

30 HONEST

QUESTIONS?



ABOUT GOD, FAITH, AND THE BIBLE

STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWERS FOR SEEKERS,
SKEPTICS, AND THE CURIOUS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

ABOUT GOD

1. DOES GOD REALLY EXIST, OR IS HE JUST A HUMAN IDEA?
2. IF GOD IS GOOD AND IN CONTROL, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH CHAOS AND SUFFERING?
3. CAN I BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN?
4. IF GOD IS LOVE, WHY DOES HE SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?
5. WHY DOES GOD FEEL HIDDEN SOMETIMES?

07

ABOUT JESUS

6. WAS JESUS JUST A GOOD TEACHER, OR IS HE REALLY GOD?
7. HOW COULD JESUS BE THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?
8. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?
9. DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD, OR IS IT JUST A STORY?
10. HOW CAN I FOLLOW JESUS IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THE BIBLE AND CHURCH TEACHINGS?
11. WHAT MAKES JESUS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

11

ABOUT THE BIBLE

12. CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE, OR HAS IT BEEN CHANGED OVER TIME?
 13. ISN'T THE BIBLE FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS?
 14. HOW DO I KNOW I'M REALLY FORGIVEN?
 15. CAN I BE A CHRISTIAN IF I STILL HAVE DOUBTS?
 16. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY FAITH IS REAL?
 17. CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION IF I MESS UP?
 18. WHY DOES GOD SOMETIMES FEEL SILENT WHEN I NEED HIM MOST?
 19. WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING WHEN I PRAY?
 20. HOW DO I KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?
- ABOUT THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN LIVING
21. WHY ARE CHRISTIANS SO HYPOCRITICAL AND JUDGMENTAL?
 22. CAN I TRUST THE CHURCH IF IT HAS HURT ME?
 23. DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE A CHRISTIAN?
 24. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CHURCHES (DENOMINATIONS)?
 25. WHAT'S THE POINT OF BAPTISM?
 26. HOW DO I KNOW MY PURPOSE IN LIFE?
 27. CAN A CHRISTIAN STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION AND STILL BE SAVED?
 28. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY AND SUCCESS?
 29. HOW DO I FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO REALLY HURT ME?
 30. CAN CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND STILL HAVE FAITH?

23

DEDICATION

ABOUT GOD



1. DOES GOD REALLY EXIST, OR IS HE JUST A HUMAN IDEA?

The Bible opens with, “In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1). It doesn’t try to prove Him - it simply assumes Him. Paul wrote that creation itself is evidence, pointing to God’s “eternal power and divine nature” (Romans 1:20). When we look at the precision of the universe or the complexity of life, we might ask: is all this random chance, or does design point to a Designer?

What if our deepest questions about love, justice, and eternity are like fingerprints pointing back to God? The psalmist says, “You created my inmost being” (Psalm 139:13). Maybe the very fact that we long for meaning is evidence that meaning exists and is to be found - like hunger leads us to search for food.

2. IF GOD IS GOOD AND IN CONTROL, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH CHAOS AND SUFFERING?

What if some suffering, though we don’t want it, could shape us in ways comfort never could? James 1:2–3 says trials can produce perseverance. And what if part of God’s answer to suffering is us? Galatians 6:2 tells us to “carry each other’s burdens.” Maybe God is waiting for His people to step into the pain of others with love, compassion, and practical help. Could it be that one way God redeems suffering is through the hands and hearts of those who follow Him?

(And don’t forget - God did step into our suffering through Jesus on the cross. We’ll talk more about that later...)

Challenge: Find a place where you can step into suffering.

3. CAN I BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN?

Genesis says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The Bible makes the who of creation clear - God. But it’s less detailed about the how. Some Christians read Genesis as six literal days, some read it poetically, others see room for scientific processes like the Big Bang or evolution.

Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” It’s talking about nature itself pointing us toward the Creator. What if science and nature are one way of discovering the fingerprints of God, rather than a threat to Him? The central claim of Christianity isn’t about the method of creation - it’s about the source of creation. Could it be that the better question isn’t, “Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution?” but, “Can I trust Jesus, the One who holds all creation together?” (Colossians 1:16–17).

4. IF GOD IS LOVE, WHY DOES HE SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?

Scripture tells us God “wants all people to be saved” (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus said hell was “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). It wasn’t designed for people, but for evil itself. Still, God honors human freedom. If someone persistently says, “I don’t want God,” He doesn’t force Himself on them.

Think of it like a locked door from the inside. God knocks (Revelation 3:20), but love won’t kick the door down. Hell is less about God’s desire to exclude and more about respecting human choice to be included in God’s family. The cross of Jesus shows how far God went to make a way so no one has to live apart from Him (John 3:16).

5. WHY DOES GOD FEEL HIDDEN SOMETIMES?

Even the psalmist asked, “Why, Lord, do you stand far off?” (Psalm 10:1). Feelings of God’s absence aren’t new. Jesus promised, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20), so the issue isn’t His absence, but our perception. Sometimes clouds cover the sun - but the sun hasn’t moved.

Think of a teacher during a test. The teacher doesn’t leave the classroom - they’re silent so the student can grow. Could God’s silence be an invitation to lean in, to trust Him when feelings fade? James 4:8 promises, “Come near to God and he will come near to you.” The question becomes: how will I seek Him when He feels hidden?



ABOUT JESUS



6. WAS JESUS JUST A GOOD TEACHER, OR IS HE REALLY GOD?

Jesus taught incredible things, but He also claimed incredible things: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). The New Testament describes Him as God in human flesh: “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Colossians 2:9) and “God appeared in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16). That’s more than a wise moral voice.

C.S. Lewis argued that Jesus can’t just be a good teacher. If He claimed to be God, then He’s either lying, delusional, or telling the truth. And if He really was a good teacher telling the truth, then we have to take seriously what He said about Himself.

Further study on Jesus being God:

- **John 1:1-3** - “In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.”
- **John 20:28** - Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”
- **Hebrews 1:8** - The Father speaks of the Son, “Your throne, O God, will last forever.”
- **Titus 2:13** - “Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”
- **Philippians 2:5-6** - Jesus, “being in very nature God.”
- **Revelation 1:8** - Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega... the Almighty.”

7. HOW COULD JESUS BE THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). That sounds exclusive - but think of it as personal. He’s not offering a set of steps; He’s offering Himself.

It’s like being lost in a strange city and having the builder of the city say, “I’ll take you there myself.” Could it be that Jesus isn’t one option among many but God Himself making the way clear? If He is who He claimed, then following Him is not narrow - it’s the most direct path to life.

8. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?

Romans 5:8 says, “God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The cross shows both the seriousness of sin and the depth of God’s love. Instead of us paying the debt, Jesus steps in.

Think of it like a bridge across a canyon. Our sin created distance between us and God. At the cross, Jesus lays Himself down as the bridge. Could it be that His death wasn’t pointless suffering but the ultimate expression of love - love strong enough to span the gap?

9. DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD, OR IS IT JUST A STORY?

The resurrection is central to Christianity. Paul says if Christ hasn’t been raised, faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:14). Eyewitnesses claimed they saw Him alive - over 500 at once (1 Corinthians 15:6). The disciples went from fearful to fearless, even willing to die for their belief, after witnessing a resurrected Jesus. That kind of transformation is hard to explain away.

It’s like a plot twist that changes the whole story. Could that explain why Christianity spread so quickly? If Jesus rose, it’s not just His story - it’s ours. His resurrection means death isn’t the end, and hope isn’t a wish.

Ultimately, the gospel is an invitation to experience Jesus’ resurrection power yourself (Philippians 3:10). The question is: will you receive this invitation?

10. HOW CAN I FOLLOW JESUS IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THE BIBLE AND CHURCH TEACHINGS?

When Jesus first called His disciples, He didn't hand them a theology exam. He simply said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:19). They didn't have it all figured out - they just took the next step.

Think of it like starting a friendship. You don't know everything about someone at the beginning; you learn as you go. Could it be the same with Jesus? Following Him begins with trust, and understanding grows along the way.

11. WHAT MAKES JESUS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

Many leaders have offered wisdom, but Jesus did more than teach - He claimed to be God (John 8:58). Others pointed to a way; Jesus pointed to Himself, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

- Buddha pointed to enlightenment and escaping suffering.
- Confucius gave principles for living wisely and creating harmony in society.
- Muhammad presented himself as a prophet bringing God's message.

But Jesus stepped into our suffering to rescue us. His self-sacrificial love on the cross is what sets us free, and it becomes the pattern for how we live. That's the ultimate difference - He didn't just point the way; He became the way, giving Himself for us.

ABOUT THE BIBLE



12. CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE, OR HAS IT BEEN CHANGED OVER TIME?

Paul wrote, “All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). That means it comes straight from God - not just human ideas, but words inspired by the Spirit. The Bible claims divine origin, and Christians believe it carries God’s authority and His heart for us.

Another important question people ask is, “Why are these 66 books in the Bible and not others?” The short answer is that these writings were recognized by the early church as being inspired by God. Jesus Himself referenced the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Luke 24:44), and the apostles referred to other New Testament writings as Scripture (2 Peter 3:16). These 66 books consistently tell one unified story of God’s redemption through Jesus Christ. Other writings may have historical value, but they were not recognized as carrying the same Spirit-breathed authority.

When it comes to history, no other ancient text comes close. We have thousands of manuscripts of the Bible - far more than any other ancient writing - and they confirm that the message has remained unchanged. We even have complete manuscripts of the entire Bible, showing the same story of God’s plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation.

So the question isn’t only “Can I trust the Bible’s accuracy?” but “Will I trust its message?” If Scripture really comes from God, then it isn’t just reliable - it’s life-shaping. The invitation is not just to believe the Bible is true, but to actually live it out.

13. ISN'T THE BIBLE FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS?

A lot of people have heard that claim, but most “contradictions” aren’t really contradictions at all - they’re differences in perspective. The four Gospels, for example, tell the story of Jesus from different angles. One writer might highlight one detail, another might highlight a different one. That doesn’t mean they’re lying; it’s the same thing that happens when multiple people describe the same event. Together, the different accounts actually give a fuller picture.

Jesus Himself explained that “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained... what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). The Bible isn’t a random collection of stories that cancel each other out - it’s a unified story that points to Him. The real question isn’t whether there are contradictions on the surface, but whether we’re willing to read deeply enough to see the bigger story it’s telling.

14. HOW DO I KNOW I'M REALLY FORGIVEN?

Forgiveness isn’t based on how we feel - it’s based on God’s promise. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). That means when you turn to Him, you can trust His character, not your emotions, as the guarantee.

Acts 2:38 connects forgiveness to repentance and baptism - real, tangible steps that remind us we’ve received God’s grace. Maybe the better question isn’t, “Do I feel forgiven?” but, “Am I willing to trust God’s word over my feelings?” Forgiveness is a gift you receive, not something you earn.

15. CAN I BE A CHRISTIAN IF I STILL HAVE DOUBTS?

Doubt shows up all over the Bible. One father cried out to Jesus, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). That moment of honesty didn’t disqualify him - it drew him closer to Jesus. Jude 1:22 even says, “Be merciful to those who doubt.”

What if doubt isn’t the opposite of faith, but part of the journey? The very name Israel means “to struggle with God.” Jacob wrestled with God all night and came away with both a limp and a new identity (Genesis 32:28). Could it be that wrestling with your questions is less a sign of weak faith and more a pathway to deeper faith - a place where God gives you a new name and story?

16. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY FAITH IS REAL?

Faith can feel slippery - one day strong, the next day shaky. But Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruit” (Matthew 7:16). Real faith shows up in real life. It’s less about perfect feelings and more about lived-out trust.

Think of it like roots underground. You can’t always see them, but they hold the tree steady and help it grow fruit. Could it be that real faith isn’t measured by how certain you feel in the moment, but by how your life is slowly being shaped by Jesus?

Challenge: Ask yourself, Is my faith producing?

17. CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION IF I MESS UP?

Some people worry that salvation is fragile, like misplacing your keys - one wrong move and it's gone. But salvation isn't something you can accidentally lose. Jesus said, "No one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28). At the same time, the Bible also shows us that people can deliberately turn away from God (Hebrews 3:12).

The best way to think about it is this: salvation is not a thing you hold, it's a relationship you walk in. Jesus is our salvation. The safest place to be is walking in step with Him, following where He leads. So maybe the real question isn't, "Can I lose my salvation?" but, "What's my next step in Jesus?"

18. WHY DOES GOD SOMETIMES FEEL SILENT WHEN I NEED HIM MOST?

The psalmist cried out, "Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (Psalm 10:1). Feeling God's silence isn't new. Jesus promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Maybe the issue isn't His absence but how He's speaking.

Think of a teacher during a test. The teacher is still in the room, but quiet so the student can grow. Could it be that God's silence is an invitation to deeper trust? James 4:8 says, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." The question becomes: will I seek Him even when I don't feel Him?

19. WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING WHEN I PRAY?

Prayer doesn't always feel the same every time. Sometimes it's emotional, sometimes it's quiet and simple. But Jesus reminded us, "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father" (Matthew 6:6). Prayer is about presence, not performance.

One helpful way to approach prayer is the ACTS format: Adoration (praise God for who He is), Confession (be honest about where you've fallen short), Thanksgiving (express gratitude), and Supply (ask for what you need). Could it be that prayer isn't about chasing a feeling, but about showing up with an open heart - and letting God slowly shape you through the conversation? Challenge: Try the ACTS format for one prayer this week and see how it changes your focus.

20. HOW DO I KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart... and he will make your paths straight." God's will isn't always a detailed map - sometimes it's more like a compass that points toward Him. As you walk, He directs.

Think of headlights in the fog: they don't light up the whole road, just enough for the next step. Could it be that knowing God's will isn't about having the whole plan, but about trusting Him step by step - and letting Him guide you as you go?

Challenge: Do you have enough information to take your next step? What will that step be?

21. WHY ARE CHRISTIANS SO HYPOCRITICAL AND JUDGMENTAL?

Jesus didn't shy away from this problem. In Matthew 23 He rebuked religious leaders for looking righteous on the outside while ignoring justice and mercy. At the same time, He told His followers, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

Maybe the real question isn't why Christians fall short - because we all do - but how we respond when we do. And here's the thing: we can't let the failures of others keep us from following Jesus. He's still worth following, even when His people stumble.

And let me say personally: "I'm sorry. On behalf of every Christian who's been a hypocrite - including myself - I apologize. I know I've fallen short and likely will again. I want to lead people to Jesus, and I know sometimes my actions haven't matched that. I repent of that, and I hope you can see past our failures to the Christ who never fails." – Chris Fluitt

22. CAN I TRUST THE CHURCH IF IT HAS HURT ME?

Hurt from church can feel especially deep because it comes in the name of God. But remember: Jesus Himself was betrayed by His closest followers (Luke 22:48). He understands our wounds. He also said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). The church is built on the rock of Christ. When problems happen, it's often because we've stepped away from that foundation.

What if the church is less about being perfect and more about being a family - messy, but learning together? Maybe the real question isn't, "Can I find a perfect church?" but, "Can I find a community that keeps returning to the rock of Jesus, even when we fail?" Maybe healing starts by standing together on the foundation He laid.

Challenge: Take one small step back toward community - even if it's just a conversation with someone you trust.

23. DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Ephesians 2:8–9 makes it clear that salvation is by grace through faith, not by church attendance. You don't become a Christian by sitting in a pew any more than you become a car by sitting in a garage. But the very word Christian means "Christ-like." And Christ lived His life in community - walking with disciples, sharing meals, and opening His life to others.

So if we're going to truly follow Jesus, we need a Christian community around us. That community isn't limited to a Sunday service; it's about living a shared faith, making disciples, and becoming disciples. Think of it like a campfire. A log pulled away from the fire eventually cools off. Could it be that Christian community is God's way of keeping our faith alive, warm, and growing?

Challenge: This week, share one meal or intentional conversation with another believer outside of Sunday and see how it strengthens your faith.

24. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CHURCHES (DENOMINATIONS)?

Jesus prayed, "that all of them may be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). The reality is, we haven't always lived up to that prayer. Over the centuries, Christians have divided over traditions, doctrines, and preferences, and it's often caused more confusion than clarity.

Maybe the answer isn't to multiply labels but to return to Jesus' call for unity. What if we stopped asking which brand of church is best and started asking, "Does this community help me follow Jesus and love people?" Avoiding labels and receiving one another may be one of the most powerful ways to answer Jesus' prayer for oneness.

25. WHAT'S THE POINT OF BAPTISM?

In Acts 2:38, Peter said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism isn’t just symbolic - it’s a spiritual act where God promises forgiveness and new life. It fulfills Jesus’ Great Commission to “go make disciples and baptize them” (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47), and it follows the example of Jesus Himself, who was baptized (Matthew 3:16).

Baptism is a declaration that you believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:4). It’s not about getting wet; it’s about burying the old life and the dead works of sin, and being raised into a new life with Christ. Could it be that baptism isn’t just a ritual to check off, but a defining moment of obedience and transformation?

Challenge: If you’ve trusted Jesus but never been baptized, what’s keeping you from taking this step?

26. HOW DO I KNOW MY PURPOSE IN LIFE?

Ephesians 2:10 says, “We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Purpose isn’t something you invent; it’s something you discover in God. He has given spiritual gifts - abilities placed in us by the Holy Spirit - and those gifts are meant to be used for His kingdom (1 Corinthians 12:7).

The closer we draw to Jesus, the more we begin to understand who we really are - our strengths, our weaknesses, and our purpose. Prayer helps us hear God’s leading. Church community helps us discover and grow our gifts. And often, the things that bring us joy and passion, the things we’re good at, are clues pointing us toward the purpose God designed. Could it be that finding your purpose isn’t about chasing a dream, but leaning your life into the gifts God has already placed in you?

27. CAN A CHRISTIAN STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION AND STILL BE SAVED?

You are not alone in your struggles, and don't doubt God's salvation. Paul confessed his own battles with weakness, writing, "I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do-this I keep on doing" (Romans 7:19). Our weakness doesn't cancel God's strength. In fact, He told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God does not want addiction to define your life. He wants to set you free (John 8:36). That freedom may come through prayer, discipline, and leaning into His Spirit. It may also mean opening up to others, finding accountability, or even walking through a recovery program. And it's okay to seek professional help, join a support group, or use tools like a 12-step program. None of these things disqualify you - they're ways God provides help.

There will never be a moment in your life when you don't depend on God's grace and His work in you. That's not weakness - that's strength in admitting your need for Him. Your struggle does not disqualify you from His love. Instead, it's often in the very place you feel weakest that His power shows up the strongest.

Challenge: Take one step toward freedom this week - pray honestly about your struggle, and talk to someone you trust (a friend, counselor, or church leader) who can walk with you.

28. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY AND SUCCESS?

The Bible doesn't condemn money itself, but it does caution us against making it an idol. Jesus warned, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19–20). He also said, "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). And Paul reminds us that it's not money, but the love of money, that is "a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10).

At the same time, Scripture shows that God gives us the ability to create wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), and He expects us to be faithful with it. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30), the master praised the servants who increased what they were given. God definitely wants you to be successful in every area of your life - not just financially, but spiritually, relationally, and in character. With Christ, you can overcome money problems just like any other problem. Could it be that true success isn't measured in what you keep, but in how you grow, give, and use your resources for God's purposes?

29. HOW DO I FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO REALLY HURT ME?

Forgiveness can feel impossible, but Jesus tied it directly to our own forgiveness: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). In the Lord's Prayer He taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Forgiving doesn't mean excusing or forgetting - it means releasing the debt to God.

Think of it like setting down a heavy backpack. Carrying it wears you out, but laying it down gives you freedom. Could forgiveness be less about letting them off the hook and more about setting yourself free to heal?

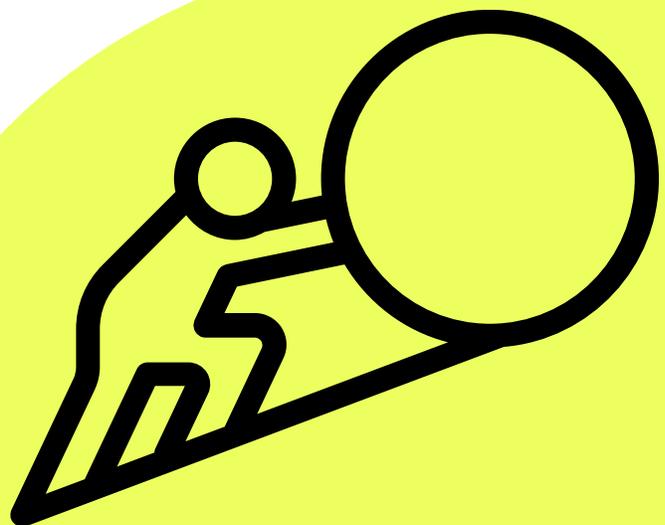
Challenge: Pray this week for the strength to release one hurt you've been holding on to - and take one step toward forgiveness.

30. CAN CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND STILL HAVE FAITH?

You are not alone in mental health struggles. The Bible shows us that heroes of faith wrestled with these battles. Elijah said, “I have had enough, Lord” (1 Kings 19:4), and David poured out his pain in the Psalms. Even Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane, prayed in deep anguish, His soul “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (Matthew 26:38). That sure sounds a lot like anxiety.

Faith isn't the absence of struggle; it's trusting God in the middle of it. Think of it like holding onto an anchor in a storm. The waves don't stop immediately, but the anchor holds you steady. Could it be that mental health struggles don't disprove your faith - they're the very places where Jesus meets you with His presence, strength, and peace?

It's okay to seek professional help. It's okay to take medicine. It's okay to admit you're struggling. And it's more than okay to lean on the support of a church family, an accountability partner, or a small group that will walk with you. Challenge: Share honestly with God in prayer about how you're feeling, and take one step to open up with a trusted friend, counselor, or church leader this week.



DEDICATION

For Lisa “Bondo” McNabb

Thank you for all the tough questions. I miss our conversations more than I can say. I’ll never forget Bondo’s Book of Death — that notebook full of questions that made us think, wrestle, and grow. Your curiosity and courage to ask what others were afraid to ask still inspires me today.



A PERSONAL INVITATION

If these questions have stirred something in you, I'd love to invite you to go deeper with us at Redemption Church. This September, we're teaching a series called Untangled: Finding Faith in the Middle of the Mess.

Sometimes faith gets tangled up in pain, hypocrisy, questions, and culture. But Jesus isn't afraid of your doubts. He invites you to untangle what's broken and rebuild something real.

Here's what we'll be exploring together:

Week 1: Can I Still Trust the Church?

- Why are Christians so hypocritical, judgmental, or political?

Week 2: Is the Bible Still Legit?

- Isn't the Bible outdated, sexist, or full of contradictions?

Week 3: What If I Have Big Doubts?

- Can I be a Christian if I have serious questions?

Week 4: Is Jesus Even Worth Following?

- What if I'm not sure about doctrines but drawn to Jesus?

Redemption Church

Sundays in September at 4:30pm
2001 Independence Parkway, Plano, Texas 75075

You don't have to have it all figured out. Just come as you are, bring your questions, and let's seek Jesus together.

Pastor Chris Fluitt

Redemptionplano.com

