

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS *(Teacher Copy)*

Part 2 – Christian Knowing (Jesus, Holy Spirit & Water Baptism)

CONTENT

1. Jesus Christ
 - 1.1 Introduction
 - 1.2 Who is Jesus?
 - 1.3 Who did Jesus Claim to Be?
 - 1.4 Is Jesus The Messiah and God Himself?
 - 1.4.1 His Fulfillment of The Old Testament Prophecies About the Messiah
 - 1.4.2 His Godly and Peerless Wisdom
 - 1.4.3 His Sinless and Righteous Life Before God and Men
 - 1.4.4 His Performance of Miracles as Foretold in The Old Testament
 - 1.5 Did Jesus Rise From the Grave?
 - 1.6 The Resurrection Was Prophesied
 - 1.6.1 The Tomb Was Empty
 - 1.6.2 There Were Multiple Witnesses to The Resurrected Jesus
 - 1.6.3 The Transformed Lives of The Witnesses
- 2 The Holy Spirit
 - 2.1 Introduction
 - 2.2 Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - 2.3 What is the Role of the Holy Spirit?
 - 2.4 How do I Receive the Holy Spirit?
- 3 Water Baptism
 - 3.1 What is Water Baptism?
 - 3.2 Is Water Baptism Important for Me?
 - 3.3 How do I Get Baptized?

1. JESUS CHRIST

1.1 Introduction

There is no historical figure that has been more famous and polarizing than the person of Jesus Christ. He has more than 2 billion people that profess to believe in Him and His influences are felt in movies, art, books, conversations, social media, news, holidays (Christmas, Easter & Good Friday) and so on. When people are asked who Jesus is, some say



Source: Image from the movie "Son of God"

- He is a kind person that performed many good deeds.
- He is a myth or a fairy tale.
- He is a teacher with good morals.
- He is a prophet.
- He is a healer.
- He is a trickster and a conman.

But who is Jesus really?

Is He even real?

Is He just a nice person or does He have an agenda and mission?

Can I trust Him?

1.2 Who is Jesus?

Reflections

1. Who is Jesus to you?
2. What do you know about the person of Jesus Christ?

Overview

1. Jesus is a real historical person that existed more than 2,000 years ago.
2. He is completely human, but at the same time also more than human.

Though there are many of those that questioned if God does exist, there are actually very few people that questioned whether Jesus Christ existed more than 2,000 years ago. Apart from the Bible, almost every major religion teaches that Jesus was either a prophet, a good teacher or a

godly man. His existence is also confirmed by historians including Flavius Josephus (Jewish), Tacitus and Pliny who are both Roman historians.

Jesus is a **real person** and a human being just like you and me. The Bible referenced in detail the humanity of Jesus which included Him experiencing

- Hunger and thirst (Mark 11:12)
- Tiredness and pain (John 4:6)
- Crying and weeping (John 11:35)
- Anger, joy, sadness, sorrow and other emotions (Matthew 21: 12 – 13, Mark 3:5)
- Temptation (Matthew 4: 1 – 11)



He was born into this world as a baby, but the circumstances of His birth were not merely natural but also supernatural, as He was conceived through the virgin Mary as recorded in the Bible (Luke 1:26-38). He

had a family, a mother, brothers and He also had friends and communities that knew Him. He had many followers during His lifetime and also many enemies at the same time.

“Jesus is in every detail, fully human like you and I...but He is also more than just merely human...”

1.3 Who Did Jesus Claim to Be?

Overview

1. Jesus claims to be the Christ, the one who is anointed and chosen by God to save the world.
2. Jesus points to Himself as the way, the truth and the life.
3. The Bible records that Jesus claims Himself to be equal as God.
4. There is no option to consider Jesus as just a mere good person or teacher. We need to decide either He is a conman, a lunatic or He is in fact the Son of God.

To fully explore the question of who Jesus is, we need to start with the man Himself. We need to ask

“Who did Jesus say He is?”

The Bible famously records an important conversation that Jesus had with one of His disciples that tackled this very question.

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

*16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the **Christ**, the Son of the living God.”*

17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6: 13 – 17

What does the word “**Christ**” mean?

The term “Christ” is not the last name (surname) of Jesus. The word “Christ” comes from the Greek word “**Christos**” which means _____ or the _____. It is the Hebrew equivalent of the word “_____” which means the saviour that is prophesized in the Old Testament to be chosen by God to redeem Israel (Isaiah 42:1, 61:1-3).

In summary, Jesus is His human name and Christ is His title.

So when Peter declares that “You are the Christ” Peter is specifically declaring that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one and the chosen one from God to save Israel and the world.

What is even more important about Peter’s declaration is the fact that Jesus acknowledges that Peter has rightly answered and that this revelation did not come from human wisdom, but rather from God Himself.

Jesus is basically saying “Yes Peter, you are correct. I am the Messiah. And God has revealed this to you”

This is a very huge and important claim that Jesus makes about Himself. Why?

Consider this for a moment. Most religion and religious teachers point to God when they are asked about the way to obtain forgiveness, holiness and eternal life. Jesus however is the only person who tells His followers “*Look at me. I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life*”. There are multiples instances within the Bible where Jesus indicated so.

Jesus is the only person who tells His followers to look to Him for the way, the truth and the life.



- ***I am*** the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6)
- ***I am*** the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)
- ***I am*** the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (John 8:12)
- If you abide in ***My word***, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31 – 32)
- Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, ***I AM*** (John 8:58)

And more than just pointing to Himself, Jesus was also dispensing authority that is only reserved for God mainly by forgiving sins.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Mark 2: 5 – 6

Can you imagine for a moment walking up to a stranger and telling him/her that their sins are forgiven? This statement would seem entirely ludicrous, arrogant and blasphemous. You'd probably think *"Who do you think you are? Are you my judge?"* because the only person that can forgive an offense is the one who is offended and God Himself.

So why would Jesus make such a risky statement about forgiving another persons' sins?

Is He deluded or does He really have the authority to forgive sins?

And lastly, the Bible also testifies that Jesus personally considered Himself to being more than a human. In fact, He considered Himself equal with God Himself in John Chapter 10.

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

John 10:29 - 30

This is the reason why Jesus was crucified on the cross. It is not because of His teaching, healing or even His miracles. The teachers and the people of Israel were outraged and found Him to be blasphemous when **He claimed that He is God.** For that those claims they wanted Him to be crucified.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

33 The Jews answered Him, saying,

"For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because **You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**"

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' ? 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? 37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

John 10: 31 – 39

Based on all the statements that Jesus makes about Himself, it is clear that Jesus is giving us a very limited choice about who He really is.

As C.S Lewis puts it very clearly

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ...

Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.

As such, those who come to know Jesus and who He really claims to be must make a very clear choice. Either He is

- A. A liar and a fraud**
- B. Insane and deluded**
- C. The son of God**

We cannot just settle that He is a good teacher, a prophet or a morally kind person. He did not claim to be either one. It was not an option He offered to us.

He claims to be God Himself.

This poses us and the rest of humanity one of the most important question then.

If Jesus is a liar or insane, He is of no relevance to us.

But if He is telling the truth, and He is truly God, He is then the most important and relevant person in all of humanity.

Summary

- Jesus is a real person and He is fully human like all of us.
- He is not just a good teacher or a prophet. He did not claim to be either that.
- Jesus claims to be God Himself in multiple occasions.
- He claims to be the Christ, which means He is the Messiah and the Anointed One.
- We have to decide based on His claims if
 - He is God Himself, or
 - He is a liar, or
 - He is deluded and insane.
- Jesus is either irrelevant to all of us or the most important person in our lives.

1.4 Is Jesus The Messiah and God Himself?

Overview

1. There are compelling evidences that supports Jesus's claim as the Messiah and Son of God.
 - a. He fulfilled the OT prophecies
 - b. He displayed Godly and heavenly wisdom
 - c. He led a sinless and righteous life
 - d. He performed many miracles
 - e. He died and rose again from the grave

Now that Jesus has clearly claimed Himself to be God Himself, what evidences are there to support His claim? If the evidences don't line up to His claims, we can safely conclude that He is either mad, deluded or a conman.

The remarkable fact is there are actually many compelling evidences that support His incredible claim. Let's examine some of them.

1.4.1 His Fulfillment of the Old Testament _____ About the Messiah

One of the reasons why the Old Testament (OT) in the Bible is so important to the Christian faith is because it contains prophecies that establish the credentials of the coming Messiah. To be more specific, there are over 300 predictions in the OT that is linked to the Messiah.

Some might say that some of these prophecies were fulfilled in the deaths of other historical figures. One could possibly find a prophesy or two fulfilled in the lives of these individuals; but none of them can be credited with fulfilling all of them.

Only Jesus did so.

You can read in **Appendix 1** an exhaustive list of prophecies which Jesus fulfilled including 29 of them which He fulfilled in a single day. In fact, Jesus was constantly trying to hint and teach His disciples and followers that the events and miracles happening around Him are proof that He is the promised Messiah in accordance to the OT prophecies.

In the OT, there are over 300 predictions and prophecies linked to the Messiah. Only Jesus was able to fulfill all of them, including 29 in a single day.

18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

Acts 3:18

31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

Luke 18:31 – 33

Consider this, if Jesus was a conman who set out to deceive the Jews and the world, He would firstly need to fulfill these 300+ predictions. To put this incredible challenge into perspective, Peter Stoner a well-known professor, scientist and mathematician in his book *Science Speaks* elaborated

"the chance of any man fulfilling these prophecies, even down to the present time is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000 (10 to the 17th power)"

Peter Stoner



Another challenge that is posed for any potential conman attempting to fulfill these prophecies is that most of these circumstances are completely out of any man's control. For example, the person wouldn't have been able to control the circumstances of their birth, where they were born, having a king trying to murder him, choosing his parents, choosing his burial grounds and so forth. It would have been a completely impossible feat to achieve.

1.4.2 His Godly and Matchless _____

The Bible records showed that Jesus spoke and taught with Godly and matchless wisdom. He was born in a poor family and raised as a carpenter with no background in formal religious studies. Yet He was constantly found in the various temples and synagogues (places of Jewish worship) teaching and explaining the Word of God.

54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" 57 So they were offended at Him.

Matthew 13:54 – 57



But Jesus was different than all other teachers, in that He was unmatched in His teaching and wisdom even at an early age. Those who listened and were witnesses were amazed at the words that proceeded out from Him and He taught not just as any teacher, but as one with the authority of God. This exhibit of wisdom was so powerful, that any person who encounters Jesus and His words testified that it is unheard of.

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:28-29

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

John 7:45

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ."

John 7:40-41

One of the most distinctive manners of the teaching of Jesus was His use of parables. Parables are earthly stories used to convey heavenly messages and Jesus would frequently use them to illustrate profound divine truths to His listeners. The gospel records 24 parables taught by Jesus which includes the

- Parable of the Sower
- Parable of the Mustard Seed
- Parable of the Faithful Servant
- Parable of the Lost Sheep
- Parable of the Two Sons

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Matthew 13:10-13

The usage of parables was also prophetic of the coming of the messiah as reflected in Psalms 78

*Give ear, O my people, to my law;
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings of old,
³ Which we have heard and known,
And our fathers have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their children,
Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*

Psalms 78: 1 - 4

1.4.3 His _____ and Righteous Life Before God and Men

In Isaiah 53:9, we read of a prophetic statement that says the Messiah would live a life without sin

*And they made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,*

*Because He had done no violence,
Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

Isaiah 53:9

The idea of a man to be completely blameless and guiltless seems almost fictional and unfathomable. We have seen great, kind and compassionate individuals in our lives such as Gandhi or Mother Theresa, but none of which we would equate as being “completely” sinless. Such person would never have spoken a single lie and harbored an evil thought in their heart. The person’s intent and works would’ve been as white as snow. But that is exactly the person not only Jesus claims to be, but it is also testified by His contemporaries and even His enemies.

The sinless and righteous life of Jesus was not only self-evident, but it was also testified by the Heavenly Father, His disciples and also His enemies.



source: www.medium.com

- When Jesus was baptized, it was recorded that the heavens opened and the voice of the Heavenly Father was heard proclaiming His very own Son

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

John 3:21-22

- When Jesus died, one of the criminals that was hung with Him recognized both Jesus’s godliness and sinlessness when he rebuked the other criminal

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

Luke 23:40

- Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect of Judea couldn’t find any wrong doings and guilt in Jesus when the Jews tried to prosecute Him, and declared Him innocent and freed. (Luke 23:13-23)
- His enemies namely the Jewish religious leaders who tried to find evidences and faults in Him in an attempt to kill Him couldn’t find any. They even went as far as bearing false witnesses but were unsuccessful.

55 Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. 56 For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

Mark 14:55

In many various encounters, the Jewish leaders followed and sought to trap Jesus with devious questions and predicaments, but was unable to overcome His wisdom and innocence. (Luke 6:7, Matthew 12:10, Mark 3:4, Mark 2:7, Matthew 9:11, Matthew 15:2, John 9:16)

And not only was Jesus found to be completely sinless and righteous before His peers and enemies, He taught and displayed incredible godliness, compassion, strength, servanthood and forgiveness not only to the poor and marginalized, but even to His enemies. He was truly the epitome and standard of Godly and brotherly love

- a) Godliness (Matthew 5)
- b) Compassion (Matthew 9:36, Matthew 11, Luke 7:13, Matthew 8:3)
- c) Strength & Perseverance (Matthew 27)
- d) Humility & Servanthood (Mark 10:45, John 13)
- e) Forgiveness (Luke 23:34, Luke 7:44-47)

1.4.4 His Performance of Many _____ as Foretold in The Old Testament

One of the prophecies that the OT foretold about the coming Messiah was that He would be filled with power and perform many great miracles. The miracles would follow Him and would be an irrefutable sign of His power and authority from heaven.

*5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing.
For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert.*

Isaiah 35:5 - 6

21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

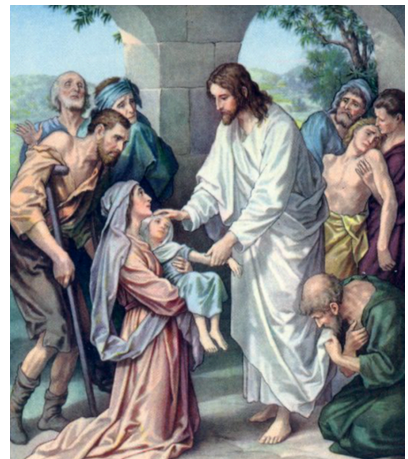
Luke 7:21

Even His enemies acknowledged that He performed many miracles and signs and wonders

47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

John 11:47 - 48

The miracles of Jesus were wide ranging and powerful which included healing (blind, lepers and paralytics), exorcisms, resurrection of the dead and control over the nature (turning water into wine, walking on water and calming the storm). There were approximately 33 miracles recorded in the gospels, but John the apostle also wrote that there were many more miracles that Jesus performed that were unrecorded.



25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

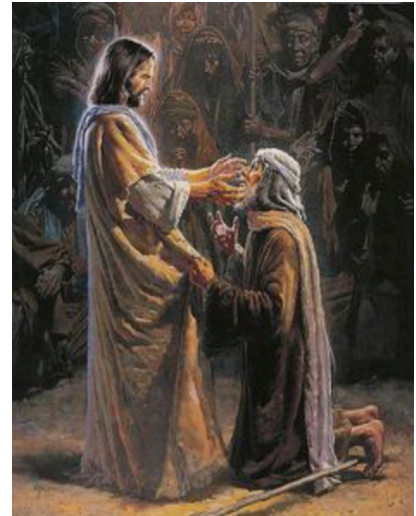
John 21:25

It is also important to note that the Jewish Rabbis according to the Scripture uphold the miracles performed by the Messiah to a higher standard in order to authenticate His

authority amongst false teachers and imposters. To do so, the Rabbis (Jewish teachers) divided the miracles into 2 categories:

- a) Those anyone can be empowered by God to perform and
- b) Those specifically reserved for the Messiah. There were 3 miracles specifically reserved to identify the Messiah
 - a) Healing of a leper (Mark 1:40-45)
 - b) Healing and casting out a dumb demon (Matthew 9:32-33)
 - c) Healing of a blind man (John 9)

Jesus performed all these 3 miracles as recorded in the gospels, but yet the people and the teachers would still choose not to believe Him as the Messiah.



You can refer to **Appendix 2** for a list of the miracles recorded in the Gospels.

Summary

- Jesus fulfilled all The Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah
- He possesses and displayed Godly and unmatched wisdom
- He led a sinless and righteous life before God and men
- He performed many miracles including those foretold in The Old Testament regarding the coming Messiah.

1.5 Did Jesus Rise From the Grave?

Overview

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands alone as the most significant distinction that separates Christianity from all other religion.
2. Without the resurrection there would be no Christianity as the apostle Paul says, and all our faith and beliefs would've been in vain.
3. Proofs of the resurrection include
 - The prophecy of the resurrection
 - The empty tomb
 - The multiple witnesses
 - The transformed life of the witnesses

Of all the miracles and teachings that Jesus performed and taught, nothing is as important and powerful than His resurrection from the grave. Jesus prophesied about His resurrection (Mark 8:31), and so did the Old Testament (Psalm 16:10–11; Isaiah 53:12).

No other religious figure in history has ever prophesized their own death and resurrection and fulfilled it. It is the crowning achievement that separates Jesus from all other religious leaders. Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, Socrates and all others died and remained in the grave. Jesus is the only one that died and rose again. He is the only one whose tomb is empty. He is the only one whose resurrection was professed by multiple living witnesses (even up to 500 in one event) who dared to testify and be martyred for the truth of what they witnessed.

If Jesus never rose from the dead, there would be no compelling reason to believe that He is who He said He is. But the fact is that He did rise again from the dead, confirming His claim to be God. The apostle puts forth the significance and implication of the resurrection of Jesus Christ in this manner

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19

Here we put forth some clear and strong evidences for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1.5.1 The Resurrection Was _____

The concept and idea of resurrection was not a new invention of Jesus and His followers concocted, but rather the Israelites had already known of the promised resurrection since the OT as revealed by the prophets of God. The resurrection was in fact a heavenly sign given by God to help His people authenticate and herald the arrival of the promised Messiah to save the world.

2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.

Hosea 6:2

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalms 16:10

Jesus Himself also predicted His own death and His resurrection in accordance to the prophecy of the OT regarding the promised Messiah.

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Matthew 16:21

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:19

1.5.3 The Tomb Was _____

One of the greatest evidences of the resurrection of the body of Jesus Christ was the scene of the empty tomb. The Gospel of John provides more details regarding this particular scene in John 20, where the apostle Peter arrived at the tomb and saw that the linen cloth wrapping the body was left in the tomb.



There has been multiple conspiracy theories and conjectures regarding the empty tomb, whether it'd be stolen by thieves, collusion among the Roman soldiers or maybe Jesus didn't actually die but He managed to somehow recover, removed the heavy stone and got past the guards all by Himself. Below is an excerpt of why this is very unlikely.

"First there was a large stone set in front of the tomb to guard the body (Matthew 27:66). This was customary and not unusual. A stone used for this purpose would have weighed between 1 and 2 tons—or about the weight of a car. A small number of men could have put it in place because typically the place in front of the tomb was sloped. But removing it was not easy for a few men because the stone would have to roll uphill. It was impossible for a few men to secretly roll the stone away without alerting the Roman guard.

Second, a Roman guard was sent to protect the tomb (Matthew 27:64-66). The punishment for falling asleep on duty or walking away from their post was the death penalty. With such a steep price to pay, it does not make sense that they would have simply fallen asleep without divine intervention.

The third thing that was done to protect the tomb was a Roman seal was placed upon it (Matthew 27:66). Death by crucifixion was the punishment for breaking the seal. No one would want to be found guilty of that. Though the disciples became bold men in Acts, they were not so bold in the Gospels to risk their own lives pulling off a prank with such severe consequences."

Excerpt from www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com

1.5.4 There Were Multiple _____ to the Resurrected Jesus

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas (Peter), then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once." After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me (Paul) also, as by one born out of due time."

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

The Gospels recorded that the resurrection of Jesus was witnessed by many individuals and groups including the disciples, the women, and also as many as 500 brethren in one time. These encounters were detailed in very intimate details, which included skepticism, fear, and joy. The encounters were very vivid and detailed as well, including one particular scene where Jesus appeared to the disciples and ate a piece of broiled fish in their presence (Luke 24:42-43).



The resurrection was not only met with doubts, there were also skeptics even among the followers. In fact, one of the disciples Thomas was so skeptical that he asked for a physical proof to show that the person is really Jesus.

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”

So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing.”



28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20 :24- 29

Please read **Appendix 3** about the remarkable witness of the risen Jesus Christ that came from one of His most fervent enemy.

1.5.5 The _____ Lives of The Witnesses

There are also many skeptics that believed the disciples were common men who were colluding to lie about their testimony of the resurrection of Jesus to gain influence and power for their self-gain. However, if we were to look closely and dissect the recorded lives of these individuals before and after the resurrection, one can't help but notice that their lives have become completely transformed. Let's take a deeper dive.

The disciples were described as being timid, clueless, fearful, doubtful and depressed in the gospels when they were with Jesus. Here are some examples of the transformation that happened among the disciples



- The apostle Peter denied Jesus 3 times when Jesus was arrested (Luke 22). Jesus Himself prophesied this and when it came to pass Peter went away weeping bitterly. After the witnessing of the risen Christ, and the day of Pentecost, Peter arose and spoke boldly in the temple courts preaching to the Jews about the Jesus the Messiah. He would later continue strong to become the leader of the Christian movement until He was martyred for His work and belief in Jesus.
- James (the brother of Jesus) along with his brothers did not believe in Jesus during Jesus's early ministry (see John 7:5). However, Jesus appeared to James (1 Corinthians 15:3-9) and James became a leader in the early Jerusalem church. He was later martyred by being thrown off the pinnacle of a temple, later stoned and then beaten to death with a club for his faith.
- The apostle Paul Himself (Please refer to the points (iii) above about witnesses) Paul himself was also martyred by beheading under the Roman emperor Nero for his faith.

The truth is, the disciples truly believed in what they witnessed and what they knew to be true, and this was evidenced by their willingness to suffer and die for the beliefs. What they experienced was a truth that they couldn't turn away from or deny. This life-changing experience would later on propel them to a passionate pursuit and mission that would eventually cost them their lives, which they gave up willingly. If they were simply scheming, lying and colluding for a made-up religion, it's hard to fathom anyone would go through such pain, suffering, embarrassment and even death to achieve such goal.



As such the saying goes

“Liars make poor martyrs.”

For more proof and study on the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, please refer to **Appendix 4** for links and resources.

Summary

- The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of all Christian belief. If He did not rise from the grave, then all of the Christians belief and sacrifice would have been in vain.
- The evidences for His resurrections are
 - The resurrection was prophesied
 - The tomb was empty
 - There were multiple witnesses to the risen Christ
 - The lives of the witnesses were forever transformed

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reflections

1. Who do you think the Holy Spirit is?
2. Have you ever been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. What do you think is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

2.1 Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is probably one of the most lonely and misunderstood person in the Godhead. When believers are asked to define and explain the Holy Spirit, some of the common misconceptions are

- a) The Holy Spirit is just a “force” and a “power”
- b) The Holy Spirit only came in the New Testament didn’t exist in the Old Testament
- c) The Holy Spirit is of a lesser status than the Father and the Son.
- d) The Holy Spirit is just a part of God



The above misconceptions are not only totally contrary to the teachings of the bible, but it robs the believer of the truth, the power and the relationship that the Holy Spirit bestows upon believers. Here we will learn some key truths about the Holy Spirit.

2.1.1 The Holy Spirit is a _____

The Holy Spirit is a real person who came to reside within Jesus Christ's true followers after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. Jesus told His apostles...

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

- I. He has a mind (Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- II. He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- III. He has emotions (Ephesian 4:30, Hebrews 10:29)
- IV. He is referred to with a “personal pronoun” of “He” and not “it” in (John 14:15,16, 26, John 15:26-27)

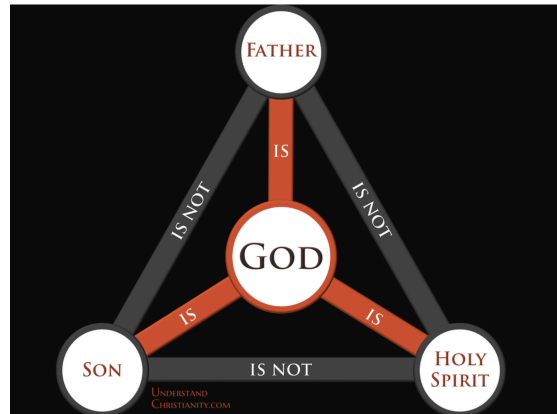
HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON



2.1.2 The Holy Spirit is a **God**

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And all the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son, are also equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit. When a person becomes born again by believing and receiving Jesus Christ⁴, God resides in that person through the Holy Spirit (*Please refer to **Appendix 5** to learn more about the Trinity*).

The following are a summary of the reasons why the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity according to the revealed Word of God.



I. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as God

- Acts 5:3-4.

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

- In this verse Peter confronts Ananias as to why he lied to the Holy Spirit and tells him that he had “not lied to men but to God.” It is a clear declaration that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God.

II. The Holy Spirit was _____ and involved in the creation of the world

- Genesis 1:2

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- Psalm 33:6

6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

III. The Holy Spirit has been working in and through from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

- The Spirit was working actively through individuals
 - Through Joseph (Genesis 41:37-38)
 - Through Joshua
 - Through Daniel (Daniel 4:8)
- The Spirit worked through an entire group of people (Isaiah 63:10-11)
- The Holy Spirit was ever present during the OT times (Psalms 139:7)
- The Spirit was their teacher and instructor (Nehemiah 9:20)
- The Spirit imparted gifts and wisdom to people (Exodus 31:1-5)

IV. The Holy Spirit possesses Godly attributes and characteristics

- His omnipresence is seen in Psalm 139:7-8,

- The omniscience in the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
- He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14)
- He is omnipotent (Luke 1:35)

V. Jesus commanded His disciples to make and baptize disciples in the name of the Holy Spirit together with the name of the Father and of the Son.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:18

Summary

- The Holy Spirit is a person
 - He thinks
 - He feels
 - He decides and acts
- The Holy Spirit is God
 - He is part of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
 - He is present during creation
 - He has been at work since the Old Testament
 - He possesses Godly attributes and power
 - Jesus commands His disciples to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2.2 What is the Role of the Holy Spirit?

Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is promised to us,

- i. To be our _____ and _____

The Greek word translated here “Counsellor” means “one who is called alongside” and has the idea of someone who encourages and exhorts. When the Holy Spirit comes into the heart of a believer, He takes up permanent residence in the hearts of believers (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, [12:13](#))

- ii. To comforts those in distress, grief and suffering (John 12:26; John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7)

- iii. To teach and _____ us into truths: (John 16:13, John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3)

He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide, going before, leading the way, removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things. Without such a guide, we would be apt to fall into error. A crucial part of the truth He reveals is that Jesus is who He said He is

- iv. To give spiritual _____ to believers

1 Corinthians 12 describes the spiritual gifts given to believers in order that we may function as the body of Christ on earth.

All these gifts, both great and small, are given by the Spirit so that we may be His ambassadors to the world, showing forth His grace and glorifying Him.

Please refer to **Appendix 6** for a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- v. To help believers bear Godly fruits in their lives.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

These are not works of our flesh, which is incapable of producing such fruit, but they are products of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

Please refer to **Appendix 7** for a list of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

- vi. To _____ on behalf of the believers in their weakness (Romans 8:16)
- vii. To assure believers of their adoption: (Romans 8:16, John 15:26; John 16:14)
- viii. To bring spiritual inspiration and revelation to God's people (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16)
- ix. To _____ the world of sin, righteousness and judgement

To convict means to bring into awareness and into light a person's sin, guilt and due judgement.

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

John 16:7-8

No amount of preaching, pleading, or pointing of fingers will bring about the conviction of sin, unless the Holy Spirit is at work in the sinner's heart.

Once the sinner is convicted, the Spirit leads and points them towards Christ, and bring about a work of repentance and regeneration in the hearts of believers.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

To Help & To Counsel	To Comfort	To Teach & Guide
To Give Gifts	To Help Us Bear Fruits	To Intercede for Us
To Assure Believers	To Reveal and Inspire	To Bring Conviction

2.3 What Does it Mean to be Filled with The Holy Spirit?

The promise of the Holy Spirit has been given to us, but we also need to be aware that there is a distinction between the dwelling and the filling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of a believer

2.3.1 The Dwelling of the Holy Spirit in Us

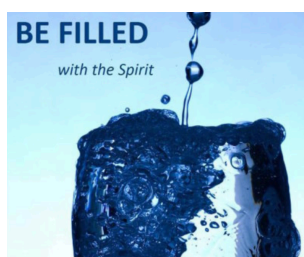
To dwell means to live in and to take residence in a particular place. When a person believes in Jesus and invites Him into his heart and life, God sends His Holy Spirit into our hearts to dwell within us and to serve as a seal of God in us (Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22). The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to all believers on the moment of salvation once and for all without exception and no conditions are placed upon this gift except faith in Christ ([John 7:37-39](#)).



9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 8:9

2.3.2 The Filling of the Holy Spirit in Us



The work and plan of the Holy Spirit extends beyond just dwelling within us. To be filled with the Spirit means to giving Him the freedom and authority to occupy/ fill every area of our lives.

A good illustration is marriage. Being indwelt with the Holy Spirit is similar to being married on the wedding day, which only occurs only once in the lifetime of the couple. However, the experience of a wedding is entirely different compared to a lifetime of marriage. A couple could be married and staying together under the same roof but be completely miserable. Being married doesn't mean they are experiencing and enjoying each other's company, love, hope and influence.



When we are filled with the Holy Spirit it's similar to the experience of being "married" with the Holy Spirit. We are acknowledging His presence in our lives, and giving Him access and authority into every area including the vulnerable parts of our lives. When we do, the Holy Spirit comes and fills us with His presence, leading, love, joy, and power (spiritual gifts). As believers, we should be seeking and desiring to be filled with more of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:52

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

As believers, we should be seeking and desiring to be filled with more of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

2.4 How do I Get Filled with The Holy Spirit?

So how do we get filled with the Holy Spirit?

- a) Confess, and repent from any sins dwelling in our hearts
 - a. Sins in our lives will grieve and inhibit the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
 - b. It is a barrier to our fellowship with God and needs to be removed continually by dying to ourselves and putting our trust in the blood of Jesus.
- b) Open your heart and invite the Holy Spirit into your thoughts, hopes, fears, regrets and dreams.
- c) Focus, wait, listen and meditate on His word and His promises.
- d) Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you, guide you and take control.

Summary

- The Holy Spirit comes to work in our lives to
 - Guide us
 - Teach us
 - Encourage us
 - Convict us of sins
 - Produce fruits in our lives
 - Give us spiritual gifts to help us and others
- The Holy Spirit is given once to all believer on the moment of salvation to live and dwell in us, and as a sign of God's seal in us.
- The Holy Spirit that dwells in us wants to fill us with His power, love and presence. We need to continually make room, space and recommit ourselves for Him to fill us over and over again afresh.

3 WATER BAPTISM

Reflections

1. What do you think water baptism?
2. Why do you think it's important?
3. If you haven't been water baptised yet, are there any concerns that might be stopping you?

Overview

- Water baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- It is represented by the immersion in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- It represents our union with Christ where our old sinful self is nailed to the cross, and our new man is raised together with Christ in His resurrection.

3.1 What is Water Baptism?

Water baptism is one of the commandments that Jesus has given to His followers after He was risen from the dead. It was a very specific instruction that the church and disciples of Jesus were to follow and adhere to closely, making disciples and baptizing them throughout all the nations and at all times.



¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Water baptism is the means by which a person makes a public _____ of their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

It is an act and a symbol which is represented by the immersion in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

It represents our _____ with Christ.

*3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

Romans 6:3-5

The Greek word for “baptism” is “baptidzo” which literally means to “dip” or to “immerse” in water.

And so, when Paul says that we are “baptized into Christ Jesus”, the focus is being “united” with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. Baptism represents what happens to us spiritually when we receive Christ;

- When we submerge in water, our _____ sinful selves have died (nailed and died the cross with Jesus) and,
- When we emerge from the water, our _____ self is cleansed, resurrected and born again (as Jesus is also raised up from the grave).

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

We’ve learned and discussed in the earlier parts that we receive salvation by “faith”. By faith we confess, believe in and receive Jesus, and by baptism we signify and symbolize this living faith that resides within us.

John Piper a very well-known preacher and teacher puts it like this.

An analogy would be saying, “With this ring I thee wed.” When we say that, we don’t mean that the ring or the putting of the ring on the finger is what makes us married. No, it shows the covenant and symbolizes the covenant, but the covenant-making vows make the marriage. So it is with faith and baptism.

John Piper in What is Baptism

3.2 Is Water Baptism Important for Me?

Although water baptism is not a requirement to be saved (repentance, confession, faith and believe is), we highly encourage believers to be baptized as it is

- A natural desire that is born when one is repentant, born again and committed to Jesus (Acts 8:36).
- An act of obedience that a believer pursues following the commandment of Jesus to preach the gospel and baptizing the believers (Matthew 28:18-20)
- A public declaration of our new found faith and life found in Jesus Christ. (Luke 12:8)
- A personal commitment, following and imitating after Jesus, who Himself was also baptized (Matthew 3:13 – 17)

For these Biblical reasons above, we believe the baptism of believers to be very important and that every believer should take every opportunity to be baptized. We emphasize it among all our partners, we have classes to teach about baptism, we conduct the baptisms and we celebrate all those we undertake to go through the baptisms.

3.3 How Do I Get Baptized?

If you are interested to get baptized or know someone that wants to, we'd like to let you know that here in Acts Church we conduct classes and baptism ceremonies several times during the year. To find out and sign up for the classes you can approach

- The class teacher or ACE administrators, or
- The Home Leaders, or
- The church plant leaders or any of our leaders wearing a tag.

For more information you can always email your request to info.actschurch.org for the baptism sign ups and classes.

Summary

- Water baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- It is an act and a symbol which is represented by the immersion in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- It represents our union with Christ where our old sinful self is nailed to the cross, and our new man is raised together with Christ in His resurrection.
- Water baptism is important for all believers because it reflects our faith, commitment and obedience to the commandment of Jesus.

Appendix 1

The Prophecies in the Old Testament Fulfilled by Jesus

Source: www.tentmaker.org

I. THE ACTUAL PROPHECIES

A. Concerning His Birth

1. Born of the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:20)
2. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 24, 25)
3. Son of God (Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17)
4. Seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16) Here it is determined that the Messiah would be a Jewish descendant.
5. Son of Isaac (Genesis 21:12; Luke 3:23,34) Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael. Now God eliminates one half of the lineage of Isaac.
6. Son of Jacob (Numbers 24:17; Luke 3:23,34) Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Now God eliminates one half of the lineage of Isaac.
7. Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23,33) Jacob had twelve sons and each became a tribe of the Hebrew nation. Now God eliminates eleven-twelfths of the lineage of Jacob.
8. Family line of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1; Luke 3:23,32) Now God narrows it down even further by picking one family line out of the tribe of Judah.
9. House of David (Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 3:23,31) Jesse had at least eight sons (I Samuel 16:10,11). Now God eliminates all of Jesse's sons except one, David.
10. Born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1) Now God eliminates all the cities in the world except one, Bethlehem.
11. Presented with gifts (Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6; Matthew 2:1,11)
12. Herod kills children (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16)

B. Concerning His Nature

13. His Pre-Existence (Micah 5:2; Colossians 1:17; John 1:1)
14. He shall be called Lord (Psalm 110:1; Luke 20:41-44)
15. He shall be called Immanuel ("God with us") (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)
16. Shall be a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:18; Matthew 21:11)
17. Shall be a priest (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5,6)
18. Shall be a judge (Isaiah 33:22; John 5:30)
19. Shall be a king (Isaiah 33:22; Matthew 27:37)
20. Special anointment of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16,17)
21. He zeal for God (Psalm 69:9; John 2:15-17)

C. Concerning His Ministry

22. Preceded by a messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1,2)
23. Ministry to begin in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1,2; Matthew 4:12,13,17)
24. Ministry of miracles (Isaiah 35:5, 6a; Matthew 9:35)
25. Teacher of parables (Psalm 78:2; Matthew 13:34)
26. He was to enter the temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12)
27. He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35,36,37a)
28. A "Stone Of Stumbling" to the Jewish nation (Psalm 118:22; I Peter 2:7)
29. "Light" to the Gentiles (Isaiah 60:3; 49:6; Acts 13:47,48a)

D. Concerning Events After His Burial

30. His resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31)
31. His ascension (Psalm 68:18a; Acts 1:9)
32. Seated at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

E. Prophecies Fulfilled In One Day

The following 29 prophecies from the Old Testament, which speak of the betrayal, trial, death and burial of Jesus, were spoken at various times by many different voices during the five centuries from 1000-500 BC, and yet all of them were literally fulfilled in one twenty-four hour period of time in Jesus' life.

33. Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Matthew 10:4)
34. Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15)
35. Money to be thrown down in God's house (Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:5a)
36. Price given for potter's field (Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:7)

In the previous four prophecies we find in both prophecy and fulfillment the following:

- a) Betrayed
 - b) By a friend
 - c) For 30 pieces of silver (not 29)
 - d) Silver (not gold)
 - e) Thrown down (not placed)
 - f) In God's house
 - g) Money used to buy potter's field
37. Forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50)
 38. Accused by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59-61)
 39. Mute before accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-19)
 40. Wounded and bruised (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26)
 41. Smitten and spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1; Matthew 26:67)
 42. Mocked (Psalm 22:7,8; Matthew 27:31)
 43. Fell under the cross (Psalm 109:24; John 19:17; Luke 23:26)
 44. Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33)
 45. Crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38)
 46. Made intercession for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34)
 47. Rejected by his own people (Isaiah 53:3; John 7:5,48)
 48. Hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4; John 15:25)
 49. Friends stood afar off (Psalm 38:11; Luke 23:49)
 50. People shook their heads (Psalm 109:25; Matthew 27:39)
 51. Stared upon (Psalm 22:17; Luke 23:35)
 52. Garments parted and lots cast (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23,24)
 53. Suffered thirst (Psalm 69:21; John 19:28)
 54. Gall and vinegar offered Him (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34)
 55. His forsaken cry (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46)
 56. Committed Himself to God (Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46)
 57. His bones not broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33)
 58. His heart broken (Psalm 22:14; John 19:34) The blood and water which came from Jesus' pierced side are evidences that the heart had literally burst.
 59. His side pierced (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)
 60. Darkness over the land (Amos 8:9; Matthew 27:45)
 61. Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)

Appendix 2

The Miracles of Jesus

Source: www.conformingtojesus.com

MIRACLES OF JESUS				
Permanent Disabilities Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Mute Man	9:32-34			
Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman's Spine			13:10-17	
Jesus Heals a Lame Man at Bethesda pool				5:1-15
Jesus Heals a Paralytic Man	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14-23	
Jesus Casts Out Demons and Heals Many Sick at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind				9:1-41
Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
Jesus Heals Two More Blind Men	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Jesus Heals Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
Illnesses / Injuries Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Woman with Issue of Blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear			22:50-51	
Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Jesus Heals an Official's Son Remotely				4:46-54
Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
Evil Spirits Removed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Delivers a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man		1:21-28	4:31-37	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man and Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
The Dead Raised to Life	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Raises a Widow's Son in Nain			7:11-17	
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead				11:1-45
Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter to Life	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
Other Miracles	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Temple Tax Placed in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Jesus Turns Water into Wine				2:1-11
First Miraculous Catch of Fish			5:1-11	
Second Miraculous Catch of Fish				21:1-14
Jesus Feeds 5000 with 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
Jesus Feeds 4000 with 7 Loaves & few Fish	15:32-39	8:1-13		
Jesus Causes a Fig Tree to Wither	21:18-22	11:12-14		
Jesus Calms a Storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
ConformingToJesus.com				

Appendix 3

Once an Enemy, Now a Willing Witness and a Servant of The Risen Jesus Christ.

One of the most remarkable witness that testified to the resurrected Jesus came not from His first group of disciples nor His inner circle, but rather from a former persecutor of the Christian faith by the name of Saul (later referred to as Paul) that later became an apostle and a follower of Jesus Christ.

Paul was a devout Jew and a Roman citizen that originated from Tarsus. His father was a Pharisee (a very religious Jewish group) and he himself was also a Pharisee, a zealous and prodigious student that was even personally schooled by Gamaliel, one of the most noted rabbis in Jewish history. In Acts Chapter 7, he participated in the martyrdom of Stephen (a devout follower of Jesus) and he personally confessed that he was zealous in persecuting the church and followers of Jesus (Galatians 1:13-14, Acts 8:1-3). While on his way to Damascus, He personally testified that he encountered a heavenly light that shone upon Him and Jesus appearing personally before Him.

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9: 3-6

The Bible in Book of Acts Chapter 9 onwards would record that Paul (who was previously Saul) was blinded for 3 days, prayed and sought the Lord. Later, a follower of Jesus by the name of Ananias came to Paul, prayed for Him and restored His sight. Paul became a believer and was baptized by Ananias. Since then, Paul has brought his testimony of his conversion and encounter of the risen Jesus Christ before the apostles and began his earthly mission to preach that truly Jesus is the Christ and is risen.

²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

²¹ Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"

²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 9:20-22

Appendix 4

Resources About the Evidences for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Websites & Links

- 1) <https://crossexamined.org/10-reasons-accept-resurrection-jesus-historical-fact/>
- 2) <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection>
- 3) <https://arcapologetics.org/objections/the-resurrection-of-jesus/>
- 4) <https://www.alwaysbeready.com/resurrection-of-christ>

Books

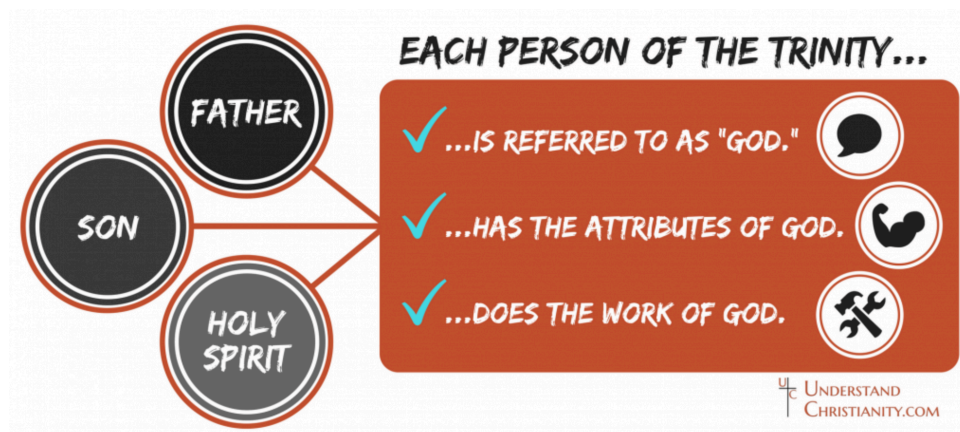
- 1) The Case for Easter by Lee Strobel
- 2) The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Gary by Habermas and Michael Licona

Appendix 5

The Concept of Trinity (www.understandchristianity.com)

In summary, the concept of the Trinity is this

- There is **one God**
- God is **one being** in **3 persons.**
- The 3 persons are **God the Father**, **God the Son** and **God the Holy Spirit.**
- The 3 persons are uniquely **distinct and separate**, but **they are all God.**



For a clearer understanding on the concept of the Trinity please check out the resources below.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Bible.html>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity>

Appendix 6

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The New Testament contains several lists of spiritual gifts, most authored by the apostle Paul

Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:8–10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Exhortation 5. Giving 6. Leadership 7. Mercy	1. Word of wisdom 2. Word of knowledge 3. Faith 4. Gifts of healings 5. Miracles 6. Prophecy 7. Distinguishing between spirits 8. Tongues 9. Interpretation of tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Teacher 4. Miracles 5. Kinds of healings 6. Helps 7. Administration 8. Tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Evangelist 4. Pastor 5. Teacher	1. Whoever speaks 2. Whoever renders service ^[10]

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_gift

As believers we should desire after spiritual gifts for these simple reasons

- The Bible encourages us to (1 Corinthians 14:1)
- It encourages us to help and love one another (1 Corinthians 12:7, 12, 29-30)
- It helps us overcome sin and the evil one (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

To find out more about the different spiritual gifts you can check out the resources below

- <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts/>

Appendix 7

Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

