

JESUS KNOWLEDGE—QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Part One

New believers come into the Kingdom of God hungry for the Word of God and with many questions swirling around in their heads; questions that need answers. They want to know who this Jesus is that they have invited to come into their hearts and abide as Lord and Saviour. It is not an everyday occurrence—this receiving salvation.

I remember when I accepted the Lord one Sunday morning in a little Pentecostal Church that I went home not quite sure what I had said yes to. Oh, I basically knew about God, about Jesus, but I had so many questions about who Jesus really is; I knew the name of Jesus, but I didn't really understand what it meant to be called a believer; a Christian. I didn't have a clue how my life would change and why it should change or how the Holy Spirit would fit into my life. "Who is this Jesus?" I wondered. "Who is he really and how do I serve him?" "What does serving Him mean and how do I do that?" Was Jesus really the Son of God? And what did that mean in regards to my life? I had so many questions; I needed answers!

I faithfully attended church, yet I became more confused for I only received bits and pieces through sermons that touched on the life of Jesus. It wasn't enough. I had to have a clear understanding and my questions answered if I was going to serve Jesus the rest of my life; it was a lifetime commitment and I wanted to do it right!

After serving the Lord 40+ years, I am still asked today some of these questions by new converts. Therefore, I want to share in this teaching some of the questions I had as a new Christian and the answers I received down through my Christian walk that held me steadfast in my years of servitude. I continue serving the Lord with all of my heart, with my whole being, because He is still the loving Saviour of my life; my heart belongs now and forever to Him.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and only through Him will we have access to God, the Father. Jesus is truly the only door into heaven. John 10:9, 10 says *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

WAS JESUS THE SON OF GOD?

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philipp, He asked His disciples, saying, "*Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?*" And they said, *Some say that you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets* (Matthew 16:13, 14).

People were willing to believe that Jesus was some prophet raised from the dead, or Elijah returned from heaven, or just anyone except the Son of God, the Saviour of men. How cunningly Satan uses half-truths couched in lies to turn minds from accepting the truth of Jesus' sonship. But notice what Jesus said concerning His relationship to God:

“God so loved the world, that he *gave his only begotten Son*, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The story is told that a lawyer once told a judge he had a number of reasons why his client was not present in court. The first was, he was dead! The judge told him he need not state the others, because his first reason was sufficient.

We will see below the evidence of the sonship of Christ:

1. The testimony of the prophets.
2. Jesus’ power to heal the sick and raise the dead.
3. His peerless (having no equal, matchless) teaching.
4. His own glorious resurrection.
5. The testimony of His enemies.
6. The lives transformed by His power.

Matthew 3:17 perhaps says it best for God testified; *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*. Therefore, it is clear that the Scriptures teach that Jesus is the Son of God.

WHAT WAS THE RELATIONSHIP OF JESUS TO GOD?

John 10:30 says, *I and my Father are one*, said Christ. John 1:1, 14 says, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*. See also Hebrews 1:8 and Isaiah 9:6.

The question that I want to make clear and is still frequently asked is *How can God and Christ be one?* The answer is simple. They are one in purpose and planning, one in love and action, in mind and character, yet each is a distinct personality. There should not be any anxiety over the Godship of Jesus Christ. God shared His throne with the Son. God has given to all morally responsible beings some authority and dominion, but none occupy the place of the Son, Jesus. We are told in Hebrew 1:6 – *Let all the angels of God worship him*.

God is a God of balance and will always hold His proper place. 1 Corinthians 15:28 explains it this way, *When all things shall be subdued unto him [Christ], then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him [the Father] that put all things under him [Christ], that God may be all in all*. Scripture makes it plain that Christ is one with God and is called God.

DID CHRIST EXIST BEFORE COMING TO THIS WORLD?

Jesus shared the pre-existence of himself in the doctrine he taught and it was mentioned by Him in His last prayer before Gethsemane where he said, *I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me* (John 6:38). According to the Scriptures, Christ existed with God before the creation of the world.

We read in the Scriptures that Christ had a part in the work of creation for Hebrews 1:1, 2 says, *God...has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.* Read also Ephesians 3:9.

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made.* We see that this “Word” who created all things, was Christ (vrs.10 and 14).

2 Corinthians 5:17 makes it very clear that this mighty Creator is our Saviour and that He has power to create a new life in us. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

THE SUPERNATURAL BIRTH OF JESUS

Was Jesus the Son of God? What was the relationship of Jesus to God? Did Christ exist before coming to this world? What was Jesus part in the work of creation? Those questions answered, now we will see how the Scriptures teach that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born in the flesh of a virgin.

Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoke of the Lord by the prophet, saying, *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son (Matthew 1:18, 22, 23).* This is known as the incarnation. Christ was not a new being, but He appeared in human form.

John tells us in 1:14 that The Word was made flesh. Read also Philippians 2:6, 7 and Matthew 1:23. The Scriptures teach that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born in the flesh of a virgin.

TEMPTATION—SEE JESUS’ STRUGGLE AND THE EXAMPLE HE SET FOR MANKIND

How often do you hear someone say things like: *But, you just don’t know what I am going through; no one does. My life is one big struggle after another. Or If the hammers gonna fall, it’s gonna fall on me; it’s my lot in life. Or Why should I even try! Nothing! Absolutely nothing ever works out for me* and on and on it goes with the struggles of temptations and the “woes” people express.

Our hope is in Jesus for 1 Peter 2:21, 22 says, *Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile (deceitfulness) found in his mouth*

I have kept my Father’s commandments (John 15:10).

And Hebrews 4:15 really nails it—*Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Because Jesus lived a sinless life in the flesh, he is in a position to impart overcoming power to all who are tempted. We see that Jesus is able to sympathize with man in his struggle against sin for He has successfully

revealed God to man. We are not left alone to fend for ourselves; Jesus is and will continue to be our help in every temptation if we will just open our hearts, unstop our ears and LISTEN!

Romans 8:3, 4 says, *what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* These are Paul's words of confidence shared in the Bible for all to read and be encouraged.

Romans 8:5-9 reveals our truth as believers—*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

The Scriptures declare that Jesus overcame temptation and lived a sinless life. Therefore, we also can overcome temptations with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. We are overcomers in Jesus!

I close part one with this truth—*God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8).

IN PART TWO WE WILL DISCUSS:

1. The Death of Jesus and What was Accomplished?
2. The Importance of Jesus' Resurrection.
3. Jesus—Where is He now and What is He Doing
4. Is Jesus returning one Day?

Good news: God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family...through Jesus Christ.