

DOES GOD EXIST?

This is one of the most important questions a person can consider in life. Your belief regarding God's existence will powerfully influence your views on the meaning of life, humanity, and ultimate destiny.

Some of the world's major religions do not believe in or worship a personal God. Instead, He is viewed as a sort of supreme reality, ultimate principle, or absolute underlying the universe. In this concept of God, He is usually perceived as a being who remains rather distant and aloof from human needs and circumstances. However, the Bible tells us that God is very personally concerned about each one of us, and that "as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who love Him" (Psalm 103:13).

Other religions, recognizing the marvelous wonder and balance of nature, have concluded that the physical creation itself must be God, and that everything we see is a manifestation or part of God. Because He is the great power who has created all things, in a sense God is a part of all things and all things are a part of Him, from the vast galaxies of the heavens to the cohesive power of the tiniest atom. But the Bible tells us that we can worship and *personally* know the Creator and have a living relationship with God Himself.

God is not some faraway uninterested being. He is a God who is personal, who desires to have a relationship with His creation. He has made Himself known to us through His Word in the Bible. He is interested in us as individuals. He has made a way for us to live with Him forever, through salvation.

God doesn't want us to suffer separation from Him. Our hearts can never be truly satisfied without knowing God and His love, for God *is* love (1 John 4:8). To help us to know

Him and to bring us His everlasting life and salvation, He sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth over 2,000 years ago.

Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Spirit of God and became a living representation of God, so that we could see what the great invisible Creator is like. And that picture is of a God of love, for Jesus went everywhere doing good, helping others, and teaching about God's great love for us all.

Once Jesus had completed His task of proclaiming the good news of salvation to the world, He gave His life on the cross for the sins of all humankind. Three days after His lifeless body was laid to rest in the grave, Jesus arose from the dead, conquering death and hell forever.

"For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God exists and He wants to enter into a personal relationship with you and become a very real part of your life both here and now and forever in eternity. You can learn more about God, His love for humanity, and His plan for your life in the Bible.

Jesus stands at your heart's door, waiting for you to open the door and invite Him into your life. (See Revelation 3:20.) You can do this by sincerely praying this prayer:

Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins. I believe that You died for me. I open the door to my heart, and I invite You into my life. Please fill me with Your love and Holy Spirit, help me get to know You, and guide me in the way of truth. Amen.