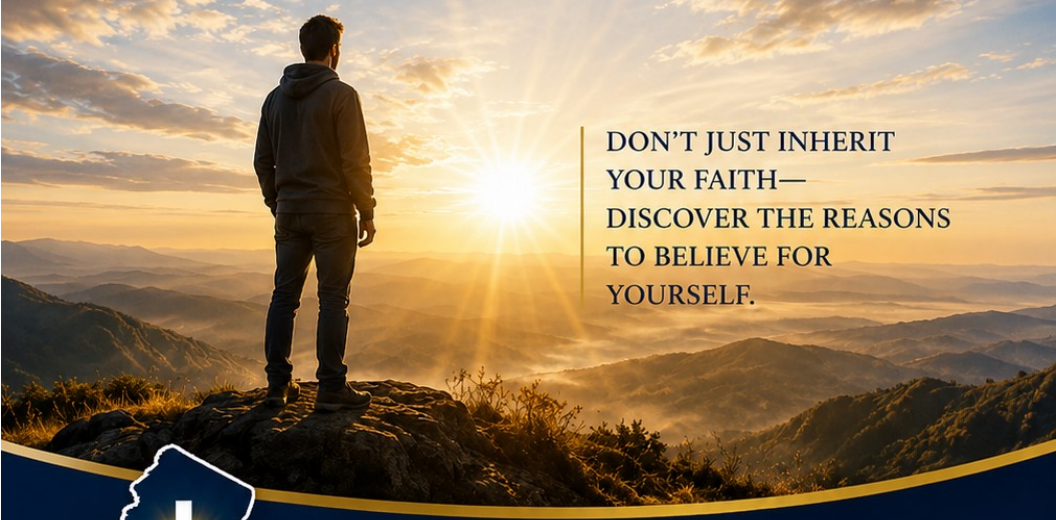
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 3

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE?

REASONS TO TRUST GOD,
THE BIBLE, AND
THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST



DON'T JUST INHERIT YOUR FAITH—
DISCOVER THE REASONS TO BELIEVE FOR YOURSELF.

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WELCOME TO THE
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

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WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE?

Introduction

A young man who had grown up in church once made a startling statement:

"I'm only a Christian because I was born into a Christian family."

His words were honest.

Had he been born in India, he might have been Hindu.

Had he been born in Saudi Arabia, he might have been Muslim.

Had he been born in a secular home, he might have become an atheist.

His statement raises an important question:

Are our beliefs simply the result of where we were born?

Or are there genuine reasons to believe in God?

Every person eventually reaches a point where borrowed faith is no longer enough.

Parents can believe for themselves.

Pastors can believe for themselves.

Churches can believe for themselves.

But eventually each person must answer:

Why do I believe?

God never intended faith to be blind, irrational, or based solely upon tradition.

The Bible repeatedly presents evidence, testimony, fulfilled prophecy, personal experience, and eye-witness accounts as reasons for faith.

Christianity invites examination.

Truth has nothing to fear from investigation.

1. EVERYONE HAS FAITH IN SOMETHING

Many people claim they have no faith.
Yet everyone exercises faith every day.
We trust:

- Airplanes we did not build
- Medicines we did not create
- Bridges we did not inspect
- Information we cannot personally verify

Life itself requires faith.
The real question is not:
"Do I have faith?"
The real question is:
"What is my faith placed in?"
Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Biblical faith is not wishful thinking.
It is confidence based upon evidence.

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2. THE UNIVERSE POINTS TO A CREATOR

When we see a building, we assume a builder.
When we see a painting, we assume a painter.
When we see a design, we assume a designer.
Yet some suggest that the most complex thing ever discovered—the universe—has no designer.
The Bible teaches otherwise.
Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Creation itself points beyond itself.
Order suggests intelligence.
Design suggests purpose.
The existence of a creation suggests a Creator.

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3. THE HUMAN HEART TESTIFIES OF GOD

Throughout history nearly every civilization has believed in some form of higher power.
Why?
Because mankind possesses an awareness that there is something beyond this world.
Ecclesiastes 3:11
"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart..."
God has placed eternity in the human heart.
People search for meaning because they were created for something greater than themselves.

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4. JESUS CHANGED HISTORY

Whether one believes in Him or not, few would deny the impact of Jesus Christ.
History itself was changed by His life.
His teachings transformed nations.
His followers willingly suffered persecution rather than deny what they had seen.
The question is not whether Jesus existed.
The question is:
Who was He?
A good man?

A prophet?
Or exactly who He claimed to be?

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5. THE RESURRECTION DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION

Christianity rises or falls on one event:
The resurrection of Jesus Christ.
If Jesus remained in the grave, Christianity is false.
If He rose again, everything changes.

1 Corinthians 15:14

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

The apostles did not die for a philosophy.
They testified that they had seen the risen Christ.
Something transformed frightened disciples into fearless witnesses.
The resurrection best explains that change.

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6. CHRISTIANITY IS MORE THAN INFORMATION

Christianity is not merely a collection of facts.
It is an invitation to know God personally.
Millions of believers throughout history have testified that God changed their lives.
Broken lives restored.
Addictions conquered.
Hope discovered.
Sins forgiven.
Faith is not merely believing that God exists.
Faith is trusting Him enough to respond.

Jeremiah 29:13

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

BORROWED FAITH OR PERSONAL FAITH?

At some point every person must move beyond borrowed faith.
You cannot be saved because your parents believe.
You cannot be saved because your pastor believes.
You cannot be saved because your church believes.
You must become convinced for yourself.

John 4:42

"Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ..."

The people of Samaria began by believing another person's testimony.
Eventually they encountered Christ for themselves.
That is God's desire for every person.

Conclusion

God never asks us to believe without reason.
He has provided:

- The witness of creation
- The witness of conscience
- The witness of Scripture

- The witness of prophecy
- The witness of Christ
- The witness of transformed lives

The evidence points toward Him.
The invitation remains open.
The question is no longer:
"Why should I believe?"
The question becomes:
"What will I do with the evidence God has already provided?"
Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..."