

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THOSE IN

# WICCA

### A LOVING CHALLENGE FOR THOSE IN WICCA AND OTHER OCCULT GROUPS TO RE-EXAMINE THEIR BELIEFS

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#### INTRODUCTION

If you are in WICCA, or in some other form of the occult, in love I challenge you to read what I have to say. I am not writing to condemn, but to share some vital information which could be of interest to you. If you read this and get nothing out of it, at most you'll have wasted an hour or so. On the other hand, if you read this it is just possible that this little booklet could save your life.

I write as a "Christian," although I think you will find me more open-minded and far more understanding of Wicca than most. I must confess that before I met any real Wiccans my view of witches was much like Dorothy's in the *Wizard Of Oz* when she encountered the Wicked Witch of the North. Then, in my work as a chaplain, where I have worked in a variety of settings [a psychiatric-substance abuse hospital, a hospice, a general hospital, etc.] I began to meet various staff and patients who were Wiccan. To my great surprise, they didn't fit my stereotype of witches at all. I witnessed them genuinely caring for others. I was also impressed with how they cared for others in their coven. I can honestly characterize most Wiccans I've known as "nice." Most are sensitive, intelligent, caring, and, in a number of ways, put many Christians I know to shame by how they are willing to sacrificially care for their own, and by how sincere they are in their beliefs. The majority are into white magic, not black magik [with a "k," signifying evil].

Several years ago a 16 year old come up to me after one of my spirituality groups at the psych hospital where I worked and said, "*Do you know the thing I don't like about your groups?*" I said, "*No.*" He said, "*You make me think!*"—Four months later this young man got into an argument with his dad, went down to his basement, put a rope around his neck and hung himself. They found scratch marks all over the wall where he tried to get free but couldn't. He died.—I don't cry easily, but I wept. What a waste! If only he had known that God was there for him.—"Was there something I could have said or done? *If only . . .*"

The reason I'm so passionate in writing you is because I don't want what happened to him in the physical realm to happen to you in the spiritual realm. I make no apologies. I am writing to make you *rethink* your involvement in Wicca, because I know some stuff you probably don't know. I'm not writing to judge you, and I'd appreciate it if you don't judge me before you hear what I have to say. If you have been turned off by many of the Christians you've known, or churches you've attended, I can relate. By the time I hit high school I'd written most Christians off as either hypocrites, nerds, or out-of-touch fundamentalists.—I was wrong. There are some awesome Christians out there. Maybe your stereotype of Christians isn't much better than mine was of witches, which is why I hope you'll read what I have to say.

Without wishing to be melodramatic, before you read any further, may I issue a gentle warning that there may be some spirits who do not want you to read what I'm about to say. In fact, you

may already be starting to feel spiritual opposition as you read this booklet [headaches, blurred vision, distractions, etc.]. Truth never needs to be afraid of the lie, so please don't give into their tactics. Have the courage to read on. Eternal issues are at stake. If you continue to feel spiritual opposition, whether you believe in God or not, I encourage you to experiment by praying the following prayer: "*Dear God, if you are there, I want to know the truth. Please protect me from all evil as I read this booklet, and bind all spirits who would deceive me or hinder my reading. Give me the courage to seek and follow the truth; whatever it is, wherever it leads. Amen.*"

To start with, may I say that I respect your deeply held convictions, and I do not doubt the reality of your experiences.—I *know* they are real and that Wicca works.—However, may I also point out an obvious truth that putting a loaded gun to one's head and pulling the trigger will also work. The question I feel you should be asking yourself is not, "*Does Wicca [witchcraft] work?*", but rather, "*Where will it get me in the long run?*"—Therein lies the danger. It doesn't matter how sincere or how good your motives are; if you're on the wrong train you're still going to arrive at the wrong destination. As a fellow traveler I'm here to both warn and to share some free travel advice. What you do with it is up to you.

Based on personal experience I believe the spirit world you are contacting is not nearly as good or as harmless as you've been led to believe. There are probably very few points where I would agree with Satanic high priest, Anton LeVey, author of the *Satanic Bible*, but on one point we agree. We both believe that the real power behind *all* of the occult, including Wicca, is Satan and his host of demons (who may disguise themselves as spirit guides, as benevolent spirits, as spirits of good people who have died, as gods or goddesses, etc.). Anton LeVey writes, "*There is no difference between 'white' and 'black' magic except in smug hypocrisy, guilt-ridden righteousness, and self-deceit of the white magician himself . . .*" [Footnote] LeVey believes that when people get into the occult, whether they know it or not, they are making their bed with the devil and his demons. And, while I am vehemently against everything LeVey stands for, I acknowledge that he is in a position to know about demons. It just so happens that his belief in the reality of Satan and demons coincides with what I've experienced and with what the Bible teaches.

If you know anything at all about witchcraft and Satanism, which I assume you do, then you know that dabbling in the spirit world of the occult has its dangers, especially if you knowingly or accidentally tap into the evil side. I think you know that an evil side does exist. You and I probably know some Satanists or black magicians who can conjure up some very powerful evil spirits.

In the last twelve years, mostly while I worked in psychiatric hospitals, I have had very close, intimate contact with well over a hundred Wiccans, Satanists, or those in Voodoo. I've listened as those in the occult have told me of having out-of-body experiences, casting spells and curses which work, of performing automatic writings, being in altered states of consciousness, levitating objects, practicing various forms of ESP, exercising mind-control over others, contacting spirits by means of ouija boards, being led by spirit guides, seeing spirit manifestations in their room, feeling the temperature of a room suddenly drop as an evil spirit entered, performing religious ceremonies, being skyclad [nude] as rituals were performed under a full moon [e.g., drawing down the moon], performing seances, etc.

I've also had Satanists tell of conjuring up demons, channeling demons, seeing the eyes of a goat turn red and demons come out of it. I've counseled two women who swear they were raped by [incubus] demons. I have had more than 40 Satanists and survivors of Satanic ritual abuse [SRA] tell of seeing *human* sacrifices, not to mention the many Satanists who have participated in animal sacrifices. I've worked with at least two people who claimed to be practicing vampires [sucking each other's blood], and the list goes on.

I am no stranger to the world of the occult, of which Wicca is at the right end of the spectrum, with Satanism, Black Magik, and Voodoo at the left (evil) end of the spectrum. If you are a Wiccan, in no way do I wish to imply that you are a Satanist. I know the difference between the

two. I am aware that you may or may not even believe in a personal devil. [May I say that if you do believe in demons, and if you are in over your head and are living in fear, there is hope.—Keep reading.]

The one common thread that ties all occultists together, whether Wiccan or Satanist, is that, rather than seeking a “God,” all occultists seek to control and tap into an alternative spirit world by means of magic spells, seances, spirit guides, etc. by communing with “goddesses,” spirit guides, etc. Most do so in order to gain power and/or control over their private lives, as well as those around them. The majority of Wiccans I know would probably deny the existence of a “God” in the Judeo-Christian sense of the word. Instead they choose to believe in gods, goddess, Mother Earth, a World Soul, spirits of the dead, etc.

## WHY DO PEOPLE TURN TO WICCA?

I believe we all have legitimate needs which we sometimes try to meet in unhealthy ways. For example, we can all relate to being depressed at one time or another, when all we can think about is wanting to feel happy again. These are legitimate feelings and wants. They become illegitimate or unhealthy when they cause harm. For example, some people who are depressed turn to illegal drugs and alcohol in order to feel good, rather than seeking the counseling or help they need to resolve the problems which caused their depression. In like manner, I readily acknowledge that all Wiccans have legitimate spiritual needs which they seek to fulfill through Wicca. The question I place before you this: *“Is Wicca a healthy or unhealthy way to satisfy these longings of the soul?”*

Why do so many people [mostly women] get into Wicca?—I can think of a variety of reasons:

First, there are Wiccans who once considered themselves “Christian” [at least in name], and became disillusioned with Christianity. Generally speaking, the brand of Christianity they left behind was impotent, lifeless, boring, full of hypocrites, or just plain weird [people dancing in the aisles, speaking in tongues, etc.]. Some Wiccans may still respect Jesus [especially as it relates to the worship of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a goddess]; they just can’t stomach Christians or church.

Secondly, many of the Wiccans I’ve known are lesbian. Often they have love relationships which outshine many heterosexual marriages [which isn’t too hard to do in our society]. They usually leave the church because, based on their sexual orientation, they don’t fit into mainstream Christianity. Wicca embraces them with open arms [literally and figuratively].

Others find Christianity’s moral teachings too restrictive when it comes drugs, sex, abortion, etc.—*“If I want to party or screw around, and even have an abortion, I don’t want some God or some group of religious fanatics telling me what I can and can’t do with my own body!”*—Wicca becomes an alternative religious outlet that lets them do whatever they want.

Fourthly, it has been my (unscientific) observation that the majority of female Wiccans have had a history of feeling used and/or abused by men [physical, sexual, emotional, religious]. And, because of their perception that Christianity is male dominated, they are attracted to Wicca with its mostly female goddesses, along with a feminine view of the world [Mother Earth versus Father God]. They feel safer and more in control in a religion where they are surrounded by females and by men who, more often than not, are in touch with their feminine side. [I recently worked with a male patient who joined Wicca but preferred to be called a *she*.]

Since trust is always an issue where abuse has occurred, and since nearly one in three females in the United States has been abused in some way by age 18, I can fully understand why many females are drawn to Wicca. This may also explain why Wicca is female dominant, while Satanism is male dominant.

Fifth, I believe the fast growth of Wicca is the natural outgrowth of the feminist movement of the 1960’s, 70’s, and 80’s where, in many classrooms, the pendulum swung from *men are heroes*, to *men are bastards*. Being in Wicca may very much be a control issue and a pride issue:

*“Women are superior!” “Out with the old; in with the new.”*

And lastly, because the occult spiritual realm is real, and though you and I might disagree on the source behind its power, Wicca works. Things do happen, and there is a feeling that one’s spiritual needs are being met. When you cast your spiritual fishing line into Wicca you feel a tugging on the other end. ‘There’s someone there!’

Because eternal issues are at stake, such as Heaven versus Hell, reincarnation versus resurrection, not to mention social issues [sexual identity, abortion, marriage, child-rearing, etc.] I’m encouraging you to objectively re-examine what makes Wicca work.

## **A SIMPLE WAY TO TEST FOR TRUTH**

The issue before you is truth; not necessarily what you want truth to be, or what your friends consider truth. Are you willing to adjust your beliefs, however hard or easy, to what is actually true?

Let’s begin by discussing something on which we both agree: that there are *good* spirits and *bad* spirits whether you call them demons, dark lords, sinister spirits—whatever—the point is they are nasty dudes.

When I used to conduct my adolescent spirituality groups at the psych hospital I would sometimes ask, *“How many of you believe in God?”* The responses varied. Some said they were atheists (believing in no God). Other teens claimed to be agnostic (not knowing whether there is a God). Only about half to two-thirds would ever admit to believing in a real God. A few minutes later I’d ask the group, *“How many of you have ever played with Ouija boards, played Bloody Mary, etc.? Does it work? Are there really dark spirits out there?”*—Almost to a person they’d respond, *“Oh yeah.”* They’d get all excited, and then they would proceed to tell me about all the hair-raising things they’d seen or experienced. It was easier for most of them to believe in evil spirits, based on their experience, than to believe in a holy, righteous, eternal, creator-God.

I’d then say, *“If Satan and these dark spirits are real, then don’t you think that, just maybe, a God might also exist? If there is a dark side, then don’t you think there might also be a light side? If the spirit world is real, then doesn’t it make sense that, just possibly, there might be a Higher Power or a God out there somewhere?”* [The room would often grow quiet and you could see the lights turning on in their heads as they acknowledged,—*“Hmmm, maybe there is a God.”*]

As I stated earlier, I believe that when you contact your goddesses or spirits of the dead, you are really interacting with Satan’s demons in disguise. So, which of us is right, you or me?—Well, there may be a very simple way to find out, if you’re up to the challenge. If you regularly communicate with a spirit, simply command that spirit, *“In the name of the Most High God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to tell me the truth, ‘Are you a demon? I forbid you to lie!’”*—You may need to ask more than once, but brace yourself; you may be in for a shock. When you get an answer, respond, : *“Will this answer stand before the true and living God? Are you telling me the truth? I forbid you to lie.”* However, before you try this exercise, whether you believe in God or not, just in case, I recommend you ask God to protect you from any retaliation or harm they might wish to inflict upon you or those close to you. You could be in for the shock of your life.

## **EXPERIENCES WITH THE DARK SIDE**

Now that I have your attention, allow me to share some demonic encounters I’ve had. I don’t share these to sensationalize, but to reinforce in your thinking that demons are real, and to let you know that you are playing with fire. You see, I believe when you interact with demons you are playing on Satan’s turf, and he is out to kill you and to rob God of your soul. God wants you in heaven, Satan wants you in hell.

Once I was working with a young Satanist who wanted out of Satanism. A pastor’s wife and I met to pray with her. This young teen had a spirit guide, whom she said was a beautiful young

woman who had died years earlier, and was now giving her guidance. After talking with this teenager for some time, I began to pray for her. Suddenly, in her mind's eye, she saw her spirit guide turn into a ghastly demon. It was not the spirit of a dead person at all, but a demon who had disguised itself as a lovely young woman.

As I resumed praying, a deep voice from within the girl spoke through her and told me, "*Leave her alone! You can't have her. She's mine!*"—Then the girl began to literally pull out her hair, and we had to momentarily restrain her. I commanded the demon in the name of Christ to be quiet and "*go back down*"—and it did. Later the demon was cast out as the girl renounced her involvement in Satanism.

Another time a young man came up to me. He confided that he had become a Christian, but felt there were still demons in his life as a result of his past involvement with drugs, pornography, having a "spirit guide," being a former Neo-Nazi, etc.

My wife and I agreed to pray with him. We claimed the Lord's protection, based on the fact that as children of God we outrank and have authority over demons. After praying I began to address any demon(s) present. I said, "*If you are present I know you can hear me. I outrank you and have authority over you. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you, tell me your name.*"

All of a sudden the man began to convulse, the blood vessels on his neck stood out, his face turned red and the muscles in his face began to constrict, his fingers curled up like claws, and he began to hiss at me and make deep growling sounds. (And yes, it was scary.) One by one, as I addressed the demons, they revealed their true identity, and one by one as the man renounced the sins associated with each demon, we commanded them to leave, and they did.

While I was addressing one demon the man looked up at me and said, "*The demon wants to hurt you.*" I commanded the demon, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to tell this person why he couldn't hurt me. The man's arms, controlled by the demon, immediately pointed to the left and the demon said, "*Because of him!*"—I looked and there was no one there. I said, "*Who?*" The demon responded, "*There is an angel standing there.*"—I'm not making this up. This did happen.

On yet another occasion I was asked to do a consultation with two teenage Satanists at a psychiatric hospital. The one's dad was a Satanic warlock, and the other boy's grandmother was a high priestess in Satanism. They were hard core, generational Satanists. Since I believe that our behaviors grow out of our beliefs, I felt it would be a waste of time to address their inappropriate behaviors without addressing the beliefs behind those behaviors. Therefore, I raised the idea of a God, and began questioning them about their belief system. Almost immediately a demon manifested itself in one of the boys. His eyes turned glassy, his voice changed, and again a demon told me, "*Leave him alone! He's mine.*"

Since demons respond to the name of Christ, I commanded the demon, "*In the name of Jesus, go back down and be quiet.*"—Immediately it did. You should have seen those two Satanists. Their eyes got as big as saucers. They were blown away to discover that who I believed in was more powerful than their demons. From then on I had their attention, we got along great, and they listened as I spoke of Jesus.

Do you know why I believe in Jesus, besides the fact that belief in Jesus works and it brings great peace? One reason is because Satanism makes Christianity the main target of its attacks. In Satanism, virtually all of the worship services are targeted at putting down God and Christianity. [E.g., their black mass is the Catholic mass done in reverse. They drink blood as a mockery of the Christian sacrament of communion, etc.]. Satan and his demons know who their real enemy is, and it isn't Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Artemis, Gaia, Asherah, but Jesus. Doesn't that make sense? If Satan is real, as Satanists will attest and know, then he knows the true religion, and he will do everything he can to oppose it.—Who and what does Satan oppose?—Jesus and Christians.

I once asked a Satanist if he believed in God. He said, "*I believe there is a God, but I think*

*some day God is going to get his butt kicked.*”—I then asked this kid if he thought God created the universe. He said, “*Yeah.*” I asked him if he had any idea how big our universe was. [e.g., Driving at 55 miles per hour it would take 52 million years to drive to the closest star to earth, not counting our sun. If you imagine a one inch square with 200 dots inside it representing stars, it would take 160 acres of those one inch squares to represent the size of our Milky Way, which is only one-trillionth of the known universe.] I then asked him, “*Isn’t it true that Satan is a fallen angel and he can only be one place at once and that his main hangout is planet earth?*”—Again he agreed. I then told him, “*Look, Satan is god of a planet that is no more than a speck of dust in the universe, and yet God created and fills the whole universe. Now who’s going to kick who’s butt?*”

I also asked him, “*Why would you want to worship and serve someone whose method of working is based on evil and hatred, as opposed to love and goodness?*”—He began to stutter. He had no answer.

On numerous occasions before casting a demon out of an individual I’ve commanded demons to tell the person it was inhabiting what its objectives were in the person’s life, and how the demon felt about them. The demons would invariably respond by saying something like this: “*My goal is to destroy him/her,*” or “*to render him/her useless.*” “*I hate him/her.*”—Contrary to what you may have believed, demons (and spirit guides) are not your friends. They are suckering you and using you. You are a pawn being used in their war against God and the Kingdom of Light. And, whether you believe me or not, they hate you. There isn’t an ounce of love in them for you. If you are in the occult then you’ve made your bed with demons. This is heavy stuff!

Why should you even care? I can tell you in one word: “*Death.*”—Right now, this instant, you are one breath and one heartbeat from stepping into eternity. The moment you die [and you will die one of these days], if the Judeo-Christian God is real, and if witchcraft is a form of idolatry [worshipping something other than God], then, because of your refusal to worship the true God, you run the risk of being separated eternally from all that is holy and good. Imagine if Walt Disney came to the grand opening of Disneyland, was treated disrespectfully, was refused admittance, and what he saw was people worshipping and thanking Mickey Mouse instead of him. He’d be pretty angry. Well, how must the God of all creation feel when those whom He created refuse to worship Him, and instead worship wolves, snakes, Mother Earth, and other such things? If I were God, I’d be pretty angry too.

Romans, chapter 1, in the Bible teach that those who turn from the true worship of God to idols [demons] are under God’s wrath. God hates witchcraft in any form [e.g., Deuteronomy 18], in spite of which God still loves all people [John 3:16].—If God is the supreme ruler and creator of the universe, it only makes sense that God would be unwilling to share His glory with demons or anyone else [Isaiah 42:8]. Those in Wicca who worship the creature rather than the Creator set themselves up as the enemy of God. And let me tell you, I would not want to be in their shoes come Judgment Day.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “*I know of no promise that He (God) will accept a deliberate compromise. For He has, in the last resort, nothing to give us but Himself . . . He claims all, because he is love and must bless. He cannot bless us unless he has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own we try to keep an area of death. Therefore in love He claims all . . . ‘If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.’ Those are hard words to take. Will it really make no difference whether it was women or patriotism, cocaine or art, whisky or a seat in the Cabinet, money or science? Well, surely no difference that matters. We shall have missed the end for which we are formed and rejected the only thing that satisfies. Does it matter to a man dying in a desert by which choice of route he missed the only well?*”—(*The Weight Of Glory*, 1980 MacMillan Pub., N.Y.)

## **DOES A REAL GOD EXIST?**

If ever there was a diabolical plan to distort and twist the truth, it is over what I am about to

share. If you will give me a fair hearing, I think you'll be in for some big surprises. Simply stated, I believe that God revealed Himself to Israel as recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible, and in these last days has revealed Himself in the person of Jesus, as recorded in what Christians call the New Testament.

Some think of Christianity as “escapism” or as “pie in the sky.” The real issue, of course, is whether it is *true*. Is there really “pie in the sky”? To say, “There is a tunnel under this prison” may be an escapist idea but it may also be true. So how can you determine whether Christianity is true? Actually it is not as hard as you may think.

There are a lot of religions and people saying what God is or is not like, and whether or not He even exists. The only one who can say for sure whether God exists and what He is like is God Himself. As simple as this is, it is an important point to grasp. Only God can give the final word on Himself.

[By the way, when I use masculine pronouns for God I'm not suggesting that God is a “man.” According to scripture, God is “spirit” (John 4:24) and as such is neither male nor female. Further, the Bible says that God made both man and woman in His image (Genesis 1:27). Therefore, God contains both male and female qualities. I use masculine pronouns because it is generally the culturally accepted way of referring to God, and it also honors the “Fatherhood” of God as protector, provider, etc. I do not mean to negate the “Motherhood” side of God as nurturer, etc.]

Suppose one day a man (Jesus) walked this earth claiming to be God, saying that He was “THE way . . . THE truth . . . THE life” (John 14:6, emphasis mine). What if He claimed to be the incarnation of God, the great I AM, the Jewish name for God [John 8:58]. Now this would be something you could easily investigate.—Possibly God had chosen to write Himself into His own story and become a man.

In essence, this is what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus. In the New Testament Jesus is called almost every major name used to describe God in the Old Testament: “God,” “Yahweh,” “Lord,” “Creator,” “Savior,” “King of kings,” “the Alpha and the Omega,” “One,” etc. Even though Jesus taught that God is the only one worthy of worship (Matthew 4:10) He, nevertheless, received worship (Matthew 28:9,17). It even says the angels of God are to worship Him (Hebrews 1:6). If Jesus were not God, He had no right being called God or allowing others to treat Him as God. It would be the ultimate in blasphemy and arrogance. Jesus, a Jew, would have known that.

To believe that Jesus was *just* a good teacher (assuming He really claimed to be God) would be out of the question. He would either be much more than a *good teacher* (i.e., God), or much less (i.e., a liar or lunatic). Think of the hundreds of thousands who have died martyrs' deaths because of His claims. If He is not God, these people died for a lie, for a false idol.

C.S. Lewis—author, professor, and Christian intellectual wrote, “*A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*” [Mere Christianity, MacMillan Pub.; N.Y.]

There can be no middle ground. Just as no one is ever half pregnant (either they're pregnant or they're not), in like manner, Jesus is either God or he isn't.—Lunatic, liar or Lord, you choose.

If you really want to know the truth about God, it is not intellectually wise to ignore the life and teachings of the one major religious leader in all of history, and a Jew at that, who actually claimed to be God: Jesus. He is too important of a figure to pass over lightly. He stands alone in the claims He made. Christ produced anger, hatred, or worship from the people of His day. To take a middle-of-the-road position concerning Him is to totally fail to grasp the claims He made.

The enemies of Jesus clearly understood His claim to divinity. They tried to kill Him for blasphemy because He claimed *equality* and *oneness* with God (e.g., John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:33, Mark 14:61-64, etc.). All of the main writers of the New Testament, such as Paul and John, clearly taught the deity of Jesus [e.g., Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:6,7; Romans 9:5; John 1:1,14; Hebrews 1:1, etc.].

This is even more staggering when we realize that those saying these things were monotheistic (belief in one God) Jews. They were not talking about Jesus being a *god* in some polytheistic (many gods) Hindu sort of way. No, they worshiped Jesus as the incarnation of God Almighty (e.g., Matthew 28:9, John 20:28, Hebrews 1:6, Revelation 5:8-14, Philippians 2:10,11).

If Jesus is God, then He could state the truth about God (i.e., Himself) and about the only way to have a right relationship with God, because He is God. Correct?—What He says goes. What He says is right is right, and what He says is wrong is wrong. If Jesus teaches that witchcraft is wrong, then it is wrong. End of debate. If Jesus says Satan and demons are real, then they are real. Like it or not, if He was/is God then He could make such statements. If He wasn't God, He'd be crazy, Christianity would be false, and you should avoid it like the plague.

That is why Christianity is such an exclusive religion and why Christians sometimes seem so narrow-minded. If Christ's claims are true, Christians have no other choice but to proclaim Him as God incarnate, who shed His blood for us [Acts 10:28]. Jesus taught that He was the *only* way to God (e.g., John 8:24, 14:6; see also, Acts 4:12). Christianity is not a matter of likes or dislikes, but an issue of whether Jesus was telling the truth. Because Christ claims to be God, His teachings are to be regarded more highly than any other religion in the world. It does not mean we are to be disrespectful of other religions, or that 100% of what they teach is wrong, but Christians have an obligation to tell the world about Jesus and His claims (see Matthew 28:19-20).

Let me be very specific; if Jesus is truly God, then Wicca is not only wrong, but it is anti-God, anti-Jesus, and anti-truth. Wicca is like spitting in the face of Jesus and saying, "*Your coming into this world and your death on the cross for the sins of the world mean nothing to me.*"

"*What do I do with Jesus?*"—This is the one question I see most Wiccans avoid. There is no question that Jesus lived and taught. Either you disbelieve his believable life, or you believe his unbelievable claims to be God. Most Wiccans I know are unwilling to call Jesus a liar or a lunatic, but they are in a dilemma; if they admit he is God it means they must accept Jesus' view of the world and it also means Wicca is a counterfeit religion. One cannot embrace the teachings of Jesus and witchcraft at the same time, because they are diametrically opposed to each other. Christianity is monotheistic [believing in only one God] while Wicca is polytheistic [believing in many gods and goddesses]. For Wicca to be true it must somehow explain away the historical Jesus and his teachings. I don't believe it can be done.

#### THEFACTS:

Let me summarize some of the major evidences, as I see them, that Jesus was telling the truth. You be the judge.

1. The first is Jesus' character. No single human being who has ever lived from the beginning of time has so powerfully affected life upon this earth as Jesus of Nazareth. His teachings are profound. (If you have never read the New Testament account for yourself, a good place to begin would be with the *Gospel of John* or the *Gospel of Luke*). It is hard to read the account of Jesus' life and teachings and maintain that He was either a liar or a lunatic (the only other two alternatives). Either we believe His seemingly unbelievable claims (to be God) or we disbelieve His believable character.

2. The second is the historical evidence for His rising from the dead. This is crucial. Disprove the resurrection and you disprove Christianity. However, to do so, you would have to explain what happened to Jesus' mutilated body. For example, why didn't the enemies of Jesus just

produce the body if He never arose? How did the tomb, which was guarded by Roman soldiers, get empty? Does it make sense that Jesus' disciples could steal the body of Jesus when every Roman soldier knew that if a prisoner [in this case a corpse] escaped while under his watch it would be his life for the prisoners? Why wasn't there a fight and why weren't there killed disciples around the tomb? If the soldiers were asleep, how could the disciples have rolled away a stone weighing over one ton without waking the soldiers? Another theory says that Jesus, having been crucified by the Romans, swooned in a state of near death, suddenly revived, rolled away a stone weighing 1-2 tons, scared away the Roman soldiers, and told His disciples, *'Hey guys. Look, it's me. I've conquered death!'* [No way. It takes more faith to believe some of the theories which try to explain away the resurrection, than to believe that Jesus did arise from the dead as He foretold.] And what about the disciples and over 500 other people who claimed to have seen Him physically alive following His crucifixion? What about Thomas who was told to put his finger into the nail prints in Jesus' hands? What made the disciples, who were cowards before His death, suddenly change and begin preaching a message under the threat of death which eventually turned the whole Roman world upside down?— For further reading I highly recommend Josh McDowell's book *The Resurrection Factor*.

3. The third major piece of evidence is the documented accounts of Jesus' miracles from both Christian and non-Christian sources. If Jesus is God, then for Him to heal someone, or calm a stormy sea, would be no big deal, but merely a small repeat of what He did when He created the world. The New Testament clearly teaches that Christ, as God, is creator (John 1:3,10; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:1-2). One reason Christianity spread so rapidly was because of the miracles Jesus and His followers performed. If you were born blind and you could suddenly see because Jesus touched you, you would probably believe too! [Read the Gospel of John, chapter 9.]

4. Fourth is the trustworthiness of the eyewitnesses themselves. If you can't trust them, you might as well throw out the first three pieces of evidence. Of the original twelve disciples, not counting Judas who betrayed Christ [as foretold in Psalm 41:9], tradition tells us that all but John were killed for their belief and bold profession that Jesus had conquered death, that they had seen Him alive after the crucifixion, and that He was the one hope for mankind.

Would these men have willingly died for something they knew to be a lie?—Would you die for a lie, especially if it involved saying that some man had risen from the dead, when you really knew his body was decomposing somewhere? I think not.

Further, they passed on to the world its highest moral and ethical teachings. Would these teachings have knowingly been founded on a lie? No. The only logical explanation is that they saw Jesus alive three days later. The resurrection of Jesus is the central theme of Christianity. [See I Corinthians 15:3-8.]

In the gospel accounts the disciples didn't falsely cast themselves in a favorable light, as one would expect if they were making up the story. They recorded their own bickerings, Peter's denial, their cowardice, etc. Yet, these Jewish followers of Jesus, who only believe in one God (the one religion in all the world least likely to entertain such beliefs about God becoming man), spoke of the glory and sinlessness of Jesus, and called Him "Lord" and "God" (e.g., John 1:1,14; 20:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 9:5; etc.). And, as mentioned earlier, they even went so far as to worship Him (Matthew 28:9,17), an act reserved only for God in Jewish teaching as you know (Deuteronomy 6:13-15; Matthew 4:10).

And remember, these followers of Christ had lived with him day in and day out for three years, and yet they were willing to die for their belief that He was sinless and "God."—Could anyone live with you for even one week and think you are sinless?

5. Fifth is the reliability of the Bible as a historical document. There are over 24,600 partial or complete manuscripts of the New Testament in either Greek or Latin. The second best documented manuscript of antiquity is *The Iliad and The Odyssey* by Homer. It has around 600 manuscripts. Most ancient documents have fewer than 10 original copies still in existence, yet they are still considered "A-1" historical documents by historians. For example, there are only 7

extant (existing) copies of the works of Plato, and 5 of Aristotle's works.

Even if all of the New Testament manuscripts were destroyed, we could still reconstruct all of the New Testament, with the exception of about eleven verses, from the writings of the early church fathers before the year 325 C.E. Even non-Christian historians have to admit that by all scientific, archaeological, and historical standards applied to any ancient manuscript, the New Testament we have today is over 99.9 percent reliable. Not one word in a 1,000 is in question, and no major doctrine is in doubt.

Concerning your Hebrew Bible [called the Old Testament], up until 1947, most Jewish and Christian scholars had been using the Masoretic Hebrew text dated around 1,000 C.E. In 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the caves of Qumran, near the Dead Sea, by a young shepherd boy. They are easily dated around or before the time of Christ (100 B.C.E.-70 C.E.). They were virtually identical to the Masoretic Text [over 99% the same] which scholars had been using dated 1,000 C.E.

Add to this the reverence and painstaking methods that Jewish scribes used to copy, check and double check their handwritten copies of the Hebrew Bible, including using a mathematical numbering system to see that things "added up." With this said, you see why the entire Bible is the most well-preserved piece of literature from ancient times. Anyone can dispute its message, not so its historicity.

The Christian Bible as a whole is a miraculous piece of literature. Its 66 books (39 Old and 27 in the New) were written over a period of approximately 1,600 years, by 40 authors, on three different continents (Asia, Europe and Africa), in three different languages (Hebrew, Chaldean and Greek), with many literary styles (poetry, historical narrative, parables, proverbs, allegory), under all types of conditions (on the battlefield, in times of peace, in prosperity, in poverty, in captivity, at sea, in palaces, in the desert), by all sorts of people (fishermen, shepherds, kings, a physician, a rabbi, a tax collector, scribes, priests), on about every topic imaginable (God, salvation, sex, money, marriage, family, war, politics, religion, relationships, leadership, business, etc.), and yet the Bible reads, not as a fragmented mess, but as a unified whole.

It is my personal belief that the original writings were "inspired," perfect in every way (II Timothy 3:16-17). Modern translations are not inspired, but, for the most part, they are accurate translations of those which were inspired.

**6.** Sixth is the testimony of believers. Whatever one says, there are many people, like myself, of every age, nationality, social class, or century, who say they have experienced the living Christ. The accounts of restored lives, answers to prayer, healed bodies, and other evidences are hard, if not impossible, to explain unless Christ is alive. The New Testament, written by all Jews (except for Luke) bears witness to a living, resurrected Lord who is alive and well, and able to change lives.

**7.** The last major piece of evidence is prophecy. There are at least 48 specific prophecies in the Bible foretelling Messiah's (Christ's) coming, including where He was to be born (Bethlehem; Micah 5:2), and that He would suffer and die having his hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; cf., Isaiah 53; Zechariah 12:10).

If you have the courage to research what I am about to share I think you will discover that Jesus has to be the Messiah. Did you know that Daniel, in Daniel 9:24-27, prophesied the exact week Messiah would be killed?—Can I prove what I just said about Jesus' death?—Yes.

Let me write out Daniel 9:24-27 in underlined italics, with my comments in brackets. Read this slowly and think about each phrase. It says,

"Seventy sevens [a term sometimes translated "week," or a 7 year period of time.—The same term was used of Jacob working for Laban for 7 years in Genesis 19:28.] are decreed for your people [Daniel was a Jew, therefore these "people" are Jews] and your holy city [Jerusalem] to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness [usually through the offering of a sacrificial lamb, except this time the Lamb of God was the Messiah: see Isaiah 53:1-12], to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [which was in 445 B.C.E. by King Artaxerxes of Persia] until the Anointed One [Messiah], the ruler, comes there will be seven sevens [7 X 7 = 49 years], and sixty-two sevens [62 X 7 = 434 years. Add these 434 years to the 49 years and you have a grand total of 483 years], . . . after the sixty-two sevens the Anointed One [Messiah] will be cut off [die] and will have nothing. The people [Romans] of the ruler who will come [Titus] will destroy the city [Jerusalem] and the sanctuary [which Titus did destroy in 70 A.D.]”

Put in layman’s terms, this passage says that from the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, which we can easily date in 445 B.C. by King Artaxerxes, until Messiah would “atone” for sin and be “cut off” (die), would be a total of 69 “weeks,” (=483 years). **Using a Jewish calendar, which only has 360 days per year, starting at the time Artaxerxes issued his decree, it comes out exactly to the week Jesus was crucified [April 6th, 32 A.D.]**

Also, the Messiah had to be “cut off” before the destruction of the temple and the sanctuary, which we know occurred in 70 A.D. when the Roman soldier, Titus and his troops destroyed Jerusalem. (If you really want to understand this prophecy, please get a copy of the small book *Daniel’s Prophecy Of The Seventy Weeks* by McClain and read it. It will absolutely astound you.) What famous Jewish religious figure, claiming to be the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem, died having his hands and feet pierced, on a Day of Atonement, exactly 483 years from when Artaxerxes gave his decree, and all before Titus destroyed the sanctuary in 70 A.D.?—There was only one such Person.—Jesus.

If the first 69 weeks were literal, what happened to the 70th week you say? I believe that the Bible teaches that this 70th week has yet to be fulfilled. Jesus identified the 70th week as a 7 year period of time known as the Great Tribulation [Matthew 24; Revelation 4-19]. It is also known as the time of Jacob’s Trouble or the Day Of The Lord [Jeremiah 30:2-7; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Zechariah 14:1-9]. In between the 69th and 70th week is where we are right now. It is when God’s mercy and salvation have been extended to the Gentiles [non-Jews] as foretold in Isaiah 49:6.

Further, the Bible also predicted that Jesus would conquer death by being resurrected (Psalm 16:10; cf., Acts 2:22-27). How could the Bible predict such astounding things hundreds of years in advance if the Bible wasn’t true and Christ wasn’t who He claimed to be? The odds are astronomical that any one man could fulfill these exact prophecies made by many prophets over a span of several hundred years.—It was God’s way to be sure we wouldn’t mistake His coming.

Would you care to make a prediction that 600 years from now a great religious world leader will be born in a certain small town with a population of probably less than 1,000 people? And, could you predict 600 years in advance the exact year and week this person would die? The Bible did!

Some scholars used to say that the Bible writers had taken events from the past and written about them in such a way as to make it sound like they were yet to happen. However, with the discovery of the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, we can now prove that the prophecies were written before the actual events, especially the prophecies about Jesus. In Jerusalem at the Shrine of the Book, there is a complete copy of the book of Isaiah, with that beautiful passage in chapter 53 about the Messiah being the suffering servant. There were also eight copies of the book of Daniel among the *Dead Sea Scroll* parchments.

In a booklet of this size I cannot go into detail but I recommend you read Josh McDowell’s book, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict Volume 1*, for more on this subject.

The Bible also predicts future events still to come. According to the Bible, God will not let sin and evil go on forever. There is a day coming when Messiah is going to return and set up His kingdom, head-quartered in Jerusalem, here on this earth. What many Jews failed to realize is that Messiah had to first come as the atoning sacrifice for sin [Isaiah 53] before He would return a second time as King and Judge.

Concerning Jesus' second coming, He said that no one would know the exact day or hour of His return, but He did say that we would know it was getting close when we began to see certain signs (Matthew 24:33).

Let me highlight a few signs which the Bible prophesies will happen as the end of the age draws to a close. It makes me believe that Christ's return is near, *very near*. And once again, ask yourself, "*If the New Testament isn't inspired by God, how could it give predictions 2,000 years ago that read as though they were off the front page of today's newspaper?*" If you went to a theater to see a play you had already seen before, and you happened to arrive late, you could tell, just by looking at the props on stage, what was coming next. The same is true about the Lord's return. The Bible is very clear concerning the props which must be in place before Christ returns.

**a.** Virtually all prophecy centers around the nation of Israel because God has not forgotten His promises to the Jewish people. (There are also some wonderful prophesies for non-Jews.) The Bible predicted that Israel would become a nation again [Daniel 9:27; Ezekiel 37:1-14]. After almost 2,500 years Israel did in 1948. Let me share a quote from Dr. Paul Meier concerning Israel becoming a nation:

*"In the Torah, Moses wrote (Leviticus 26:18 and elsewhere) that in the future, whenever Israel sins greatly as a nation God will allow calamity to come their way. He will however, give them time to repent. If they, as a nation, do not repent after their warning period, then the remainder of their punishment will be multiplied by seven.*

*Over 600 years before the birth of Jesus, God used Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel, to show Israel her sin. In Ezekiel 4:3-6, God told the prophet to lie on his side for 430 days to signify the 430 years Israel would spend in exile for her sins. Another contemporary of Daniel's and Ezekiel's, the prophet Jeremiah, predicted that the first 70 years of that 430 years would be a Babylonian exile (Jeremiah 25:11). That was Israel's warning period.*

*Sure enough, as predicted, Nebuchadnezzar came along and transported the Jews from Jerusalem to Babylon in 606 B.C. Then 70 years later; Cyrus the Great of Persian [probably Queen Esther's son] conquered Babylon in 536 B.C. and said he would pay for the millions of Jews to go back to Jerusalem. But the Jews refused. Only 50,000 devout Jews went back. The rest didn't want to interrupt their businesses in Babylon (now Iraq).*

*This obviously made God angry, so take 430 years of exile, subtract 70 years of warning, and multiply the remaining 360 years times 7, as Moses instructed in the Torah. You will get 2,520 prophetic years of 360 days each = 907,200 days from the day Cyrus made his decree to return to Jerusalem which comes out (are you ready for a shock?) to May 14, 1948, the day Israel became a nation."*

Had God forgotten His people? No. He was merely carrying out the prescribed judgement on them, brought about when they chose to disobey. [Do you ever get the idea that God takes our choices seriously? I do!]

According to Matthew 24:34 the generation of people alive when Israel becomes a nation will not die until the Lord returns. Most consider a generation 70-80 years. If my understanding of this passage is correct (and, admittedly, I could be wrong), then Christ will likely return before the year 2028. It could be much sooner, possibly closer to the year 2,000.

**b.** Another event the Bible predicts is that there will be a coming together of 10 nations recreating the old Roman Empire (Daniel 7:21-25; Revelation 17:12). With the forming of the European Community in 1992 this prop is almost in place.

**c.** The scriptures have a great deal to say about a 7 year period on the earth known as the Great Tribulation (Daniel 9:26-27; Matthew 24; Revelation 4:19; Jeremiah 30:7; etc.). It is the 70th "week" Daniel talks about in the passage we examined earlier. It is a time when *all hell will break loose* on earth. Revelation 8:7-11 describes some of what will happen during this time. Among other things it says a third of the earth will be destroyed by fire and a third of the world's waters

will turn to *wormwood* (poisonous or bitter). It is interesting, but the word *wormwood*, translated into Russian is *Chernobyl* [as in the nuclear power plant that experienced a meltdown and spread radioactivity over much of Eastern Europe and Russia].

This is likely describing nuclear war and nuclear fallout. For example, after the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima in World War II, thousands and thousands of people died, not only from the bomb blast itself, but also from drinking water contaminated by radioactive fallout.

**d.** Another major prop is that an army out of the East will come toward Israel some day with an army of 200 million men. The Bible says the Euphrates River will dry up before them. Red China today can easily muster an army that size and isn't it interesting that the Euphrates River now has a dam across it with huge spillways so it could dry up before this army (Revelation 9:13-21). And remember, this prophecy was written when the entire earth's population was not much larger than 200 million and huge dams did not exist.

**e.** The Bible predicts that there will come a man called the Anti-Christ who will proclaim himself to be God and he will rule the world during much of the seven years of Tribulation. In Revelation 13 it says he will make everyone take a *sign* on the hand or forehead (the number "666") called the *Mark Of The Beast*. People who do not have it will not be able to buy or sell. With computer technology, computer chips, visible and invisible inks, and laser scanners (like you see at grocery stores) this is easily possible today.

With the instability of the world economy, it is very likely that there could be an economic collapse in the not too distant future.

**f.** During the Tribulation there will be plagues and diseases which will wipe out a fourth of the world's population (Revelation 6:7-8). With AIDS, the ebola virus, germ warfare and other diseases this is a real possibility.

**g.** The Bible predicts that the Jewish temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt (implied in Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15). Again, I understand that Israel already has it designed and the entire temple has been prefabricated and is ready to be constructed at a moments notice.

**h.** In Matthew 24:6-8 Christ spoke of an increase in *wars, famines and earthquakes*. We have already had two world wars. And, wars and earthquakes seem to be increasing.

**i.** In Matthew 24:22 Christ said that unless He returned to earth there would be "no life" left on this planet. Christ spoke this when the Roman two-edged sword was about the most powerful weapon on earth. Now, think of the nuclear, germ, and chemical weaponry that could be unleashed and ask yourself how much longer our world can survive?

One multiple-warhead nuclear bomb today has more power than all the explosives and bombs used by all the nations in World War II combined. Supposedly, if you dropped a fork from your kitchen counter at exactly the same time a major nuclear bomb exploded a few miles away, you would be vaporized before the fork hit the floor.

**j.** Revelations 11:7-9 says two prophets of God will be killed during the reign of anti-Christ, and people all around the world will view their bodies. People used to make fun of such a notion—until satellite TV.

**k.** Revelation 16:21 talks about hail balls weighing up to 100 pounds. Impossible you say? That's what scientists thought until the first atomic bomb was exploded forcing moist air high into the atmosphere creating hail balls large enough to dent the decks of Navy test ships near the explosion site. We are also expecting some major activity as some comet are scheduled to hit earth's atmosphere some time after 1999, or so I hear. Comets, as you know, are made up primarily of ice which would seem like hail.

**l.** The Bible predicts major breakdowns in the family and in moral values prior to Christ's return (II Timothy 3:1-5). This is happening. Look at the rise in abortions [over 30 million in the U.S. in the last 25 years], crime, unwed mothers, abuse, violence, suicides, rapes, drugs, gangs, etc.

There are many more prophecies I could list, but I wanted you to see that what the Bible talks

about is as real and as practical today as when it was written. In fact, the book of Revelations in the Bible is much easier to believe and understand now than when it was written almost 2,000 years ago.

I believe our days here on this earth may be rapidly drawing to a close. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”*

Read Zechariah 14 and the physical coming of Yahweh to Jerusalem. Compare Zechariah 14 with Revelation 19 and the physical return of Jesus, and suddenly it all starts to make sense. Passages which Jewish scholars for centuries have allegorized and spiritualized, may actually come true literally when Jesus, the long awaited for Messiah, returns to Israel.

## STEPS TO KNOWING GOD

Most who call themselves Christians, I think, will agree with what I am about to say. This section is extremely important. I don't ask that you automatically believe the facts I present. If you are serious about God, then do your homework. Take the time to look up the Bible verses I cite. Ask God to confirm in your heart whether what I say is true. Seek God as if your soul depended on it; it just might.

I intentionally list references from the Old Testament [Hebrew Bible], because I want you to see that the same New Testament truths were clearly taught or prophesied in the Old Testament. The Bible is a unified whole, with Jesus being the unifying theme which ties it all together.

The following four spiritual laws are clearly taught in the New Testament.

**Spiritual Law #1:** God is a God of love. He loves you, and has a wonderful plan for your life [I John 4:16; John 3:16; 10:10, Ephesians 2:10]. What God wants for your life is awesome beyond belief [Ephesians 3:14-21].

**Spiritual Law #2:** So, what went wrong? Why aren't more people experiencing what God intended? It is because our sin separates us from a holy God [Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23]. Sin is active or passive rebellion against God. It is not listening to God, but *“doing our own thing.”* Because God is “holy,” totally without sin or wrongdoing, we cannot just bop into God's presence [Isaiah 6:1-5, I John 1:5]. Just as you wouldn't be allowed to walk on someone's expensive white carpet if you had oily, muddy shoes, neither will God tolerate sin in Heaven. If we went to Heaven without a basic change in who we are, we would corrupt and pollute Heaven, just as we have the earth.

We all fall short of God's standard of perfection. If we lined up in front of the Grand Canyon, and tried to jump across it, some might jump further than others; but the point is, we would all fall short. [Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23]. Because Adam and Eve chose to sin, the Bible teaches that this sin nature got passed on to all mankind; the same way a leopard inherits its spots from its parents [Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-21].

According to the Bible, sin is more than murder, stealing, or adultery. From God's perspective sin is such things as boasting in our own achievements. Sex outside of marriage is sin. Lying, gossip, slander, cheating, cowardice, yielding to fear, not trusting God, coveting what others possess, not acting in faith, being disrespectful, putting worldly success or money before God, unforgiveness, lack of prayer, not keeping our promises, looking lustfully at someone, swearing, not acting in love, and a bunch of other things, are sin [Exodus 20; James 4:16; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8; Romans 1:18-32; 14:23; Matthew 5,6; etc.].

According to the Bible, we all stand guilty before God, no matter whether we have sinned a little or a lot [James 2:10].—It is like the man who said, *“But, Judge, look at all the people I didn't kill.”*—The point? None of us deserves to go to Heaven. We have all sinned against an eternal God and committed eternal sins.—Stating it bluntly, unless God forgives us, by God's

standard we're deserving of Hell. As a just and righteous judge, God cannot just sweep our sins under the carpet.

**Spiritual Law #3:** Christ is the only way to God. He died to pay the penalty for our sin. By his death, Jesus bridged the gap between a holy God and sinful man. Either we go to God by way of Jesus, or we do not get to God [II Thessalonians 1:8-9; John 3:16; Romans 5:8, Acts 20:28; I Timothy 2:5].

The story is told of a young woman who received a phone call from the emergency room of a hospital stating that her dad was deathly ill, that he may have only hours to live. Because she lived a couple hundred miles away, she got in her car and began frantically driving to see her father. As she was going through a small southern town, she looked in her rear view mirror, and there was a police car chasing her. Because she was going so fast, the officer didn't merely give her a ticket, he arrested her. The next day she appeared before the local county judge who told her that for going 50 miles per hour above the speed limit, her fine would be \$300 or three days in jail.

She pleaded with the judge. "*Your honor, you don't understand. I don't have \$300 with me, and I can't spend three days in jail. I must go to see my father who is dying.*" The judge said, "*I'm sorry, young lady, but the law says you must pay \$300 or spend three days in jail.*"

She began to weep, and the old judge was moved with compassion. To the surprise of everyone in the court, he stood up, stepped down from the bench, walked over, took off his robe, put on his sports coat, walked around in front of the bench, pulled out his checkbook, wrote a check for \$300, and laid it on the bench. Then he walked back around, took off his sports coat, put back on his robe, and resumed his seat. He said, "*Young lady, the law says you must pay \$300 or spend three days in jail, but I see someone has paid the fine for you. Case dismissed!*"

In essence, that is what God did for us. The Bible says that the penalty for sin is death [Romans 6:23]. When we stood condemned, without hope, God took off his robe of deity, put on a robe of humanity, became a man in the person of Jesus Christ, and died for us. God did for us what we could never do for ourselves [Romans 5:6]. According to scripture, Jesus is both God and man. He has two natures: one human, the other divine [Philippians 2:6,7 and Romans 1:3,4]. If we accept his offer of forgiveness, when we stand before God as Judge, we will be standing before the One who loved us and paid the fine for us: "*Case dismissed!*"

**Spiritual Law #4:** Knowing the first three laws is not enough. It takes a response on our part. While we cannot earn salvation, it is nonetheless a *gift* which must be received [Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-9]. John 1:12 says, "*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*"—How do we *receive* the gift of salvation?

First, we are asked to *believe* several wonderful truths: (1) that Jesus loves us, (2) that he died for our sins [past, present and future], and (3) that he arose from the dead [John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 10:9; I Corinthians 15:3-5].

Since it is our sins which have been keeping us from God, we must be willing to turn from our sin [Mark 1:14,15]. The Bible calls this *repentance*, which simply means to *turn around*.—For example, if you are on the wrong bus heading away from God, you need to change buses, and get on board with Christ. Or, putting it another way, if you have been driving your own bus, it means being willing to get out of the driver's seat, and inviting Jesus to take over as your bus driver. He can turn your life around, and get you going in the right direction.

The tale is told of a man who tightrope walked across Niagara Falls with a 200 pound sack of sand on his back. Upon successfully completing his feat he turned to a spectator and asked, "*Do you believe I could do that again?*" The person said "*Sure!*" The tightrope walker tossed down the sand and said, "*Then climb on my back.*"—Real believing is more than giving mental assent to the claims of Christ. God asks you to "climb on board," and commit yourself to him. It is more than believing something to be true in your head. It is a commitment of the heart.

If you confess your sins to God, and ask him to forgive you, the Bible promises you will be forgiven. No matter how big, or how awful, your sins are, God is more than willing to forgive you

[Isaiah 1:18; I John 1:9]. And, more incredible still, is the fact that these sins will *never* be held against you [Romans 4:7,8; 8:1].

Because we are weak and rather powerless when it comes to sin, God places his Holy Spirit in each person who receives Christ in order to help them keep from sinning. In other words, if you allow him, the Holy Spirit will power your bus [Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:7-14, Galatians 2:20; I Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13]. With God's Spirit living in and through you, you can also begin to experience God's peace and joy [John 14:27; Galatians 2:20, 5:22; Romans 7:14-8:11].

And last, but not least, if you receive Christ into your life, you become a child of God, part of God's family.—Let me share a simple illustration. Would you go to a stranger's funeral and ask the family of the deceased for a share of the inheritance? You could tell them, *'I'm a good person, and I do nice things for others.'*—Would that impress them? No. They'd say, *"I'm sorry, but the inheritance is for family members only. We don't even know you."*

Well, the same is true with God. You must be born into God's family if you expect to *inherit* what is God's. His inheritance is for his children, for those who *know* him. That is why Jesus said unless a person is *born again*, he or she will never see the Kingdom of Heaven [John 3:3-18]. The moment you *believe* in Christ, you are legally adopted into God's family. You inherit eternal life, and glory beyond your wildest imagination awaits you [I Corinthians 2:9; 3:21-23; Ephesians 1:3; Romans 8:31,32; John 14:1,2; Revelation 21:1-4].

When you die, how can you be sure you will go to Heaven to be with God? The Bible says, *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW you have eternal life."* [I John 5:11-13, emphasis mine]—How can you *know* you have eternal life? Does it depend on how you feel, or upon circumstances? No. It depends on God's promise. God promises that if you *believe* in Christ, and commit your life to him, you can *know* you have eternal life.

Scripture also says that if you ask *anything* according to God's will, God will hear and answer you [I John 5:14].—So, is it God's will that you *believe* in Jesus and *receive* him? Yes [II Peter 3:9]. Therefore, if you sincerely pray to God, and invite Jesus into your heart, you can do so with confidence *knowing* that God will hear and answer your prayer. This is where *faith* comes in: believing that what God tells you is true.

Speaking for myself, I entered into a relationship with Jesus when I was 14 years old. At a youth meeting I prayed and invited Jesus Christ to come into my life and forgive me of my sins.—And he did. It was that simple. To my amazement, it worked. God's peace flooded through me. Old feelings of guilt were gone. As I read the Bible, it finally began to make sense. God became very real to me. I also began seeing God answer specific prayers, which surprised and delighted me no end. While being a Christian has been downright hard at times, I wouldn't trade the joy of knowing Christ for anything in the world.

## A TIME OF DECISION

Christianity isn't merely a religion; it is a love-relationship with the living God. God is the lover of your soul, and he has proposed marriage to you. The question before you is whether you will say, "I do."

If you have felt the Spirit of God speaking to you, and you have become convinced in your heart and mind that what I have written is true, then you must decide what you will do with Jesus.

No matter how much evidence I give, the final step is still one of faith, even though there is solid evidence upon which to base that faith. For example, I can't *prove* that George Washington lived, but I can show overwhelming evidence that he did. By *faith*, I believe George Washington lived, and by *faith*, I believe Christianity is true, based on evidence, and the fact that it works. Jesus Christ has changed my life. By his grace, I am not the person I used to be.

A simple way for you to test the truthfulness of what I've said is for you to actively, honestly,

seek God on His terms [as best you understand], with a willingness to follow the truth, whatever that is. Not to honestly seek God with all of your heart, is to gamble with your soul. Choosing not to decide is a decision. To do nothing is the same as saying “No.”

To start with, you may want to pray something like this: *“Dear Lord God, if you’re there, and what this booklet says is true about Jesus, then I want to know. Please show me the truth.”*—Praying this prayer will not make you a Christian, but it is an honest first step in turning to God.

Secondly, read.—Read the Bible. Don’t just rely on what you have heard. Study it for yourself. Look up the Bible verses I’ve shown you. *Think* with your mind; *listen* with your heart. Allow God to speak to you.—Read some of the books I have made reference to in this booklet. There are well thought-out answers to virtually any question you can ask.

Some day you will stand before God, either forgiven or unforgiven. Hell is one of those horrible doctrines most Christians, myself included, don’t like to discuss. However, Jesus talked about Hell more than all the other Bible writers put together. Not to choose God, and accept his offer of forgiveness, is to choose a life of eternal separation from Him [Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:11-15; II Thessalonians 1:8-9; Matthew 13:40-43]. God is serious when it comes to sin. God hates and judges sin. If you refuse his forgiveness, and you hang on to your sin, you will die with your sin, like a person refusing to get off the Titanic. If there were any other way, Jesus would not have had to die. There is no other payment for sin acceptable to God other than the death of Jesus on the cross. Scripture says, *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved”* [Acts 4:12]. I once had a teenager who had been in Satanism ask me if God could forgive him because he had participated in ritually killing a baby and then he, along with the other Satanists, drank its blood, and ate it. My response was, *“If God can forgive you for the death of Christ, He can forgive you for the death of that baby.”* That Satanist later prayed to receive Christ.

There is no sin too great for God to forgive. He loves you. He died for you.

Due to your involvement with demonic spirits, it is important for you to break all ties and covenants you knowingly or unknowingly made between yourself and Satan [or any demon].

If you feel God speaking to your heart and you know that what I have written is true, and you know you need to establish a relationship with Christ, then pray the following two prayers. The first prayer is to God, the second prayer is to Satan breaking your ties with him.

*“Dear Lord Jesus, I thank You that You love me, and I believe You died for my sins. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You, against others and against myself. Please forgive me. As best as I know how, I invite You to come into my life. From this day forward I commit myself to Your love, care and protection. Deliver me from the power of Satan and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Make me the person You want me to be. Thank You for hearing my prayer. Amen.”*

The second prayer is a prayer renunciation breaking all ties with Satan and his associates. I warn you, the demon(s) are not going to be happy as you do this. You may want to invite a pastor or some other Christian friends to be present with you.—The good news is that you can be free of them.

Let me be as clear as I can. If you want the demons out of your life, if any are in you, then you must be willing to make a clean break from the occult and all sins associated with each demon. For example, if a demon of witchcraft is in you, everything associated with witchcraft must go: all paraphernalia [jewelry, your Book of Shadows, candles, literature, clothing, pictures, ouija boards, tarot cards, etc.]. If you are willing to make a clean, radical break from sin and embrace Christ, you can be set free (delivered) from the demons.

If the noise inside you gets to be too strong you can tell the demons, *“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I bind you to silence and inactivity.”* Before you begin renouncing Satan and his demons, I encourage you to go through the following steps, including reading the scriptures I give you (preferably out loud).

1.) Read Psalm 18. (Demons hate this one for it speaks of God’s awesome power and His

victory over His enemy.)

2.) Pray to God and ask for His angels to protect you, your family, your possessions, your pets, etc.

3.) Claim the fact that you are now a child of God and that because of your union with Christ you have authority over the demons (Ephesians 1:3-23; Colossians 1:9-14; 1:9-15).

4.) Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and consciously pray and claim the fact that God has equipped you with all you need to do spiritual warfare with Satan. By faith put on the “armor of God.”

5.) Renounce all fear. The Bible says that God has not given us a “spirit of fear but a spirit of power . . . (I Timothy 1:7). If you feel fear, don’t yield to the fear. It is very possible that you are feeling the demon(s)’ fear. They tremble at the name of Jesus.

6.) Command the demon(s) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that as they leave they are not to retaliate (get even) with you, that they are to harm no one or no thing as they leave, and that their leaving is to be one way and one way only—away from you, never ever to return. Then, in the name of the Lord Jesus, command them to leave and go to where the Lord Jesus Christ would send them.

When you are ready and have at least one other Christian present with you, pray the following:

*“Satan, I address you and your host of demons and call you to attention in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I bind you to silence. As a child of God, I have authority over you, and I outrank you.*

*“I renounce ever signing my name over to you in any way, shape or form; or having my name signed over to you by someone else. I announce that my name is now written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 3:5; 20:15).*

*“I renounce ever having been wed to you. I announce that I am now part of Christ’s church, His bride (Ephesians 5:25-32).*

*“I renounce any and all covenants I have made with you, Satan. I announce that I am now a partaker of the New Covenant bought by the blood of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 1:13-14).*

*“Satan, I renounce ever cutting myself and giving my blood for any assignments, ceremonies or covenants with you; and I renounce all blood pacts. Instead, I announce that I am trusting only in the cross and shed blood of my Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22-26; Galatians 2:20; 6:14).*

*“I renounce ever eating flesh or drinking blood in my worship of you. I announce I eat and drink only of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus, which I understand and accept by faith (John 6:48-57).*

*“I renounce any and all guardians and surrogate parents assigned to me. I announce that God is my Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit is my guardian by whom I am sealed unto the day of my redemption (Ephesians 1:3-14). Satan, I reject and renounce all curses and assignments that were made for me or by me for your service. I accept only God’s assignments for me and announce that Christ became a curse for me when He hung on the cross for me (Galatians 3:10-13).*

*“Satan, I break all ties with you and your host of demons. I renounce and break all associations with demons acting as spirit guides. I also renounce any and all involvement with witchcraft and other forms of the occult such as ouija boards, seances, palm reading, tarot cards, horoscopes, astrology, ESP, casting spells, levitation, astral projection, and automatic writings. [Add to this list any other things that come to your mind.] I renounce any and all sins that have given you and your demons legal access into my life.*

*“As a child of the Most High God, I take authority over you. I bind to you and your demons any and all transferences that may have occurred to other family members or friends because of my association with you. When you leave me, I forbid you to retaliate against me, my family, my pets or my possessions.*

*Satan, I command you and all your demons to leave me, never ever to return, and to go to where the Lord Jesus Christ sends you, effective now. You must leave my life!”-(From*

unpublished class notes:Dr. Neil Anderson, Talbot Seminary, and modified slightly by this author.)

**As a final step, in your own words, invite the Holy Spirit of God to fill all vacancies vacated by these demons.** Ask Him to “clean house,” so to speak, and cleanse you of all remaining demonic influences and fill you with Himself.

These words are not magical. The important thing is that you mean them [I John 5:11-15]. Once you have invited Jesus Christ to be a part of your life, I encourage you to find a loving church where the Bible is both honored and taught. Make public your commitment to Christ by getting baptized [Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 10:47, 48a]. Visit several churches before you pick a church. Pray about it, and listen to your heart. God can lead you. It is sort of like trying on a new pair of shoes. You don't necessarily want to buy the first pair you try on.

Continue to pray, read scripture, and allow God to speak to you. If you're a student in high school, check out such groups as Campus Life, Young Life, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, K-Life, etc. If you are in college, there are some wonderful college ministries such as Campus Crusade For Christ, the Navigators, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, etc. Groups such as these are a great way to begin to grow and to find support throughout the week. Even if you are not a student, call these groups to find some good churches in your area.

The story is told of a native witch doctor who had done much evil in his life, causing much needless suffering through his superstitious beliefs. As a result of the love and work of some Christian missionaries, he yielded his heart to Christ. He called a tribal meeting to share with his village the transformation that had occurred in his life. He said that before he came to know Christ it was as though there was an evil dog in him that made him do cruel, hateful things. When he repented, and asked Christ into his life, he said it was as though a powerful good dog of love and peace came to live in him.

As he spoke, a small lad sitting at his feet grew more and more absorbed with what he was saying. When the lad couldn't take the suspense any longer, he blurted out, *‘Did the bad dog leave?’* The former witch doctor paused and said, *“No, son, he still hangs around.”* The boy asked *“How do the two dogs get along?”* The old man replied, *“They fight all the time!”* The little boy, with great concern in his voice said, *“Well, which one wins?”* The old man, with a smile and a twinkle in his eyes said, *“The one I feed the most.”*—How true.

There are spiritual battles that will go on in your life. Just as God and angels are real, Satan and his demons are also real. In fact, the demons will try to come back in order to test how sincere you really were. Don't give them access back into your life. Stand strong. In fact, things may get worse before they get better. The New Testament has much to say about spiritual warfare. It is crucial that you begin praying with another Christian, or a group of Christians. Don't try to be a “Lone Ranger” Christian. It won't work.

Beside the books I've mentioned thus far, there are three books I highly recommend to help you gain and maintain spiritual victory in your life. The first two are written by Dr. Neil Anderson; *Victory Over the Darkness* and *The Bondage Breaker*. The third book is *Search For Significance* by Robert McGee. I also recommend such Christian writers as Charles Swindoll, Josh McDowell, and Max Lucado as profound, yet readable authors. If you like heavier philosophical reading, try C.S. Lewis [e.g., *Mere Christianity*, <http://cslewis.DrZeus.net>] or Peter Kreeft [e.g., *Making Sense Out Of Suffering*].

To grow as a new Christian, I suggest you contact any of the following Christian organizations for their assistance and literature. Check your local phone book, inquire at a Christian bookstore, or access them over the internet.

**Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc.:** <http://www.graham-assn.org>

**Campus Crusade For Christ:** <http://www.ccci.org>

**Fellowship Of Christian Athletes:** <http://www.gospel.com.net/fca/>

**Freedom In Christ Ministries [Dr. Neil Anderson]:** <http://www.ficm.org>

**Great Commission Ministries:** <http://www.greatcommission.org>

**Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship:** <http://www.ivpress.com>

**Josh McDowell Ministries:** <http://www.ccci.org/josh/>

**The Navigators:** <http://www.gospelcom.net/navs/>

**Youth For Christ:** <http://www.gospelcom.net/yfc/>

\* You can also log onto <http://www.gospelcom.net/> for addresses of other Christian organizations and resources.

Keep feeding the good side. May His grace and peace be yours.

## **APPENDICES A: JESUS' TREATMENT OF WOMEN**

Because I know that many in Wicca react unfavorably to Christianity because of the perceived New Testament view of women, I'd like to set the record straight [to the best of my ability].

Jesus was *not* a woman hater. Jesus's treatment of women was radically different from that of His contemporaries. In Christ's day women were not formally taught, nor could they actively participate in worship. They were made to sit at the back of the synagogues. When a Jewish mother gave birth to a son there was great rejoicing. When a daughter was born there was often sympathy and disappointment expressed. Only sons had rights of inheritance. According to the Talmud (the Jewish civil and religious laws) the books of Moses (the Torah) should rather be *burned* than to be transmitted by a woman. In the temple, women were walled off into a separate area, the Court of Women. Men would often divorce their wives if their wives could bear no children. Some divorce laws were so liberal that if a wife burned a meal it was grounds for divorce.

Women were generally under some man's authority and were without independent status or means of support. They normally stayed at home and when they went out into public they were veiled. Women were viewed as a major source of evil in the world (lust, adultery, prostitution, etc.). One sect of Pharisees, called Bleeding Pharisees, walked around blindfolded so as not to be defiled by looking at women. They were referred to as Bleeding Pharisees because they were always bumping into things and getting cut.

The relaxed manner in which Jesus dealt with women, the dignity and respect He showed them, was strikingly different from the norms of His day, and, I might add, much of our world today. Jesus broke the cultural norms of the day by treating women first as ~~p~~people, then as women.

Jesus freely and publicly talked with women in spite of what people thought. One such incident is the account of the Samaritan woman at the well recorded in John 4. In the eyes of the Jews, she was the lowest of the low. She was a Samaritan, a woman, and an immoral one at that, yet Jesus openly talked to her to the surprise of even the disciples. Scripture emphasizes that it was through this woman that many of the "men" in the village eventually came to believe. The first Samaritan converts (mostly men) were won to Christ, not through a man, but a woman's testimony.

Many other significant firsts in the life of Christ involved women. The first person to whom Jesus revealed His messiahship was the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:26). Several major New Testament doctrines were first given to women who then passed them on to men (e.g. "God is Spirit"—John 4:24; "I am the resurrection and the life."—John 11:25, etc.). The first person to perceive and understand the cross was a woman (Mark 14:3-9). Even though John and Peter were the first at the tomb first, the first resurrection appearance was not to them but to a woman, Mary Magdalene, who, along with some other women, were the first to proclaim the resurrection. The

first miracle performed was initiated by a woman (His mother) and involved a woman (Matthew 15:21-28).

From the cradle to the cross, women were vitally involved in virtually every area of Christ's life. Women witnessed His crucifixion (Matthew 27:55,56 Luke 23:49), accompanied His body to the sepulcher (Matthew 27:61), and prepared spices for His burial (Luke 23:56). Some of the last words spoken on the cross was to a woman, His mother (John 19:26,27).

Jesus was not uptight about women. He allowed women to touch Him. He touched them on numerous occasions (e.g., Luke 7:38, 13:13; Matthew 9:20, 26:7; Mark 5:23, etc.). He allowed Mary, Lazarus's sister, to take down her hair in His presence, a cultural sign of immodesty, and use her hair to wipe His feet after anointing them with ointment (John 11:2). He also allowed her to sit at His feet and be taught along with the men.—Culturally, only men were allowed to sit and be taught by rabbis. He commented her for it (Luke 10:42).

Many of the miracles in the New Testament involved healing of women (e.g., Mark 5:21-34, 5:35-43, Luke 7:11-17, 13:10-17, etc.).

Jesus made women the object of numerous stories and parables illustrating the nature and workings of God (i.e., “The kingdom of God is like women . . .,” “. . . a certain widow had a mite”). Women always had direct access to Him without going through their husbands or other men. Some of Jesus's closest friends were women (e.g., Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, etc.). Further, Jesus taught in the Court of Women (Mark 12:38-44).

In the account of the women caught in adultery, as recorded in John 8:1-11, Jesus went against the norms of the day and treated the men as equally accountable; “Let Him who is without sin . . .” According to verse 2, Jesus had been teaching at the temple, probably the Court of Women, when this woman was brought to him. The reason for believing that this clash probably took place in the Court of Women is that it is unlikely that the Pharisees would have taken a woman into the court reserved strictly for Jewish males. It is also interesting that only the woman was brought to Jesus and not the man (it takes two to commit adultery). According to the Law of Moses (cf., Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22) both the man and woman were to be stoned. By only bringing the woman the Pharisees could have been trying to disgrace Jesus in the eyes of the women present, as well as lash out at Him for His elevated treatment of women.

Unlike most Jewish genealogies, women figured prominently in the genealogy of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 1:3-6, (e.g., Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth).

Some stress the fact that there were no women among the twelve disciples. That is true. They were all Jewish males. (There were no Gentiles or Blacks either.) However, it is important to note that women were among the traveling companions of Jesus, along with the 12 disciples (Luke 8:1-3, 23:49,55, 24:10, Matthew 27:55). When people saw Jesus and the disciples coming they would most likely have seen a band of women accompanying them. That probably caused a few raised eyebrows considering the cultural climate of the day. (It probably would in our day too.) Any objective study of Jesus's dealing with women will show that He was remarkably free and relaxed around them. He treated them as people, showing them respect and honor equal men. He seemingly went out of His way to make that fact clear to the disciples, and to us who read the gospels today.

If you wish to read my whole treatment of this topic, download the manuscript: “*A Coward's Look At The Role Of Women In The Church*” at: [www.4seekers.com](http://www.4seekers.com). There I also clear up some of the misperceptions people seem to have about Paul being a woman hater, or as treating women as second class citizens. If one reads *all* of Paul's references about women we find that Paul loved and respected women, that he treated them with dignity, and that, considering the culture of his day, and judged by the standards of his day, he would have been considered a radical feminist.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

This booklet is one of several booklets in a series defending the Christian faith, written by

myself. You can read or download any of the booklets off the internet at: <http://www.4seekers.com>.

Due to the potential risk to my family by religious groups violently opposed to Christianity, such as some Muslim extremists and Satanists, I have chosen to write all booklets in this series under the pen name, Timothy Cross. I am willing to die for my faith, should it come to that; I just don't want to speed up the process.

Why did I choose the name Timothy Cross? Because it was *Timothy* who was told by the apostle Paul to guard the gospel [II Timothy 1:13,14]. And, what is the central message of the gospel? It is the *cross* of Jesus Christ [ICorinthians 1:18-2:2]. Further, by writing under a pen name, it takes the focus off me and puts it where it should be, upon the truthfulness and trustworthiness of Jesus Christ and him alone. As Titus 2:13 says, Jesus is our glorious "*God and Savior.*"

So you know a little about me, I am an evangelical Christian. I work primarily as a chaplain with a hospice [terminally ill patients], and in a psychiatric hospital. On more than one occasion, I have worked closely with Josh McDowell [Campus Crusade For Christ]. I became a Christian through Youth For Christ [Campus Life] in high school, and was very involved with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship as a student in college. I have always attended churches which are evangelical and interdenominational in flavor [e.g. Evangelical Free Church, Evangelical Covenant Church, Great Commission Ministries, etc.].

I hope this booklet helps you discover and walk in the awesome truth that, not only does God exist, but you are awesomely loved by God.

With deepest respect,

Timothy Cross

*"... in love he claims all."*—C.S. Lewis