

“I Hope God Exists” vs. “I Know God Exists”

By: Dan Jenkins

Is there any way that you can really know that God exists? Is believing there is a God like a wish? A wish is something we would like to happen, but there is little chance that it will. Is faith more like a dream that has nothing to do with reality?

Or is faith more than an idle dream but there is some level of expectation that the dream likely will become a reality? We live our lives serving God, and we make choices every day hoping that He does exist. Sometimes when we talk about God and heaven we say, “Well, I really hope that there is a God.” Those words can imply that the odds are that He exists, but there is a chance that He does not.

Or is there another level so that we can really know that God exists. Can mature faith and hope become a reality? Can I actually know that God does exist? Look at how God uses the word “know” when He came into Egypt to deliver the Jews from bondage.

At the burning bush God gave Moses what most would consider to be an insurmountable task. God answered all of Moses’ questions like “Who am I...What is Your name...Suppose they will not believe me?” God answered that third question in three ways. Moses was to cast his rod on the ground before the people, and it would become a serpent. If they did not believe

him, he was to put his hand in his garment, and it would come out covered with leprosy. If they would not believe these first two signs, then he was to take water from the river, pour it on the dry ground and it would immediately be turned into blood. Wishes and dreams can become hope. Hope can become so strong that hope becomes knowledge.

See this shown in the events after Moses left Egypt. Moses told the Jews God was about to bring them out of bondage and when that happened, “Then you shall know I am the Lord” (**Exo. 6:7**). The Egyptians would know (**Ex. 7:5**). Pharaoh would know this when all the water turned into blood (**Ex. 7:17**). Moses told Pharaoh that the removal of the frogs at the time Pharaoh selected was so that he might “... know there is like Jehovah God” (**Ex. 8:10**). Space does not permit looking how often this was said in Egypt (**Ex. 8:22; 9:14; 9:29; 10:2; 10:7; 14:4**; and many, many others)!

If you believe this happened in Egypt because you trust the Bible, how much greater can your faith be because of what we read about Jesus and His life. Here’s the application of this to our lives. Do you wish that Jesus really lived and did what He did? Or do you fondly hope that the odds are that these signs show He is Immanuel? It is far more than this. You can know that God is and that Jesus came. It is not a dream!

Why I Enjoy Teaching One-on-One Bible Studies (Part 1 of 2)

By: Selected

Preaching the gospel is fun! Standing up and proclaiming God's Word to five people or 500 people is one of the most exciting things ever! I wish more men (and young men) desired to be preachers!

But, here's something that I enjoy just as much as standing up and preaching to a bunch of people. I love an opportunity to sit down at a table one-on-one with someone who is not a Christian and open up the Bible with him/her. For some Christians (and some preachers, included), this can be an intimidating experience. But, when you do it, and the more you do it, the more comfortable you will become and the more you will enjoy it, to the point of wanting to do it more and more. Why do I enjoy one-on-one Bible studies with non-Christians so much?

I am always using the same textbook. I'm not a teacher who is handling math, science, history and health textbooks for multiple classes. I walk into a Bible study with one book. It's the same book for every study and works the same in every study. That makes it easy and fun.

The Bible does not change. In some fields of study, you have to keep up with the latest advancements, the latest findings, the latest updates, the latest amendments, etc. That can be exhausting, and no doubt, you might miss something. When I walk into a Bible study, I have absolute confidence that nothing has changed in the Bible from the last time I opened it. God's truth "is settled in heaven" (**Psa. 119:89**), "endures forever" (**1 Pet. 1:25**) and will not "pass away" (**Matt. 24:35**).

The Bible is always right. Sometimes people in a study will question what the Bible says. Sometimes they will compare what they have heard from someone else. Sometimes they

will even disagree with what the Bible is saying about something. But "none of these things move me," for "The statutes of the Lord are right" (**Psa. 19:8**) and His "commandments are righteousness" (**Psa. 119:172**). It's always right.

The Bible has all the answers. When I start a study, I know there is always a good chance that someone is going to ask a question for which I don't have the answer myself. That's ok. That doesn't make me nervous, because I know that the Bible has the answers. Sometimes the answer is, "I don't know, but let's find out." Or sometimes the answer is **Deuteronomy 29:29**, but for those things that are revealed to us, the answer always begins with, "The Scripture says..."

I can rely on the Bible and not me. Bible studies help me to build my faith in the Bible and to "trust in [His] word" (**Psa. 119:42**), for it will always "lead me in the way everlasting" (**Psa. 139:14**). [More next week]



Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: Chili Cook-Off after evening service. Please bring chili, sides and desserts. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Feb. 22: Ladies, there will be a wedding shower for Melani Guzman and Caleb Lehtinen at 11am at the church building. They are registered at Walmart and Amazon. Please see Nia or Emily for more info.

March 2: Monthly Potluck luncheon.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Allen Clifton who is still recovering from his biopsy.

Rick Bass who is still having tests done to get a correct diagnosis.

Draven Garcia who will be having knee surgery in March.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of February 16, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Dan Fielder
Offering..... Billy York
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Bryce Dolan/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Jack Jobes
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion Ferman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Kevin Sheeran..... Feb. 18
Barbie Dolan..... Feb. 18
Virginia Escojido..... Feb. 21

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Please get with Kelly Cannady if you would like a picture for the pictorial wall directory.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of February 9, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....54
A.M. Worship.....83
P.M. Worship.....54
Wednesday Worship.....57

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.