



## **WHAT TO BELIEVE AND HOW TO LIVE IT – PART ONE**

The purpose of this document is to address the needs of the youngest, seeking Christians by providing a simple body of information to help you believe and live the Christian Life. The author hopes that by his making this contribution, he is not adding more burden, but instead, lightening the load.

### **STEP NO.1**

#### **EVIDENCE THAT GOD EXISTS**

1. We know that God exists because nobody on earth made the first human. Therefore, somebody else is the maker of the first human. That maker is God.
2. We know that God exists because all the things needed to sustain our lives on earth were made before humans were made. In other words, somebody provided for us ahead of time.
3. We know that God exists because our consciences will not tolerate our doing evil. Conscience will bother us, judge us, and condemn us, when we would not condemn ourselves.
4. We know that God exists because we have all seen or observed miraculous events that have no explanation in natural law.

### **STEP NO.2**

#### **WHAT GOD WANTS FROM YOU**

God wants a single thing from you: Your obedience.

Why? God knows that when we disobey him, we are choosing to obey Satan, the enemy of our souls. Satan will be going to Hell forever. God does not want anybody to end up there. God also thinks of our obedience as the only sign that we really love him.

**STEP NO.3****HOW DO YOU BEGIN TO OBEY GOD?**

Your first Step is to BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is really God's son.

**NEXT:** You admit that you are a sinner who needs to be rescued or saved from Hell by Jesus.

**NEXT:** REPENT: Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and to admit you into the family of God and to teach you how to live righteously from that moment onwards.

**NEXT:** **BE BAPTIZED** for the forgiveness of your sins. (Matthew 28:19)

**STEP NO.4****WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU HAVE ASKED JESUS TO FORGIVE AND LEAD YOU**

One of the first scriptures you are going to learn will be:

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek God's will in all you do, and he will direct your path" (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

**NEXT: OBEDIENTLY FOLLOW WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES YOU**

However, you cannot trust and obey God unless you know what he has told you to do or not to do. To find out, get a real Bible READ IT EVERY DAY. (Warning: some are fake bibles that people have edited to deceive).

"Sometimes, it's hard to know if God is leading or the devil is tempting."

[Or, you might be] "plagued with fears of making a foolish decision"<sup>1</sup>

*"Well I don't think the devil tempts us [to do] something that's going to glorify God"*

<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bethesda-workshops.org/blog/bethesda-workshops/faith-or-folly/>

<sup>2</sup> ibid



## **SOME IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS TO EXPECT AND AVOID**

As you begin to fellowship with other believers, you are going to find many behaving in some very non-scriptural ways and telling you to conduct yourself or life according to principles that are not supported by scripture. That failing is caused by faulty guidance from poor leadership as well as misguided brethren. As you observe, you will encounter among some, Christian behaviors that could discourage you, confuse you and even cause you to return to your former life of sin. Avoid buying into such folly that parade themselves as true faith. Among them are:

- (i) Foolish acts of defiance passing themselves off as faith in practice.
- (ii) Denial of reality in the face of hard evidence that require positive action
- (iii) Acting with dangerous bravado rather than wisdom so as to display false, spiritual maturity
- (iv) Regarding normal life challenges as a stage for waging spiritual warfare
- (v) Rejecting the value of scientific knowledge that is important to sustain life
- (vi) Irresponsible church leaders such as bishops, pastors, evangelists, and false prophets making claims and demands that are not according to scripture
- (vii) Religious manipulators using preaching to extract money for themselves
- (viii) Persons using the church supporters as instruments for furthering political ambitions
- (ix) Child of king entitlement myth
- (x) Generational curse myth
- (xi) Name it, claim it myth
- (xii) Reality denial myth
- (xiii) The God allows it myth
- (xiv) The myth that every prayer is answered
- (xv) Displaying happiness to cover-up personal suffering and need
- (xvi) The myth that church attendance and bible reading is holiness.



## EXAMPLES OF THE ISSUES

(i) Foolish acts of defiance passing themselves off as faith in practice.

**Example:** *The Guardian* (4 April) reports that Pentecostal megachurch pastor, **Rodney Howard-Browne** (of the ‘Toronto Blessings’ fame) told his congregation – when the spread of the coronavirus was gaining pace in America and across the globe, and churches are conducting their services online:

‘We are not stopping anything’, ‘I’ve got news for you, this church will never close. The only time the church will close is when the Rapture is taking place.’

‘Listen’, he told his congregation, ‘this has to be the safest place. If you cannot be saved in Church, you are in serious trouble.’<sup>3</sup>

**Example:** The Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony.

On the wearing of masks, They said, no, it’s disrespectful to God to have masks on.”<sup>4</sup>

(ii) Denial of reality in the face of hard evidence that require positive action

**Example:** During a Nov. 14 sermon, Bart Spencer, senior pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church, Holland, Michigan encouraged his congregation to contract the virus to “get it over with.”

“COVID, it’s all good. Several people have had COVID, none have died yet,”<sup>5</sup>

(iii) Acting with dangerous bravado rather than wisdom so as to display false, spiritual maturity

<sup>3</sup> <https://ethosinstitute.sg/faith-or-folly>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/12/04/holland-pastor-covid-19-coronavirus/3824551001/>



**Example:** Pastor, Gerald O. Glenn, 66, the bishop and founder of New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Chesterfield, Va., **who** defied warnings about the danger of religious gatherings during the pandemic and vowed to keep preaching “unless I’m in jail or the hospital” died over the weekend after contracting Covid-19 <sup>6</sup>

**(v) Rejecting the value of scientific knowledge that is important to sustain life**

**Example:** Over a third of evangelical Christians say there is “no solid evidence” that climate change is happening. <sup>7</sup>

**(vi) Irresponsible church leaders such as bishops, pastors, evangelists, and false prophets making claims and demands that are not according to scripture**

**Example:** As crestfallen followers of a California preacher, who foresaw the world's end strained to find meaning in their lives, Harold Camping revised his apocalyptic prophecy, saying he was off by five months and the Earth actually will be obliterated on Oct. 21,2019. He said, Monday, that he felt so terrible when his doomsday message did not come true that he left home and took refuge in a motel with his wife. <sup>8</sup>

**(vii) Religious manipulators using preaching to extract money for themselves**

**Example:** On September 18, 2020, a Clovis church’s former executive pastor pleaded guilty to seven wire fraud charges of over \$2 million. Sherman Smith, 74, the former executive pastor, was indicted in August of last year for the white-collared crimes he committed from 2015 to 2016 against the church’s investors and the Sunrise Church on Locan Avenue in Clovis. <sup>9</sup>

**(viii) Persons using the church supporters as instruments for furthering political ambition**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/14/us/bishop-gerald-glenn-coronavirus.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://grist.org/article/what-evangelical-christians-really-think-about-climate-change/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/preacher-says-end-of-world-actually-coming-in-october-1.1020572>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.clovisroundup.com/church-pastor-pleads-guilty-of-embezzling-2m/>



**Example:** Ryan Burge, a political science professor at Eastern Illinois University who follows the faith vote closely, thinks the improvement in Catholic support for Biden this year was significant." White Catholics are important in places like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin," Burge says. "If you can swing them your way, that's the difference in close races."<sup>10</sup>

#### (ix) Child of king entitlement myth

**Example:** Since he is a child of God the great king, Brother Monelle thinks he should be driving a Rolls Royce rather than a Chevrolet car. He works at MacDonald's, earning minimum wage and refuses to make investments.

#### (x) Generational curse myth

**Example:** Sister Broker believes that any misfortune that befalls her is due to a generational curse she inherits and not to her personal life choices.

#### (xi) Name it, claim it myth

**Example:** Some pastors are telling their congregants to raise their hands, look up to heaven and claim whatever they desire, because God is their supplier.

#### (xii) Reality denial myth

**Example:** Sister Hexie is diagnosed with a treatable form of cancer that is curable if caught early. However, she thinks that if she denies the diagnosis, the ailment will instantly go away.

#### (xiii) The God allows it myth

**Example:** The baby falls fourteen floors to its death because God has allowed it, not because the railing was broken down.

#### (xiv) The myth of every prayer is answered

**Example:** God says he laughs at the prayers of people who reject him then come for help when in trouble.

#### (xv) Displaying happiness to cover-up personal suffering and need

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/08/932263516/2020-faith-vote-reflects-2016-patterns>



**Example:** Brother Lossman wanting to appear of strong, overcoming faith joyfully testifies that all is well, while his situation becomes more tragic.

(xvi) **The myth that church attendance and bible reading is holiness.**

**Example:** Brother Seaten is mistakenly confident that he needs not visit the sick, help the poor nor share the gospel message, because he attends church regularly and reads his bible daily.

“When we start out on this spiritual path, we are not fully aware of how much work it will entail. We don’t realize how often we will fall short of the mark; how many times we will stumble,” ...So, we have to try to be vigilant in what the Masters call our fight with the mind. We must be vigilant in our day-to-day life and in our meditation.”<sup>11</sup>

## **STEP NO.5**

### **HERE IS A SHORT LIST OF WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO**

1. Pray that you will not give-in and start sinning again. (Matthew 6: 4)
2. Before you pray, make-up with anyone with whom you have a quarrel. (Matthew 5:28)
3. When you are going to pray, don’t make a show of it. (Matthew 6:4)
4. When you pray, keep it short. Don’t use too many words. (Matthew 6:7)
5. When you fast to break out of trouble, do not try to look sad and holy. (Matthew 6:16-17)
- 6, Judge yourself before God has to judge you. (Matthew 7:5)

<sup>11</sup> <https://rssb.org/2014-11-11.html>



7. Pray for your enemies and try to love them. It is good for your health  
([Matthew 5:44](#))
8. When you pray, just believe and wait. Don't try helping God to answer.  
([Matthew 11:24](#))
9. Try to stay awake when you are praying. ([Matthew 26: 41](#))
10. Don't cause trouble. Be a peacemaker. ([Matthew 5:9](#))
11. Seek to be righteous by having pure thoughts ([Matthew 5: 6-9](#))
12. Worship God only, nobody or nothing else. ([Matthew 4:10](#))
13. If a thing is righteous, do it: if it is not, DON'T. ([Matthew 3:15](#))
14. Consider the best for other people. ([Matthew 7: 14](#))
15. Practise to do justice and to love mercy. ([Matthew 23:23](#))
16. Walk humbly before God. Treat strangers well. ([Matthew 23:12](#))
17. Feed hungry people who are in need. ([Matthew 25: 42](#))
18. Give clothing to poor, naked and dirty people. ([Matthew 25:42-43](#))
19. Visit sick people. ([Matthew 25:42-43](#))
20. Visit people who are in jail as inmates. ([Matthew 25:42-43](#))
21. If you get rich, don't put your mind on it. ([Psalms 62:10](#))
22. Go about telling people that the Kingdom of Heaven is about to come. They should repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. ([Matthew 28:19](#))





- 23. Heal the sick by praying for them and anointing them with oil. (**Matthew 10**)
- 24. Cast out demons out of people who have them. (**Matthew 10**)
- 25. Raise the dead that the Holy Spirit moves you to raise. (**Matthew 10**)
- 26. Give 10% of your income to the church as God prospers you. (**Malachi 3:8-11**)
- 27. Take communion only when your heart is pure and not convicted of sin. (**1 Corinthians 11:28-29**)
- 28. Watch out for the returning of Jesus. (**Luke 21: 28**)
- 29. Watch out for cults that will try to get you off track of faith. (**2 Timothy 3:1-8, 12-13**)
- 30. Make friends with a group of Christians. (**Hebrews 10:25**)
- 31. Follow Jesus, not the pastor or the priest. (**2 Thessalonians 3:5**)

## **STEP NO.6**

### **HERE IS A LIST OF THINGS GOD WANTS YOU NOT TO DO**

Be careful not to be led astray by false teachers such as Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons Muslims and Moonies). (**Matthew 24: 4, Matthew 10:28**)

**Do not believe anybody who tells you that Jesus has already come the second time. (**Matthew 24:26**)**

Do not call anybody father. Call only God, Father. (**Matthew 23:9**)

Do not worry about your life. (**Matthew 6:25-34**)

Do not judge people. God hates that. Leave judgment to Him. (**Matthew 7:11**)

Do not get into quarrels over religion. (**1 Timothy 6: 3-5**)



Rev. Dr. Ronald E.A Blake © December 6, 2020

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Do not accept payment for doing righteousness. (**Matthew 10:8-9**)

Do not fear people who want to hurt you because of your faith in Jesus. (**Matthew 10:28**)

Do not get a lawyer to defend you if you are taken to court for the practice of your faith. The Holy Spirit will come there and speak for you, and through you. (**Mark 13:11, 5:39-40**)

Do not say anything bad about the Holy Spirit. God will not forgive you. (**Matthew 12: 37**)

Do not concentrate upon getting rich. (**Matthew 6:19**)

Do not check to see whether God has told the truth. (**Matthew 3:15**)

Do not hold a grudge. (**Matthew 18:22**)

Do not worship idols

Do not abuse the use of God's name.

Do not work all seven days of the week. Rest one. It can be any one of the seven days of the week.

**(Read Exodus 20)**

Do not kill anybody unless it is done in self-defence.

Do not make clones of anything that God has created.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies.

Do not envy people and their things.

Show respect to your parents.

Do not divorce except for adultery.



Do not swear. (**Matthew 5:34**)

### **STEP NO.7**

#### **SOME BOOKS YOU SHOULD OWN**

**The Holy Bible** (King James Version)

Mather and Nichols, **The Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religion and the Cults**

Tucker, Ruth, **Another Gospel**

Powell, Mark, **Harper and Collins Bible Dictionary**

Strong, James, **The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible**

Mays, James, **Harper's Bible Commentary**

Blake, Ronald E.A. Dr., **Ruler in the Kingdom of Men**

### **STEP NO.8**

#### **BOOKS TO AVOID - NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Joseph Smith, **The Book of Mormons**

Mary Baker Eddy, **Science and Health**

Charles Russell, **Studies in Scripture**

Sun Myung Moon, **The Divine Principle**

Williamson, Marrienne, **A Course in Miracles**

Byrne, Rhonda, **The Secret**

Ruiz, Don Miguel, **The Four Agreements**

Tolle, Eckhart, **The Power of Now**

