

Bible Study: Session two: Believing God is who He say He Is

We will invite the Holy Spirit to ask us three vital questions today, prompted by those Christ prioritized with His disciples in Matthew 16:13-19. For our immediate purposes we will apply them to God the Father, keeping in mind Christ's own words: that the Father and He are one (John 10:30).

Question 1: Who do _____ say God is?

- a. Public opinion spans the spectrum from God is _____ to God is the _____ of the _____.
- b. Perhaps the most _____ opinions are those held by scholars and intellectuals who teach a _____ of " _____ " but not the God of the Bible.
- c. All attempts to _____ cannot help but _____. If in our pursuit of greater knowledge God seems to have gotten _____, we have been _____.

Question 2: Who do _____ say God is?

- a. Great wisdom resides in taking an _____ of how we have _____ our present perceptions of God. Keep in mind that faith that remains _____ ordinarily remains _____.
- b. Sometimes we may realize that we have created a _____ in _____ own image who is not _____ at all.
- c. Matthew 16:18-20 could very well intimate that God entrusts greater _____ to those who believe _____ is who He say _____ is.

Question 3: Who does _____ say that He is?

God reveals Himself two primary ways:

- a. His _____. See Psalm 100:1-3.
- b. His _____. See Psalm 145:1-6.

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Homework:

- Repeat the Five Statement pledges of faith 3 times a day out loud
- Ask God to help you test your condition of faith to remove any obstacles of unbelief that stand in the way of more abundant, adventurous, and effective life. Then proceed to the test. Be honest this is between you and God, he already knows... Choose the answer that most closely matches your response.

A Test of Faith

1. I believe _____ of Scripture is actually God's Word.
 - a. all
 - b. most
 - c. some
 - d. little

2. I believe _____.
 - a. There is only one true God, the God of the Bible
 - b. the God of Hebrews and Christians is also the God of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, world religions
 - c. many gods and many ways provide a peaceful or happy life after death
 - d. little about a spiritual world involving God or gods

3. I believe _____.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God
 - b. Jesus Christ was a great prophet
 - c. Jesus Christ was a great teacher
 - d. Jesus Christ may be a mythical figure

4. I believe the four Gospels reveal a(n) _____ portrayal of Christ.
 - a. absolutely accurate
 - b. mostly accurate
 - c. partly accurate
 - d. questionable

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5. I believe the New Testament portrayal of Christ's signs, wonders, and works is _____.

- a. absolutely accurate
- b. mostly accurate
- c. partly accurate
- d. questionable

6. I'm _____ convinced of God's love for me.

- a. always
- b. usually
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely

7. I believe the Jesus Christ of the Gospels is _____ today.

- a. just as powerful and active
- b. very powerful and active
- c. more watchful than active
- d. more distant and less likely to intervene

8. I have seen _____ firsthand evidences of a miracle of God.

- a. many
- b. some
- c. few
- d. no

9. I tend to _____ testimonies of modern-day miracles.

- a. at least favorably consider
- b. give a second thought to
- c. discount
- d. automatically disbelieve

10. I feel God _____ hears my prayers.

- a. always
- b. usually
- c. occasionally
- d. rarely

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11. I _____ sense the activity of God in several other people I observe.

- a. constantly
- b. often
- c. occasionally
- d. rarely

12. I _____ believe God is active in my life.

- a. constantly
- b. often
- c. occasionally
- d. rarely

13. I believe God speaks through His Word, His Holy Spirit, human vessels, and circumstances to _____.

- a. anyone who is willing to listen
- b. most people who are willing to listen
- c. only those who are most obedient
- d. those in important spiritual positions

14. I _____ that I am forgiven for my past confessed sins.

- a. am thoroughly convinced
- b. am ordinarily confident
- c. am hopeful
- d. have difficulty accepting

15. I _____ that God has a specific, fruitful plan for every believer in Christ, including me.

- a. am thoroughly convinced
- b. am ordinarily confident
- c. am hopeful
- d. have difficulty accepting

16. I feel that God has _____ in the past when I've exercised faith in Him.

- a. actively, affirmatively responded to me
- b. faithfully revealed Himself to me, even if I didn't get what I asked
- c. rarely seemed responsive to me

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d. failed me

17. I am _____ to take my faith to a new level in Christ.

- a. very willing and ready
- b. anxious but a little scared
- c. scared half to death
- d. presently unwilling

18. I _____ pray generic prayers because I don't want to be disappointed by God.

- a. rarely
- b. occasionally
- c. often
- d. most commonly

19. I believe that God is willing, able, and pleased to redeem _____ in any life (including mine) and work it/them for His glory and the person's good.

- a. absolutely anything
- b. many things
- c. certain things
- d. few things

20. When fear comes on me like a tidal wave, I tend most quickly to _____.

- a. recall Scripture and turn it into prayer
- b. pray
- c. call a friend to pray for me
- d. panic

That wasn't too terribly painful, was it? Were you as honest as you could possibly be? My guess is that very few of us chose all a's or d's. Few of us always or never exercise faith. Occasionally, however, I wonder how I'm doing. Do you wonder the same about yourself? Though a test like this could never give us a perfectly accurate estimation, it offers food for thought. Let's consider any indications the test might propose. Remember, our purpose is not to grade ourselves but to examine our faith. Our answers can tell us a lot about our profoundly influential perceptions of God and ourselves. We're not going to get scientific or terribly statistical with the results, but if you'd like a mere suggestion to what degree you may presently be exercising faith, consider the following.

- If you chose mostly a's and b's, you are probably exercising active and abundant faith.

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- If you chose mostly *b*'s and *c*'s, you are probably exercising a moderate amount of faith. Perhaps you are young in the faith and on your way to developing lavish belief. Or you may have recently had a setback that caused you to be distrustful. Keep in mind that virtually anyone is capable of going from predominately *a* answers to *d* answers almost overnight due to a sudden change in circumstances and the ability to sense God's activity. Happily, the opposite is also true. We are never wise to judge others for a weakness of faith (see Rom. 14:1), because we have no idea what challenges we have ahead.
- If you chose mostly *c*'s and *d*'s, you may battle significant uncertainty and fear.

Wherever you found yourself in this exercise, what factors do you feel may have you there?

Perhaps you recently witnessed a true miracle, so your faith is soaring, or you may recently have experienced something that left you with doubts and disappointment about God. Explain.
