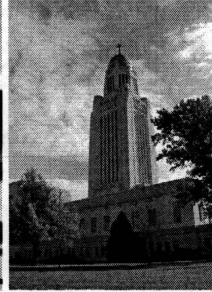
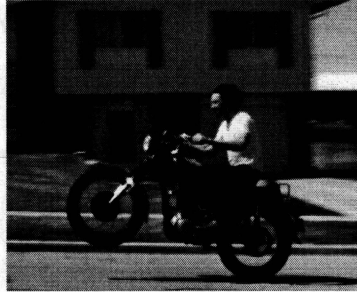


## A. Introduction

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.” Matthew 13:44

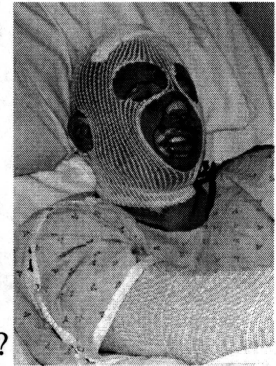


A story that dates back to 1970 –

“God, whatever you want to teach me from this, I want to learn it.”

## B. Questions

1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God?
2. Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to Heaven? (33%)
3. Do you believe in a hell where those who have sinned and not turned to Jesus Christ for mercy will spend eternity in torment?
4. What goes on in your mind when you envision a loved one...?  
“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15



1.5 seconds in the flame

## C. What keeps me from sharing the good news?

1. **I fear social rejection.** – “They’re afraid they’ll be laughed at.” (my grandson)
  - a. 1 John 4:18a “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,”
  - b. Mark 8:38 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words...”
2. **I think I have more important things to do with my time.**
  - a. Getting the job done, making money, hobbies, the internet, relaxing
  - b. There is time to rest in eternity, but no friends there with whom to share the gospel.

## D. What is the good news?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried**, and that He was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures.”
2. **Romans 10:9** “That **if you confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, **you shall be saved.**”
3. To understand this gospel, one must grasp a few **foundational truths**. Psalm 11:3
  - a. The eternal God created all. The world is His and He set the rules. Genesis 1:1
  - b. Man bears God’s image. Genesis 1:26 – Man can respond. Deuteronomy 30:19
  - c. Paul gave a creation lesson to the men of Athens – Acts 17:22-32
4. For some who trust their own goodness, the good news begins with the **bad news**.
  - a. “...for in the day that you eat from it, **you will surely die.**” Genesis 2:17b
  - b. “Therefore **the Law has become our tutor** to lead us to Christ,” Galatians 3:24

Young people today are being taught they are nothing more than products of blind material forces working over time.

## E. What evangelism is not

1. **It is not** sneaking up on people but never getting around to the cross of Christ.
2. **It is not** manipulating people or twisting arms for a decision.
  - a. Pressuring people may drive them away, or make them think they are saved, when they are not (a dangerous place to be).
3. **It is not** arguing about the inerrancy of the Bible. Hebrews 4:12-13
4. **It is not** talking about Jesus, but failing to walk with Jesus as Lord of our lives.
  - a. Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light shine...” People are listening and watching.
  - b. Philippians 2:14 – “Do all things without grumbling...above reproach”
5. **It is not** merely inviting someone to a meeting
  - a. Matthew 4:19 He makes us fishers of men, not inviters of men to fisherman retreats

A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.

## F.

### PRE-DISPOSITION MATRIX

Seek to understand the one to whom you are speaking

#### 1. OPEN- SPIRITUAL

He is aware of some spiritual realities. He could be a seeker, with biblical knowledge or prayer behind him (or even have put his trust in Jesus) but lacks assurance. You may be able to ask him to make sure of his salvation.

#### 2. OPEN- NON-SPIRITUAL

His world-view does not require a personal God. He is not threatened by you or your ideas. **“Hey, if Jesus works for you, that’s great!”** He doesn’t want to hear all you know about the Bible.

#### 3. CLOSED- SPIRITUAL

Has his own religious beliefs and isn’t looking for a change – May be like Pharisee in Luke 18 He needs to see he is a sinner. Share your story or ask, **“If you were to die tonight, and God were to say to you, “Why should I let you into My heaven”, what would you say to Him?”**

#### 4. CLOSED- NON-SPIRITUAL

He is an angry atheist, or a cynical secularist who has been burned. He knows how to end a conversation! The real issue is probably moral. He might listen to your testimony; but, he is watching your life and how you relate to others. He may take years of relationship. **Listen to his story.**

## G. Four Levels of Responsibility

1. **Family & loved ones. These come first.** 1 Timothy 5:8, Deuteronomy 6:6  
**You never, ever give up on them.**
2. **Friends, co-workers, buddies**  
Proverbs 27:10 Do not **forsake** your...
3. **Neighbors, the ones we meet on the road of life** **Luke 10:29**
4. **People from every nation**  
Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20



## H. Seven steps to sharing the gospel

### 1. Prepare your heart

- Abide in Jesus** – John 15:7-13 What are the conditions on this promise? 1Jn 3:21ff
- Confess your sin** 1John 1:9, (a clean cup is more useful) 2 Timothy 2:20-21  
If we acknowledge our sin, God will give shepherds to feed us. Jeremiah 3:13a, 15
- Humble yourself** – I was insecure, but I came across as proud. Isaiah 66:2b

### 2. Prepare your mind

- Memorize-meditate the Word** – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Jeremiah 23:28-29 TMS
- Prepare your story & an opening line** – Practice–Revelation 12:11; Psalm 107:2  
Telecom worker at a call center – “So, William, have you found Jesus yet?”
- Be a student of salvation** – 1Timothy 4:16 – pay close attention to your teaching

### 3. Pray for them

- Ask God to guide to **humble hearts** – Psalm 25:9, Psalm 34:2 (humble rejoice)
- That **the Spirit** would do His work in their heart – John 16:8 convict the world
- Pray for God’s desire, their salvation** – Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:3-4

### 4. Talk to them- build a relationship

- Ask them** about their life and thinking. Look for clues and connections.
- Make friends** for yourselves... **Luke 16:9**, Be a giver – 1Thessalonians 2:9
- Share your story** and your **promise for salvation**. Psalms 119:41-42
  - When you are done, they should know how they can be saved.

**Back to the highway...**

### 5. Explain the way of salvation to them using Scripture. Romans 1:16, 1 Peter 1:23, Mark 4:14

- If time is limited **give them a tract?**
- Develop your own **Seven Questions**
- “Can I show you an illustration?” – The Bridge
- If they are open you may be free to go on to step 6.

### 6. Invite them to put their trust in Jesus.

- Compel them to come in** – Luke 14:23
- Persuade them** – Acts 28:23-24;
- Beg them** – 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Sow in tears** – Psalms 126:5
- “Is there anything preventing you from praying right now?”



(my grandmother)

### 7. Follow-up with prayer and discipleship

- Prayer- Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:15-19a
- Jesus said, “... make disciples... teaching them to do all that I commanded.” Matthew 28:20

**What’s it worth to have your friends spend eternity in God’s kingdom rather than the fires of hell? Would you be willing to sell all that you have in order to see your friends and loved ones put their faith in Jesus Christ?**

Please write down the name of one or two friends with whom you will share the gospel next week.

## PASSAGES RELATED TO EVANGELISM

1. "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants." (**Deuteronomy 30:19**)
2. "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary."(**Psalm 107:2**)
3. "**Deliver those who are being taken away to death**, and those who are staggering to slaughter, O hold them back. If you say, 'See, we did not know this,' Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?" (**Proverbs 24:11-12**)
4. "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. **The soul who sins will die.**" (**Ezekiel 18:4**)
5. "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."(**Mark 8:38**)
6. "And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and **compel them to come in**, so that my house may be filled.'" (**Luke 14:23**)
7. "Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." (**John 5:24**)
8. "And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "**Men of Athens**, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, '**TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**' What therefore you worship in **ignorance**, this I proclaim to you. **The God who made the world** and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since **He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things**; and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, **as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'** Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, **God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent**," because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. **Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer**, but others said, 'We shall hear you again concerning this.'" (**Acts 17:22-32**)
9. "When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and **trying to persuade** them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. **Some were being persuaded** by the things spoken, but others would not believe." (**Acts 28:23-24**)
10. "Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, **that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God**; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; **for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.**" (**Romans 3:19-20**)
11. "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**)
12. "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (**1 Cor 15:3-4**)
13. "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; **for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.**" (**1 Timothy 4:16**)
14. "And **these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power," (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**)
15. "And have mercy on some, who are doubting; **save others, snatching them out of the fire**; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh." (**Jude 1:22-23**)
16. "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and **because of the word of their testimony, ....**" (**Revelation 12:11**)

# SEVEN QUESTIONS

'For people who really like to think.'

## Question One Did God make the world?

Do you think the universe came into being on its own and evolved into what we now see; or, is it more likely that all those stars, our perfectly located planet and human life are the work of an all-powerful, eternal, intelligent creator? 1) See back for more on this.

## Question Two Has God spoken to us?

If the universe was created, and if man was made in the creator's image, then in what ways do you think the creator would reveal himself to mankind and communicate his instructions to us?

- Make his wisdom and power known through the vastness of the universe and the beauty of the natural world he created.
- Give all people a conscience and an inner sense of what he desires them to do.
- Select a few people to write down his words so they could be known and followed by all who are willing to do so.
- Personally come to earth to suffer and die in order to demonstrate his love for all people.
- All of the above.
- None of the above. (There is no God, and even if there were such a being, he or she wouldn't care what happens to us.)

## Question Three Am I a sinner?

Have you ever done something you knew was wrong; for instance, have you ever broken one of the following commandments?

- You shall not commit murder (Jesus said calling someone a fool in anger makes us guilty of murder. Matthew 5: 22)
- You shall not desire anything that belongs to your neighbor (Leviticus 19:11, Deuteronomy 5:21)
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30)
- You shall not lie (Leviticus 19:11, Deuteronomy 5:20)
- I've broken all of the above
- I've never broken any of the above

## Question Four How can I deal with the consequences of my sin?

According to the Romans 6:23 in the Bible, if you have fallen short of God's standard and broken one of his commandments, then you have earned death; and, Hebrews 9:27 says that after death comes judgment. If the Bible is true and each one of us must come before God to be judged for our sins, then what would you say to him if he were to ask you why he should let you into his heaven?

## Question Five Does God love sinful people?

John 3:16 says God loved the world so much that he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to take the penalty for our sins, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. Do you think God loves all people, even those who have done very bad things?

## Question Six Who is Jesus Christ and what did he do?

Which of the following propositions about Jesus do you think are true? 1. Jesus Christ is God's Son 2. Jesus lived a righteous life 3. Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind 4. Jesus rose from the dead

## Question Seven How can I know I have eternal life?

If you accept the statements in question six as true, are you also willing to believe in Jesus Christ as your savior and Lord? This is the most important question you will ever answer. Romans 10:9, says, "**That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.**" In John 14:6, Jesus claimed to be the only way for sinners to come into His Father's presence to live with Him forever.

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me"** (John 14:6).

## God's Promise

God gave us this promise in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God loves you and wants you to have eternal life in his presence; but, He will let you decide whether or not you will turn from your sin to accept His cleansing and mercy. If you wish, please express your heart to God along the lines of the following prayer, acknowledging your sin at the line, and then tell someone who cares about you of your decision to trust in Jesus.

**God, please forgive me for breaking your Law, and specifically for \_\_\_\_\_.** Thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin, and for raising him from the dead. I accept Jesus now as my savior and Lord. Thank you for your mercy and kindness in giving me the promise of eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13, says those who believe in Jesus have eternal life! To get to know God better, please read your Bible a few minutes every day and learn to do what it says (John 14:21). Start with the Gospel of John, or with the verses on this sheet. You will need encouragement to stay on track, so ask God to give you friends who will help you learn to love and follow Jesus. God bless you.

February 15, 2014, Lincoln, Nebraska, Michael S. Bott Print Copies Freely

"Scripture taken from New American Standard Bible Reg., The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission."

# How does the Bible answer these SEVEN QUESTIONS?

## Question One Did God make the world?

- Genesis 1:1, 26a In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image,...
  - Psalm 100:3 Know that the Lord is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
  - Psalm 8:3 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God...
  - Hebrews 1:2, 11:3 In these last days He has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- 1) Since science and common sense agree that, "**nothing comes out of nothing**", why then do some people reject the possibility of a supernatural cause for the universe? Is it reasonable to ignore all the evidence for a supernatural creator and insist instead that the order, beauty and (human) personality we observe in this world are merely products of undirected material forces and random chance? When any thinking person considers a highly ordered system, he or she will logically conclude that it did not come about by accident. For example, if we were to dig up a fine Swiss time piece, we would not suppose it to be a natural occurrence in the soil. Rather, we would conclude that it must have been placed there after being engineered and built by a skilled watch designer. If we apply this same reasoning to the universe and to mankind, is it not equally logical to conclude that this world must have been purposefully created by an eternal, all-powerful being who made intelligent creatures in His own image? Considering God's activity as recorded in the Book of Genesis and the observable facts of mankind's existence, an unbiased thinker could agree with the Scripture above, that this world and mankind are the creative works of God.
  - 2) "As renowned astrophysicist (and atheist) Sir Fred Hoyle once said, '**A commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.**'" Fred Hoyle, "The Universe: Past and Present Reflections," Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics, 20 (1982) as reprinted in "A Case For A Creator", Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 2004, page 94

## Question Two Has God spoken to us?

- Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made; so that they are without excuse.
- Romans 2:14-15 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts...accusing...them.
- Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago ... in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in his son.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## Question Three Am I a sinner?

- Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
- Romans 3:10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;
- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- 1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

## Question Four What are the consequences of my sin, and how can I deal with them?

- Isaiah 59:2 your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so He does not hear.
- Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.
- Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- 2Thessalonians 1:9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
- Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.
- 1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Question Five Does God love sinful people?

- Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- 1 Timothy 2:4 ...God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, ..., that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, ... but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

## Question Six Who is Jesus Christ and what did he do?

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures;
- John 20:31 these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.
- 2Peter 1:17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased."
- 1Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by his wounds you were healed

## Question Seven How can I know I have eternal life?

- John 5:24 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.'
- 1John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
- John 5: 11-13 And the witness is this, that God has given us **eternal life**, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**

Thank you for reading this. **God loves you** and many people care about you and are praying for you to accept God's offer of eternal life in Jesus Christ. If you have any comments, or if you wish to discuss these things with someone, please contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_