的生命。

今天有不少人對耶穌給人的救恩不太在意。不少人認為，信耶穌很好；不信，也沒關係。有人存這樣的心態，很可能是因為他不知道在地獄裡那種「沒有上帝的生活」是多麼的痛苦。

最近我跟福清的同胞接觸比較多，常有機會聽他們講在老家的經歷。我也因此更理解為甚麼有那麼多同胞願意付幾十萬人民幣的代價，甚至冒生命的危險，要逃離家鄉。

- 有一位姊妹告訴我，當時政府只容許人民有一個孩子。這位姊妹懷孕，有了第二胎，她就四處躲藏。懷孕到八個月，她被抓到，被拉到醫院強迫墮胎。八個月的嬰孩，應該可以存活成人了，竟然活活被處死！做母親的更是哭得呼天搶地！
那姊妹說，在那醫院裡滿了一屋子都是被強迫墮胎的婦女們。大家可以想像，那是怎樣的場景？那是人間地獄！
- 有一位弟兄告訴我：他的妻子懷上第二胎，就逃到鄉下親戚那裡去躲藏。政府派人每月到家裡調查戶口。一個月、兩個月見不到那媳婦，政府就知道她可能是懷了孕躲藏起來。公安到處抓人，也到家裡威脅他的父母。把他家的大門拆了，把家裡的櫃子也拆了；因為公安懷疑他們可能把人藏在櫃子裡，或是藏在櫃子後面。整個房子被翻轉。
政府兩天、三天在夜裡就派人到家裡來要人，嚇得他父母不敢回家睡。好長時間兩個老人躲在山上睡。小百姓，活得很可憐；只是為了要多生一個小孩。這是人間地獄！

中國政府沒有公然反對上帝；在憲法上，在名義上，是容許人民有信仰自由。

中國社會不是地獄，但已經是如此可怕！

一個不尊重上帝的政府，自然也不懂得尊重人，自然會帶來許多痛苦。這情況讓我們稍為看到一點地獄的恐怖。地獄是一個完全拒絕上帝的地方，那將會是怎樣的生活？根據《聖經》的啟示，地獄是一片黑暗的地方，在那裡有不死的蟲，有不滅的火。(太 25:41，可 9:48)
那裡的人都在哀哭切齒！(太 25:30)

上帝不願意看到我們如此沉淪滅亡，因此，祂來為我們捨命贖罪。
我們只要誠心悔改、信靠耶穌，就可以出死入生。

信靠耶穌是我們得救的唯一盼望。

《聖經》說：「除祂(耶穌)以外，別無拯救；因為在天下人間，沒有賜下別的名，我們可以靠着得救。」(徒 4:12)

許多福清同胞到美國來，都要找一個中介給他開路。

我們要離開魔鬼的權勢，要進入上帝的國度，也必需靠賴一個中介。

《聖經》說：「在上帝和人中間，只有一位中保，乃是降世為人的基督耶穌；祂捨自己作萬人的贖價。」(提前 2:5-6)

中介要收錢，收很多的錢。耶穌不收錢，反倒為我們捨命贖罪。這是何等大的恩典！

為甚麼我們要信靠耶穌？

因為我們被罪惡綑綁，我們在罪惡中沉淪。

耶穌是我們唯一的拯救。

「祂是愛我，為我捨己！」

我們必須信靠耶穌，才能脫離罪惡，才能得救。這是我們必須信靠耶穌的主要原因。

五. 祂與我同在

耶穌說：「我要求父，父就另外賜給你們一位保惠師，叫祂永遠與你們同在，就是真理的聖靈。」(約 14:16-17)

「人若愛我，就必遵守我的道；我父也必愛他，並且我們要到他那裡去，與祂同住。」(約 14:23)

《聖經》說：「我們只管坦然無懼的來到施恩的寶座前，為要得憐恤，蒙恩惠，作隨時的幫助。」(來 4:16)

- 我不止一次聽到有基督徒作見證說：沒有信主之前，他怕黑、怕鬼，晚上不敢一個人睡。睡覺不敢關燈。信靠耶穌以後，就不再害怕了，可以一個人睡了。因為他知道，耶穌與他同在，魔鬼再不能傷害他。

為甚麼我們要信靠耶穌？

因為祂常與我們同在，我們也實在需要祂的同在，我們需要祂隨時的幫助。

六. 祂引導前路

耶穌不單與我們同在，不單陪伴我們，祂還引導我們走正路，祂引導我們踏上光明的前途。

耶穌說，祂是好牧人，我們是祂的羊。

耶穌說：「牧人既放出自己的羊來，就在前頭走，羊也跟着祂。」(約 10:4)

《聖經》說：「耶和華是我的牧者，我必不致缺乏。祂使我躺臥在青草地上，領我在可安歇的水邊。祂使我的靈魂甦醒，為自己的名引導我走義路。」(詩 23:1-3)

- 我在十二、三歲的時候決志信主，領受洗禮。信主之後，好幾年對信仰都不是很認真；只是個禮拜天的基督徒。星期一到星期六都是個“表裡一致”的大罪人，沒有甚麼基督徒的味道。

高中畢業以後，沒有錢唸大學，要去找工作。覺得前路茫茫，感到真是需要倚靠上帝。那時候就從新立志，要專心跟隨主。

當時在團契中學到一首詩歌：「主凡事引導」我非常喜歡其中歌詞，讓我很受感動。這詩歌的歌詞這樣說：(一)救世主凡事引導我，我何需別有所求，

主愛憐我何用多疑，我一生蒙主眷佑，
今因信享天上平安，蒙安慰何等喜樂，
我深知無論遇何事，主必為我安排妥；
我深知無論遇何事，主必為我安排妥。

(二)救世主凡事引導我，崎嶇路安然走過，
遇試煉主賜恩相助，生命糧日日賜我。
我步履雖困倦無力，我心靈雖渴難名，
但我見靈磐現我前，快樂泉源湧不停；
但我見靈磐現我前，快樂泉源湧不停。

(三)救世主凡事引導我，主慈愛何等豐富，
主應許在天父家裡，為我備安樂住處，
到那日我復活變化，如展翼飛光明所，
千萬年我仍要歌唱，耶穌凡事引導我；
千萬年我仍要歌唱，耶穌凡事引導我。

唱着那詩歌，我把自己交託給主，決定一生跟從主，祈求祂引導我的人生。

主耶穌真是一步一步引導我的前路。我先在巴士公司找到一份工作，後來轉到飛機工程公司。在 25 歲的時候，我感受到上的呼召，要我全職投入事奉；我就進入神學院接受裝備。在香港的神學院畢業之後，教會認為我還要多學習一點，把我送來美國讀研究院。之後我回香港的教會事奉。1981 年七月開始到夏威夷在這教會當牧師。在過去這三十多年，除了在這教會裡講道，我去過中國多個地方傳道，包括在黑龍江的大慶，在內蒙古的包頭，在河南的信陽，在四川的成都和廣安，還有在瑞士的日內瓦、洛桑、沃韋...。一路走來，我看見許多人因為信主，生命有美好的改變。

跟隨主的路，有高有低；不是一帆風順，卻是恩典豐富，多姿多彩。

為甚麼要信靠耶穌？

因為我們需要祂引導我們走上光明的道路。

七. 祂預備天家——賜我歸宿

耶穌說：「你們心裡不要憂愁；你們信上帝，也當信我。在我父的家裡有許多住處；若是沒有，我就早已告訴你們了。我去原是為你們預備地方去。我若去為你們預備了地方，就必再來接你們到我那裡去，我在那裡，叫你們也在那裡。」(約 14:1-3)

詩人說：「祢(上帝)要以祢的訓言引導我，以後必接我到榮耀裡。」(詩 73:24)

主耶穌不單引導我們，祂是一路引導我們到永恆的天家。祂讓我們帶着榮美的身體，進入榮美的居所。祂讓我們的人生有一個真正美好的結局。

在基督耶穌裡我們有永恆的盼望。

- 2018年4月29日的週刊，登載了明立中弟兄的見證。他患了癌症，已經割去左邊的腎，癌細胞已經轉移到脊椎，病情相當嚴重。前不久他還患上肺炎。假如你在這樣的情況中，你會有甚麼感受？你會有甚麼表現？
一般人都可能會很擔心，可能很害怕，可能很沮喪...。
在明弟兄的見證中，我們沒有看到憂傷，更沒有看到絕望；他是滿懷感恩。看他傳過來的照片，他是滿臉笑容。
為甚麼明弟兄有這樣陽光的表現？
因為他堅定信靠耶穌。他相信耶穌會與他同行。他相信耶穌會隨時幫助他。他相信耶穌會引導他走向更美好前途。
當那一天他走完在這世上路，他相信耶穌會帶領他進入榮美的天家。

為甚麼要信靠耶穌？

因為耶穌為我們預備了永恆的歸宿。

信靠耶穌，我們的人生會有一個完美的結局。

結語：

我們為甚麼要信靠耶穌？

這是第四個基本信仰問題。

今天給大家提供了七個答案，我們溫習一下：

1. 祂真存在
2. 祂有大能
3. 祂是美善
4. 祂是愛我——為我捨命贖罪
5. 祂與我同在
6. 祂引導前路
7. 祂預備天家

在這七點中，我講得最詳細的是那一點？是在中間的第四點。

這是我們信靠耶穌最主要的原因，因為「除祂(耶穌)以外，別無拯救；因為在天下人間，沒有賜下別的名，我們可以靠着得救。」(徒 4:12)

主耶穌不單拯救我們，祂還與我們一生同行，祂引導我們直到永恆的天家。信靠耶穌真是有福，我們要把一生交託給祂，專心跟隨祂。

願意信靠耶穌的人，可以用以下的禱文向上帝禱告：

決志信主禱告

天父上帝，我感謝祢，賜下耶穌為我捨命贖罪。
我願意悔改，離開罪惡，信靠耶穌。
我願意接受耶穌設立的洗禮，洗去我的罪。
我承認：耶穌是我的救主和我生命的主。
我決定：從今以後，一生遵行耶穌基督的教導。
願聖靈進入我心中，帶領我走聖潔和光明的路。
奉耶穌基督的名禱告。阿們！

已經決志信靠耶穌的人，應該盡快參加慕道班(基本真理研討班)，預備領受洗禮。洗禮是主耶穌設定向人施恩的途徑，要洗去人的罪，讓人領受聖靈。洗禮也是基督徒重生的確據。

耶穌說：「信而受洗必然得救。」 (可 16:16)

《聖經》說：

「你們各人要悔改，奉耶穌基督的名受洗，叫你們的罪得赦，就必領受所賜的聖靈。」 (徒 2:38)

「現在你為甚麼耽延呢？起來，求告祂(耶穌)的名受洗，洗去你的罪。」 (徒 22:16)

「豈不知我們這受洗歸入基督耶穌的人是受洗歸入祂的死嗎？所以，我們藉着洗禮歸入死，和祂一同埋葬，原是叫我們一舉一動有新生的樣式，像基督藉着父的榮耀從死裡復活一樣。我們若在祂死的形狀上與祂聯合，也要在祂復活的形狀上與祂聯合。」 (羅 6:3-5)

「祂便救了我們；並不是因我們自己所行的義，乃是照祂的憐憫，藉着重生的洗和聖靈的更新。」 (多 3:5)

《基本信仰問答》

英文版序

常聽到一些調查報告說，在教會長大的孩子，進入大學後，很多都沒有繼續去教會參加崇拜，漸漸疏離從小接受的信仰，甚至放棄。這是我的隱憂。怎樣可以幫助我們教會的孩子堅定信靠上帝，一生穩行義路？這是我深切的關懷。

絕大部份在夏威夷長大的孩子都喜歡去美國大陸讀大學。他們遠離父母，遠離熟悉的教會，獨自進入充滿挑戰和引誘的大學校園，面對越來越囂張的反基督教言論，他們必須有扎實的信仰基礎才能抵禦風浪。

五年前(2018)，我寫了這本小冊子《基本信仰問答》，針對四個問題：

- 一. 怎麼知道上帝存在？
- 二. 怎麼知道耶穌是上帝？
- 三. 怎麼知道聖經是上帝的啟示？
- 四. 為甚麼必須信靠耶穌？

為了方便記憶，每個問題我提供七個答案，相信可以幫助信徒堅定信仰。

過去幾年，本教會的孩子在離開夏威夷到海外升學之前，我盡可能邀請孩子和他的父母一同聚餐。飯後打開這《基本信仰問答》，跟那孩子講解其中的內容。我相信，孩子若對這基本信仰有清楚的理解，以後當他遇到生活困難或思想挑戰的時候，這信仰可以幫助他堅定前行。

大部份在美國長大的孩子看不懂中文。我把這小書交給孩子的父母，希望父母能常與孩子溫習其中的內容。然而，這方法不是很理想，因為不少父母的英語表達能力不是很好。因此我動意把這小書翻成英文，讓孩子們可以帶著上大學，以後可以隨時翻看溫習。

1981年我們夫妻開始到本教會事奉。第一次參加國語大專團契，聚會人數很少，連我們夫妻只有六人，其中一位契友是林文禮姊妹。過去多年，文禮姊妹是我忠心的好同工。在許多聚會中她與我配搭事奉；她是非常優秀的翻譯。感謝文禮姊妹幫忙把這小書翻成英文。

盼望這英文版的《基本信仰問答》可以伴隨本教會的青年進入大學，進入社會，建立家庭。願上帝藉著這小書賜福給我們教會的孩子們。阿們！

建議

若家裏有念初中或以上的孩子，我建議父母按序給孩子講解一遍這書的內容。一次講一課，跟孩子好好討論，解答孩子的問題。四課講完，以後每天晚餐的時候與孩子背誦其中一課的結論。譬如，家長問：我們怎麼知道上帝存在？

孩子回答：1. 主觀感受 2. 客觀考察 3. 理性存在 4. 感性存在
 5. 道德存在 6. 聖經記載 7. 耶穌宣告

每半年，家長與孩子再溫習一遍每一課的內容；最好先由孩子講解，然後家長補充。這樣重複練習，相信可以幫助孩子把這信仰的重點牢記在心，並可以在生活中體會。

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:

Prayer to Receive Jesus Christ as Savior

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 basic 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.