

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH

# GOD



ALEX MCFARLAND



**"My Relationship with God" /  
Apostle's Creed; Facts About the Faith that Never Go Out of Date**

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**MY RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD?**

and

**FACTS ABOUT THE FAITH  
THAT NEVER GO OUT OF DATE:**

12 Timeless Truths About Christianity  
From the Apostle's Creed

BY ALEX MCFARLAND



# JESUS SAID

**"I am the resurrection and the life.  
The one who believes in Me,  
even if he dies,  
will live."**

John 11:25



# MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## How to Begin a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ . . . today

People everywhere invest their lives in the search for meaning, purpose, and fulfillment. But people need something more than money, fame, luxurious houses, good looks, nice cars, or a lucrative stock portfolio. There is nothing necessarily wrong with these things, but they cannot provide peace to the soul or forgiveness of one's sin.

I once read that the highest rates of suicide and divorce occur among the most affluent classes of society. On the West Coast, psychologists and counselors have isolated a new affliction and given it a name, "Sudden Wealth Syndrome." People are achieving every benchmark that our society says should make them happy, but they are finding that it is possible to be materially rich, yet spiritually bankrupt. Many people have a schedule that is full, but a heart that is empty.

### Do you wrestle with questions like these?

*Why am I here?*

*Am I doing the right  
things with my life?*

*What will I be doing  
5 or 10 years from now?*

*Is God real?*

*Does He have a  
purpose for my life?*

Several years ago, our nine-member ministry team crossed America on a 50-States-in-50-Days trip. During the course of this journey to fifty states in fifty days, I preached in every service, in all fifty U.S. states, and personally talked with thousands of people. We had the privilege of hosting sixty-four worship services—throughout the entire US. Our outreach team met many people who came to us with probing questions and genuine concern about spiritual issues. More than ever, people are looking for meaningful answers, craving hope in a dangerous world.

Present realities, such as worldwide terrorist attacks, global economic uncertainty, political instability, natural disasters, and tragic shootings have only intensified this search.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, I went to New York City to help with a prayer center that had been set up by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse. Just like on my 50-state tour, I was talking daily to hundreds of people from every background imaginable.

They may have expressed themselves in different ways, but they all had the same basic question:

***“Who is God, and how may I come to know him?”***

Where one stands with God is the most vital of all issues, but the good news is that you can settle this today! You may have wondered, ***How does a person become a Christian? How can I be certain that my sin is forgiven? How may I experience consistent spiritual growth?*** *Let's consider these things together.*

***“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”***  
***(Isaiah 1:18)***



## God's Word Explains the Message of Salvation

Jesus said in John 3:3, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Salvation is the issue: The most important question you will ever ask yourself is this: "Do I know for certain that I have eternal life, and that I will go to heaven when I die?"

If you stood before God right now and God asked, "Why should I let you into heaven?" what would you say?

The Bible describes our condition:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Just as a job pays a wage at the end of the week, our sins will yield a result at the end of a lifetime: "For the wages of sin is death (the Bible describes this as separation from God, the punishment of hell), but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord"

*"The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation."*

*Martin Luther  
(Christian leader, 1483-1546)*

### **Believe it: God personally loves you.**

God's love for you personally is shown by his provision for your need: "But God demonstrated His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Salvation requires repentance, which means a "turning." Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). The New Testament emphasizes the necessity of repentance and salvation: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

Every one of us has sinned, and the Bible says that our sins must be dealt with. We have a twofold sin problem. We are sinners by birth, and we are sinners by choice. Someone once said to the great evangelist Dr. Vance Havner, “This thing about man’s sin nature, I find that hard to swallow!”

Dr. Havner replied, “You don’t have to swallow it—you’re born with it, it’s already in you.”

The world categorizes sins, viewing some things as worse than others. But the Bible teaches that all sin is an offense against God, and

### **How may each of us be saved from our sins?**

#### ***By simply believing on the Lord Jesus:***

*Prison officer, working in a jail:  
“Sir, what must I do to be saved?”*

*Paul (who has seen and met the risen Jesus): “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”*

*(Acts 16:31)*

even one sin is serious enough to keep someone out of heaven. You may not have robbed a bank, or maybe you have. God doesn’t grade on a curve; humanity is a tainted race, and sin is the problem.

Oftentimes in life, we know what is right, but we do what is wrong. You may have even looked back at yourself and wondered,

*What was I thinking? Why did I do that? How could I have said that?* Jesus said that people need to repent and make a change. Repentance means turning from your sins, and to Christ. By faith, trust who Jesus is (God’s Son; mankind’s Savior), and what Jesus did (died in your place and rose from the dead).

God's forgiveness is received by faith. We are to confess our faith before others, not ashamed to let the world know that we believe in Jesus: "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation" (Romans 10:9–10).

## What is faith?

Faith is trust. It is simple, honest, child-like trust. God says that you have a sin problem, but that he loves you and will forgive you. God says that through Jesus Christ, he has made a way for anyone who will come to him to be saved. Do you trust what God has said and what God has done? If you come to Christ in belief and faith, God promises to save you: "For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Jesus promises: "The one who comes to me, I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

***Salvation is not complicated.***

- A** - Admit that you are a sinner, and you need God's forgiveness.
- B** - Believe that Jesus is who He said (the Son of God, who died on the Cross for you).
- C** - Call on His name; ask Jesus to forgive and save you, and He will.

If you desire to have a relationship with the Lord, that can be accomplished right where you are. This is a deep, Biblical reality. Call on Jesus Christ right now; He is as close by as a prayer.



Make your journey to the cross today,  
through this basic prayer of commitment:

***Dear Lord Jesus,  
I know that I have sinned  
and I cannot save myself.  
I believe that you are the Son of God,  
and that you died and rose again  
for me to forgive my sins  
and to be my Savior.  
I turn from my sins and  
I ask you to forgive me.  
I receive you into my heart  
as my Lord and Savior.  
Jesus, thank you for saving me now.  
Help me to live the rest of my life for you.  
Amen.***

(If you prayed to trust Jesus as your Savior right now, please fill  
in the "time and date" page at the end of this booklet.  
Make a record of the decision you have made to follow Christ!)

## God's Word Gives Assurance of Salvation

You can overcome doubts about where you stand with God. Based on what God's Word says (not what you feel or assume), you can know that you have eternal life: "He that has the Son has life. . . . These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God—that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:12–13).

Jesus said, "He that hears my word, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (1 John 5:24). Remember: You are not saved by good works, and you are not "kept saved" by good works. Your merit before God is totally based on Jesus; his perfection, holiness, and righteousness are credited to each one who believes by faith.

*"The one who comes to Me I will not reject."  
(John 6:37)*

### What is Meant by the Term "Rededication?"

A news reporter once asked me this question. He had heard me use this term as I spoke at a church and wanted to know what I meant. Rededication is for a believer who desires that their walk with Christ be renewed and deepened. A Christian can wander from God in sin or simply lose their closeness to the Lord through the busyness of life.

A born-again Christian is forever God's child. Your salvation is a matter of *birth*. Your daily Christian growth is a matter of *fellowship*. Your spiritual birth into God's family is, in some ways, similar to your physical birth into the human family. For instance, in growing up as a child, you may have disobeyed and disappointed your father. Something you did may have grieved your father, but you were still his child, because you had been born into that family.

In the same way, the Christian's relationship to the Lord is still intact, even though a sin we commit may hinder our daily fellowship with God. Salvation is a one-time, instantaneous event; Christian growth and personal fellowship with God are an everyday, life-long process. Consistent daily prayer, Bible study, obedience to the Holy Spirit, and nurture in a local church fellowship are all keys to growth and Christian maturity.

While your membership in the family may be intact, your daily fellowship may be lacking. Christ, not self, must be on the throne of your heart and life! Sin hinders our fellowship with God: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). Perhaps your desire is like that of David, when he had wandered from God: "Create in me a clean heart, Oh God. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10).

God lovingly receives all who *turn* to him, and all who *return* to him! He cleanses us from sin and restores us to fellowship with him. King David had been "a man after God's own heart," but his sinful deeds required that he humbly recommit himself to the Lord: "Cast me not away from thy presence, Restore unto me the joy of my salvation" (Psalm 51:11–12). Christian publications often use the following verse in the context of evangelism, and that is okay, but 1 John 1:9 is really a promise to the *Christian* who needs to make things right with the Lord: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

From the same chapter is another great truth that gives us precious, sweet assurance: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

You may already know the Lord but wish to pray these basic words of rededication and commitment:

*Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I have sinned and wandered from you. I confess my sin and turn from it. I recommit myself to you as Lord. Thank you for forgiving me; I trust you to give me the strength to live for you each day of my life. Thank you for being my Savior, my Lord, and my friend. Amen.*

**(If you prayed to re-dedicate yourself to the Lord, to confess sin, and to return to Jesus right now, please fill in the “time and date” page at the end of this booklet. Make a record of the decision you have made to follow Christ!**

At TNG and Alex McFarland Evangelistic Ministries, we are interested in your personal walk with Christ, and in the spiritual welfare of your family. We encourage you to join a good church in your area– one that believes and teaches the Bible, and which is committed to Christ’s Great Commission (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20)

***May God bless you as you journey on with Him!***

Learn more about the Christian faith  
in the pages that follow.

# 12 TIMELESS TRUTHS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY -

## From the Apostle's Creed

The story is told of a certain man who was facing some great struggles in life. Growing up in England, the man had dreams of becoming an attorney, achieving success, and accumulating lots of money.

By the time he was a young adult, the man had reached many of his goals. He had earned a degree, landed a job in a prestigious law firm, married well, and purchased the car of his dreams. But despite many successes,

*Truth has no special time  
of its own. It's hour is  
now- always.*

*Albert Schweitzer  
(1875-1965, theologian,  
medical doctor)*

a lingering sense of emptiness and futility remained. When several unexpected circumstances thrust both family and career into crisis, he thought about turning to God.

Walking through a London park, the man sat down on a bench and stared at a nearby patch of flowers. Landscapers had decorated the park's gardens with a number of brightly painted sticks of wood. Amidst the flowers were these wooden decorations, sticking up out of the ground, each painted with a different design.

The man watched as a caterpillar inched upward, climbing one of the sticks. Reaching the top, the caterpillar had nowhere else to go and groped



for anything more it could reach. The caterpillar finally inched its way back down, and the man watched as the worm crawled over to the next painted stick.

Amazingly, this same caterpillar climbed to the top of that stick. Reaching the top and finding nowhere else to go, the creature again carried itself back down to the ground. By the time that the caterpillar was approaching the third piece of wood, it dawned on the man that this was pictorial of his own life. He had climbed many of his own “painted sticks,” only to realize that they didn’t really lead anywhere.

The accomplishments, wealth, purchases, and goals that he thought would bring meaning and fulfillment had left him empty. And now, even these things were about to be taken away.

This reminds me of an observation made by Dr. Erwin Lutzer, pastor of the historic Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois: “How sad to climb the ladder of success, and having reached the top at the end of one’s life, only to discover that the ladder you climbed was leaning against the wrong wall.” After an honest evaluation of his life and his heart, the man later found true peace in a relationship with Christ – the one dependable “constant” in our otherwise unpredictable lives.

Centuries ago, Christian leaders saw the need to clearly ‘spell out’ the basic truths of Christianity. During the early years of the church, a number of creeds (or statements of belief) were written, circulated, and memorized. At a time when Bibles were rare and not everyone could read, such ‘creedal statements’ summarized the basics of Christianity.

*“The truth is incontrovertible; malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.”*

*Winston Churchill  
(1874-1965)*

The widely accepted **“Apostles’ Creed”** presents the message in this way:

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And In Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy \*catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen*

. [NOTE: The word “catholic” used here does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church; It denotes believers worldwide, the universal church of the Lord Jesus]

In Latin, the word credo means, “I believe.” Many Christian creeds and statements of doctrine have been developed over the centuries. All have been attempts by different groups to clearly state the basics of what they believe.

## Stating our Christian Beliefs: An Ancient Tradition

Christian creeds have influenced people for hundreds of years. Within the Bible, certain verses appear to be brief but organized creeds, indicating that believers had been in the habit preserving and teaching specific Christian truths since the very beginning of the church.<sup>1</sup>

Some examples of these include:

Acts 2:22-24	Colossians 1:12-20
Romans 10:9-10	Colossians 2:9-15
I Corinthians 15:3-4	I Timothy 2:5-6
Philippians 2:5-11	I Timothy 3:16

### About the Apostle's Creed

The Apostle's Creed is a fourth century "statement of belief" which remains the basic creed of many churches. The content dates from ancient times (possibly as early as from about 150 AD); tradition says that the words were derived from Christ's 12 apostles. The "Apostles' Creed" came about as godly leaders - concerned that the church maintains purity in its beliefs- set forth a "summary statement" on the essential truths of Biblical Christianity. They endeavored to come to agreement on the most basic, core beliefs of the Christian faith.

The result of their efforts – the ancient Apostles' Creed – reminds people to this day some vital facts about Christianity.



# UNDERSTANDING 12 FACTS ABOUT THE FAITH:

## FACT 1:

*"I believe in God the Father Almighty"*

**THEOLOGY** (Theology is our understanding of God.

The term literally means, a "logos" about "Theos." That is, a "word about God"). The Christian faith is built on the foundation of trust in Almighty God, who has revealed Himself to humanity. As our heavenly Father, God is the One who created the universe and sustains it. "Almighty" means that God is Sovereign over His creation. With wisdom, love, and in power and control- God presides over all things. God's sovereignty is a source of comfort and truth for the believer; we know that nothing happens without His knowledge and permission.


## FACT 2:

*"Creator of heaven and earth"*

**COSMOLOGY** (our understanding of creation). This state-

ment reflects our belief that all things were created by an orderly, wise God. Life has purpose and meaning. Humans bear God's image and likeness; all life is therefore to be respected, and creation valued.

How do we know these things? The complexity and design of the world around us leads us to the conclusion that there must be a Designer or Creator. Empirical evidence found in life, chemistry, astrobiology, and especially physics all suggest purpose, design, order, and meaning.



The Bible tells us that the created world points to the God who is its infinite source of origin: “The heavens declare (or, “bear witness to”) the glory of God, and the firmament (or, “expanse”) shows His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1).

The Apostle’s Creed begins by setting forth the most basic of truths, that Almighty God is the Creator of the world, and the Father of the human race.

*“...and in Jesus Christ His Only Son our Lord”*

**FACT 3:**


**CHRISTOLOGY** (our understanding of Christ). The belief that Jesus is the son of God, and our Lord, is central to Christianity. Without Him, we would still be condemned to death because of our sins.

It is interesting to note that the New Testament uses 7 different names or “titles” in reference to Jesus. These are: Son of God, Savior, Lord, God, Christ, Messiah, and Son of Man.

Did the New Testament writers and earliest Christians believe that Jesus was truly God?

Yes. Over 500 times, the New Testament writers call Jesus “Messiah” and “Christ.” The following list represents writings from each of the persons who contributed to the New Testament books. Every one of these New Testament writers refers to Jesus using the titles “Christ” or “Messiah,” which are references to His identity as God:

Matthew 1:1	John 4:25-26	Hebrews 6:1	1 Peter 1:1
Mark 1:1	Romans 1:4	James 1:1	Jude 1:1
Luke 9:20			



The New Testament writers who composed earliest and latest (Paul and John, respectively) consistently used these titles for Jesus:

**Son of God** title used by Paul (Galatians 4:4-6)  
title used by John (John 20:30-31)

**Savior** title used by Paul (Philippians 3:20)  
title used by John (Jn. 4:42)

**the Lord** title used by Paul (Romans 10:9-13)  
title used by John (John 9:38)


**God** title used by Paul (Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13)  
title used by John (John 1:1; 20:28)

The above lists reference 6 of the titles that point to the Divinity of Jesus. Luke and Peter also use these same 4 titles (Son of God; Savior; Lord; and God) when speaking of Jesus.

**Examples:**

Luke: Luke 2:11; 9:20; 10:1-2; 22:70; Acts 20:28

Peter: I Peter 1:1; 3:15; II Peter 1:1, 17; 3:18



But let's look at one more title, the designation Jesus so often used of Himself (in fact, 82 times): *Son of Man*.

This reference to Jesus is also one used by Luke, John, and the author of Hebrews (see: Acts 7:56, Hebrews 2:6, Revelation 1:13, 14:14). What does "Son of Man" actually mean?

The use of this title by Jesus (and for Jesus) is reference that comes from the Old Testament book of Daniel (written some 500 years before Christ's birth). Daniel 7:13-14 speaks of "one like the Son of Man," and Who is seated with 'the Ancient of Days' (a reference to God the Father). Daniel's "Son of Man" is One who:

- has equal authority and status as the Father;
- presides with authority over the world and all its people;
- appears at the end of time to judge the nations.

In Mark chapter 14 Jesus applied this reference from Daniel to Himself (see vs. 61-64). He further said that He (the "Son of Man") would triumphantly return at the end of time "on clouds of heaven." The Jewish leaders understood that Jesus was presenting Himself not merely as a wise teacher to be followed, but as God incarnate to be worshipped. They charged Him with the capital crime of blasphemy (Mark 14:63-64).

But in obedience and faith, the early Christians had no problem accepting Jesus' claims about His identity. Belief in Jesus' Deity is a core point of Christian orthodoxy.<sup>2</sup>

  
**FACT 4:**

*“Who was conceived of the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary.”*

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**PNEUMATOLOGY**, part I (pronounced, “noo-muh-tol-o-gee.”)

This rather large word refers to belief in the existence of, and work of the Holy Spirit). This unique combination of truths (“conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary”) reflects the foundational belief of our faith: that Christ was both fully man and fully God.

Another key truth of Christianity found in this line of the creed relates to a work done by God’s Holy Spirit:

Participating in Christ’s incarnation through the womb of Mary. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1 verse 35, the angel explains the miraculous conception that is to take place: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.” Some translations read, “The power of the Highest will surround you...” or, “the power of the Most High will be upon you.”

Clearly, we see that the Holy Spirit exists, is fully Divine (has all the power and standing as the Father and the Son), and is acting in history. Because Jesus came to earth from heaven and was born of a virgin, He had no sinful nature, as we do. Jesus was able to live a flawless, sinless life, giving Him the ability to die as a sacrificial offering which covered our sins once and for all.



*“...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried...”*

**FACT 5:**

**SOTERIOLOGY**, part 1 (pronounced, “so-tear-ee-o-lo- gee.”

God’s plan of salvation, accomplished through the work Christ did). Jesus Christ died for our sins, and He died the painful (suffering) death which each of us deserves. This facet of the Christian faith is crucial because it is only through the death of Christ that we are offered forgiveness of sins.

**How do we know?**

There are some who would claim that Christ was never really killed, or perhaps he was only near death, or that he intentionally pretended to die. But the truth is that crucifixion was not survivable. The Roman soldiers who carried out this torturous method of execution were not about to jeopardize their position (and possibly their lives) by failing in their duty to kill the one to be crucified. Remember, too, that before He was nailed to the cross, Jesus had been severely beaten. His body was already bloodied and weak. To speculate that Jesus survived the cross and fooled experienced executioners


***No one can get into heaven based on their (supposed) “good works.”***

***We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ:***

*“For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’*

*Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ ”*

*Galatians 3:10-11*



into thinking that He had died is impossible. To guess that He may have revived in the cold tomb, moved the stone away from the entrance, and then slipped past soldiers guarding the tomb is unrealistic.

**FACT 6:**

*“He descended into hell.”*

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**SOTERIOLOGY:** part II. The doctrine of “atonement” refers to the fact that Christ paid for our sins. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the sins of humanity were “put to death” as well. Jesus did not have to “burn in hell” in order to pay for sin, as is sometimes believed. But Jesus did allow the guilt of humanity to be laid on Himself. Jesus died, was buried, entered the realm of the dead, and came back to life under His own power. The facts of salvation (soteriology) include the reality that Jesus has the power to forgive, restore, and set people free from sin.


Atonement means that Jesus paid for our sins; Redemption means that we’re delivered through payment of a price. Those of us whose sins have been paid are indeed “redeemed” – set free from sin.

**FACT 7:**

*“The third day He arose again from the dead.”*

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**CHRIST’S PHYSICAL RESURRECTION.** Jesus said the resurrection would prove that He was the Savior (see Matthew 12:39-40 and Romans 1:4). Because we believe that Christ rose from the dead, death has no hold over us as believers. He paid the penance for our sins, as a result, we can live in victory even over death.



How do we know? The fact that Jesus' grave is unoccupied is a convincing detail. An angel pointed this out early Sunday morning, the first Easter, as several women went to check on the body of Jesus, which had been buried three days before:

“Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”  
(Mark 16:6)

In 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8 the apostle Paul essentially says, “You want evidence for the resurrection of Jesus? Here's your evidence. Ask any of the hundreds of people who saw Him.”

If Jesus didn't rise from the grave it must be asked, “What, then, accounts for the transformed lives of the disciples?” Immediately after having reported seeing Jesus alive, these previously heartbroken, cowardly disciples turned into passionate messengers of the Gospel, and nothing they experienced—persecution, prison, and death threats—got them to change their story, to deny that they had seen Jesus.

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**FACT 8:**

*“He ascended into heaven”*

**ESCHATOLOGY**, part I (pronounced, ess-cah-to-lo- gee.”

Refers to “last things or “end time events”). After dying and rising again, Christ ascended back into heaven, and will one day return. The belief that Christ went back to heaven 40 days after his resurrection is core to our faith because if he had remained on earth, we wouldn’t have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because Christ ascended into heaven, we are each given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and through Him, we can accomplish Christ’s work on earth as believers.

*“I wish everybody who died went to heaven. But the Bible makes it abundantly clear that that is not the case, and the that there awaits a judgement. And the greatest calamity there anyone could ever imagine is to be sentenced to hell.”*

*R.C. Sproul  
(1939-2017, renowned scholar  
and Christian theologian)*

*“and (Jesus) sits at the right hand of*

*God the Father Almighty, from thence (there) He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”*

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**FACT 9:**

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** (His power, presence,

purposes, plans, protection, provision). The Bible presents Jesus as having ultimate authority over history (see Matthew 28:18). Christians recognize Jesus as the one having Authority over their lives. Consideration of God’s sovereignty – and awareness that He one day will judge our lives – leads us to recognize our own need for Christ’s forgiveness. If we were judged on our own merit, we would be condemned, but because Christ stands in for us, we are forgiven.

  
**FACT 10:**

*“I believe in the Holy Spirit”*

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**PNEUMATOLOGY**, part II (the knowledge of the Holy Spirit).

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the divine Trinity. It is the Holy Spirit who leads people to faith in Jesus and the one who gives them the ability to lead a Christian life. The Spirit dwells inside every true Christian, given to us as a gift when Christ ascended into heaven.

**FACT 11:**


*“the holy \*catholic church, the communion of saints...”*

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**ECCLESIOLOGY**: (pronounced “ek-klee-see-o-lo-gee”

This refers to things relating to the church) We believe that the church is the Body of Christ here on earth, a place for fellowship, and where believers can carry out Christ’s work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Too often, people think the church is a building somewhere down the street. But in the true Bible sense the church includes born-again people all around the world, in whom the Lord dwells. (See Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22-23, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19).

**\*NOTE:** The word “catholic” as used in this ancient creed refers not to the Roman Catholic Church, but to the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Catholic” in this sense means “total” or “universal.” That is, the group of all Christian believers from the time of Jesus to this present day.



*“The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.”*

**FACT 12:**

**ESCHATOLOGY**, part II - Christians are those who have experienced new life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Believers have confidence and assurance that they will spend eternity with Christ in heaven. Christians may be sure of their own personal eschatology, that is, where they will spend eternity.

There are really two aspects to the “end of time” and God’s consummation of all things.

**These two senses include:**

- general eschatology (what God does with the world)
- personal eschatology (what God does with me)

## **CONSIDERING ”ORTHODOXY,” and ”ORTHOPRAXY”**

The “Apostle’s Creed” covers the core truths about historic, Biblical, orthodox Christianity. Orthodoxy is an ancient word that means “right belief.” Another important word to consider is orthopraxy, which means, “right action.”

It is one thing to know some facts about God. It is something else to have a relationship with God. Jesus offers people a relationship with Himself. This is more than just a mental awareness “that God exists.”

# MY DECISION FOR CHRIST

**Jesus said,**

*“Whoever sees the Son and believes in Him will have everlasting life and I will raise Him up at the last day.”*

*(John 6:40)*

“On this day I have decided to become part of God’s family by asking Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and become Lord of my life.


With God’s help I want to serve Him, follow His plan for my life, and live as Christ would have me to do. I dedicate my heart and my life to Jesus from this moment on. “Dear Lord, hold me to it!”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT TO DO NOW AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST:

- Pray often (talk to God, just from your heart and in your own words. He is listening! And the Lord is eager to hear your prayers)
- Read the Bible daily. Growth in Christ depends on growth in His word.
- Find a good church and become consistently involved.
- Tell others about Jesus; share your testimony of what He has done for you.
- Invest all that you are, all that you have, all that you ever hope to be in this, the most important reality of life . . . your relationship with God.



If this booklet has moved you to pray and call on God or you've made a decision for Christ just now, our organization would be honored to hear from you.

If you do not have a Bible and would like to request one, or if you have other spiritual needs, write to:

**Rev. Alex McFarland**

PO Box 485

Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

Or email through our website:

[alexmcfarland.com](http://alexmcfarland.com)

1. To learn more about early church creedal statements and the New Testament, we recommend a book by a trusted colleague, Gary R. Habermas, PhD. His book on this subject is, *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press.
2. This material is adapted from McFarland, Alex. *10 Answers for Skeptics*. Carol Stream, Illinois: Bethany House, 2014.









