

The Bible tells us why: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).* All that you must do is believe what the Bible teaches, accept the grace God has given to you through Jesus, and you will be saved.

You will find that in the end, it takes much more faith to continue believing in nothing, than to come to the logical conclusion that Jesus was and is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus is the only way that anyone can be made pure enough and righteous enough to enter God’s presence.

Jesus explained, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).*

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“By grace you are saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

When Jesus forgives our sins, they are completely wiped out - erased - washed away. God’s Holy Spirit comes and lives within us, and we experience His presence in a whole new way.

We sense His nearness as never before. And most importantly, we have the assurance that when our time on this earth comes to an end, we will live forever in Heaven - a place so beautiful it defies description (1 Corinthians 2:9).

There is more to life, so much more!
To experience this truth for yourself, you need to pray something like this:

Dear God, I’ve been missing out. There’s so much more to life than I have understood before. I realise now that I am a sinner, in need of a Saviour. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for me. Send Your Spirit to live within me. I want to know You personally—the same way You already know me. Help me honour You with my life. Amen.

Most of this material was taken from *The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel, published by Zondervan © 1998. Some editing changes are by Pastor Andy Hollier.

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. - John 8:36

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THE CASE FOR CHRIST
A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus
LEE STROBEL
New York Times Bestselling Author

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THE CASE FOR CHRIST

1John 5:1

In his book *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune with an M.S. in Law from Yale Law School, uses his journalistic skills and legal knowledge to dig into the evidence behind Christianity's beliefs about Jesus.

This sceptic (later-turned-believer) relates his interviews with a dozen experts in theology, archaeology, philosophy, psychology, medicine, and other fields in an effort to assemble a thorough, detailed researched 'case for Jesus'.

As a former atheist, Strobel is familiar with the major objections to Christianity - which he raises at every possible opportunity. But his interviewees never flinch, and they are able to respectfully but firmly squash these doubts and objections by using multiple facts and examples and citing a wide variety of sources.

At the end of Strobel's investigation, which parallels his own two-year search for answers that led to his conversion, he summarises the overwhelming evidence for the truth of the Bible's claims about who Jesus was and what he did.

He then gives the reader a glimpse of the realisations he faced after weighing the evidence for Jesus. He writes in his book: "The atheism I had embraced for so long buckled under the weight of historical truth. It was a stunning and radical outcome, certainly not what I had anticipated when I embarked on this investigative process. But it was, in my opinion, a decision compelled by the facts. "All of which led me to the 'So what?' question. If this is true, what difference does it make?"

There were several Obvious Implications

Strobel uses the word 'IF' but I prefer 'Since'.

- **Since Jesus is the Son of God**, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher; they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life. (Matthew Chaps. 5-7; John 4:31-36; Matthew 7:24-27; 1Timothy 6:3-5)
- **Since Jesus sets the standard for morality**, I can now have an unwavering foundation for my choices and decisions, rather than basing them on the ever-shifting sands of expediency and self-centeredness. (Matthew 24:35; John 8:3, 51; Ephesians 4:17-32)
- **Since Jesus did rise from the dead**, he's still alive today in Heaven and available for me to encounter on a personal basis. (Luke 24: 6 Revelation 1:18; Philippians 3:10)
- **Since Jesus conquered death**, he can open the door of eternal life for me, too. (John 5:24; Romans 6:23; Philippians 3:20-21)
- **Since Jesus has divine power**, he has the supernatural ability to guide me and help me and transform me as I follow him. (John 16:33; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-4:6)
- **Since Jesus personally knows the pain of loss and suffering**, he can comfort and encourage me in the midst of turbulence that he himself warned is inevitable in a world corrupted by sin. (John 14:27; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1Peter 4:1-2)
- **Since Jesus loves me as he says**, he has my best interests at heart. That means I have

nothing to lose and everything to gain by committing myself to him and his purposes. (John 14:1-6, 21, 23, 17:26, Romans 8:28 -39)

- **Since Jesus is who he claims to be** (and remember, no leader of any other major religion has even pretended to be God), then as my Creator he rightfully deserves my allegiance, obedience, and worship.

He deserves my ... [and Your]

- a) **Love:** Centre of my heart's devotion. (Matthew 22:36-40; 1Corinthians 16:22; John 15:9)
- b) **Obedience:** True commitment to His will. (Luke 6:43-49; Hebrews 5:9; 1John 2: 3-6; 3:22, 24)
- c) **Worship:** '*proskuneo*' means to bow before, adore, praise and honour. (Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:1-14 Matthew 28:16-20; Philippians 2:9-11)

You probably haven't had an experience like Lee Strobel's. Most of us haven't travelled the country, spending hours grilling scholars over the details of the claims about Jesus in the Bible.

But Strobel's account is a valuable one because it shows how God can work in someone's heart, and through others witnessing to that person, God is able to change deeply rooted prejudices and open his or her eyes to the truth.

The reliability of the New Testament documents and the corroboration of the story of Jesus in other ancient accounts - both explored in detail in Strobel's book - prove that Jesus really did live, perform miracles, die of crucifixion, and rise from the dead.