

GLAD YOU

ASKED

Answers

to 10 Essential
Questions

 Revive Our Hearts™

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Edited by Erin Davis, Laura Elliott, Micayla Brickner, and Mindy Kroesche
Theological review by Ashley Gorman
Design by Austin Collins

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Introduction

While you might go to Google to ask how long to cook your fourteen-pound Thanksgiving turkey, for your most important questions you want to go to a source you know you can trust.

That's why the team at *Revive Our Hearts* receives lots of questions from listeners with searching hearts. It's also why we've decided to bring answers to some of our most frequently asked questions directly to you. The purpose of this booklet is not to give you comprehensive answers. Instead, we hope to give you handles to hold on to as you wrestle with these essential questions.

This booklet is also designed to be used as a tool in group settings. Gather with your small group or Sunday school class and work through these essential questions together. Reach out to a friend or neighbor who might be new to following Christ, and use these questions to jump-start meaningful conversations about faith. We've included a small group guide in the back of the booklet to help.

Throughout this resource you'll find "Seeking Answers from Scripture" sections containing a few verses to get you started. Believing that God's Word is the ultimate answer book, we'd encourage you to open your Bible and dig into these verses for yourself. You'll find a more extensive list of Scriptures along with recommended resources in the small group guide.

Ask away! And be sure to visit our website at ReviveOurHearts.com for more answers grounded in God's Word.



Answers

to 10 Essential
Questions

Question 1

I think I'm a Christian, but I'm not sure.
How can I be certain?

A: While the Bible is a book containing many answers, it is also a book that raises many questions. Many people, including people of great faith, have asked probing questions about God and the way He calls us to live.

Consider Nicodemus, a religious leader whose questions are recorded in John 3. Perhaps he thought he knew the answers to essential questions about life and faith. But did he have the right answers? Did he even ask the right questions? John 3:1–21 describes Nicodemus coming to Jesus under the cover of night. Their conversation confronts us with a very important question: Who do we think Jesus is? And are we sure our answer is right? Nicodemus thought he knew, but he was wrong.

READ JOHN 3:1–21 AND WRITE DOWN THE QUESTIONS NICODEMUS ASKED JESUS.

Nicodemus asked an essential question we all must settle: Who are you, Jesus? If Jesus was just a good teacher, we can take what we like from His words and ignore the rest. If He was simply a prophet, we can respect His wisdom in the same

way we might respect other historical figures. But if He is Lord as He claimed, we must respond by surrendering to His authority in our lives.

Jesus' response to Nicodemus' question was this: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (v. 3).

Jesus was describing the spiritual rebirth that happens when someone yields his or her life to Jesus and becomes a Christian. This concept was mysterious to Nicodemus, and it can feel mysterious to us. We wonder: Am I really a Christian? How can I know if I have been born again? How can I be sure that I have been saved from sin and death and have confidence in my eternal life?

Nicodemus asked similar questions: "How can these things be?" (v. 9).

The answer Jesus gave is one of the most beloved and powerful statements in all of Scripture: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (v. 16).

Jesus did the most important work of salvation through His death on the cross. A person becomes a Christian when he or she believes that Jesus is who He said He is and responds in faith. Jesus also explained the powerful result of this decision—we move from death to life. Instead of perishing as a result of our sin, we have the promise of spending eternity alive with Jesus. He saves us!

GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Your eternal destiny is not determined by the life that you have lived, the sins you have committed, the good works you have done—or by how much theology you know. You can

have confidence that you are a follower of Christ if you have put your faith in Jesus, believing that on the cross He took the punishment and hell you deserved for your sins and gave you His righteousness and the promise of heaven in exchange. This is the good news of the gospel.

The apostle Paul summed it up this way: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

Grace is a gift, given to you by Jesus when you put your faith in Him. **The essential question, therefore, is not what *you* have done, but rather, whether you have believed and received what *He* has done for you.**

If you haven’t, repent and believe. Christ died for you so that you could be reconciled to God. If you have, you can know that you are indeed a Christian and that He has adopted you into His family. Even when questions or doubts arise, you can rest in this promise, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:28–29).

God’s hands are bigger than your wavering faith. Your salvation is not going to be lost. It will be kept—by God, your Keeper.

SEEKING ANSWERS FROM GOD’S WORD

- 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
- Ephesians 2:1–10
- Titus 2:11–14