

# FINDING GOD

Guiding people of various religions and beliefs  
toward an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ

- By Cheri Henderson -



BibleSprout

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## **Acknowledgements**

Now and forever, I must first thank my Lord and Savior, who is my life, my breath, my hope, my strength, my provision, my redemption, my companion and guide, and my righteousness. Praise and glory to His name. I thank Him also for my husband and family, who support and encourage me and who sometimes call me out when I need it. For all of this I am grateful. I also thank Chris Carberg for believing in my work and for being thoroughly unashamed of the gospel. Finally, I thank you for your interest in reaching the world for Christ. Let's do this thing.

## Foreword

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. – Acts 1:8*

It used to be you had to travel the world to tell the world the good news about Jesus' atonement for our sins. Now the world is at our doorstep. This presents us with a new challenge: How can we help people from such disparate cultures come to an understanding and acceptance of the gospel, a concept as foreign to them as their worldviews are to us?

As a longtime Christ-follower and writer, I've researched the most prominent religions and created paths from each worldview to Christ. The result is a Scripture-laden, easy-to-use tool you can use to help friends, family members, neighbors and colleagues come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Be creative in how you use this material, whether as fodder for a Bible study or by sharing pertinent portions via hardcopy or email. The important thing is that you share. God calls us to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15), and we will all be held accountable for our stewardship of the gospel. It is our gift to share. Share it generously.

As you share, please share your stories with us about how God uses this material in your evangelistic efforts. May God help us all to finish our races strong!

## About the Author

Cheri Henderson is a blood-bought child of God, a wife and mother and grandmother, a writer and editor, and a musician. She is passionate, bold, insightful, often silly, and slightly hyperactive. The author of [halffullandoverflowing.com](http://halffullandoverflowing.com), Cheri maintains a writing

career despite the constant company of her English setter mixes, Churchill and Pepper.

## Introduction

As this book was coming together, I returned from a mission trip to a culturally diverse area. Unbelievers wanted to hear about what I did, and believers wanted to hear about what God did. I chose to focus on what God did. So when an unbelieving colleague heard God used our team to help about 30 people commit their lives to Christ, she was appalled.

“Don’t these people already have native faiths?” she asked incredulously. “Why would you take that from them?”

To her and all like her, I offer an analogy: If you asked someone for directions to California and instead got sent to Maine, would that person’s directions be helpful to you? Of course not, because you wouldn’t arrive at your intended destination. In fact, you would be as far from it (in terms of the continental United States) as you could be.

So it is with other faith systems. We as Christians are privileged to know there is only one way, one truth and one life (John 14:6). Jesus alone is our ticket to heaven – and not just heaven but a full and abundant life here and now (John 10:10).

We have each been appointed as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Like earthly ambassadors in foreign lands (for we are strangers and aliens here), we must first understand the culture we’re addressing. This guide will enlighten and equip you for the task at hand. I pray it also inspires and compels you forward in your witness.

Each section of this book contains a brief overview of a faith system, followed by a path from that worldview to Christ. The paths are written so that you can share the words directly with the person to whom you’re witnessing. Do this orally or by sharing the material as a hardcopy or via email. The important thing is that you share.

It’s time for the church to be the hands, feet and mouthpiece of Christ.

Let's get started.

## ***Christianity***

**Origins:** Christianity has its origins in the Old Testament, which prophesied hundreds of times of a Coming Redeemer or Messiah. Shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus were His followers first called Christians.

**Beliefs:** Christians believe in one God – the God of the Old and New Testaments – who expresses Himself as Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. They believe the Bible is the inspired, all-sufficient Word of God (1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). It teaches all have sinned and must be reconciled to God (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21). This reconciliation takes place through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, whom He sent to take the punishment for the sins of the world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 1:15). One day the wicked and the righteous (who are righteous only by their faith in Christ) will be resurrected and will face judgment. The wicked will be judged for their works and sentenced to the lake of fire; the works of the righteous will be judged to determine the extent of their reward for their faithfulness.

**Their Holy Book:** The Bible

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Jesus is the promised Redeemer, “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). He is central to the Christian faith. Jesus came the first time to bring salvation; He will come again to bring judgment (Matthew 25:31-46).

**Followers:** About 2 billion

**Teachings on Salvation:** Salvation is by faith through grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16). Those who trust Jesus as Savior and

Lord will be united with Him eternally at death; those who deny Him will be eternally separated from God in hell (1 John 5:11-12).

## **The Cultural Christian Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

### **Who is Jesus?**

More than likely, you've heard the words of Jesus throughout your life. You've probably sung Christmas songs about Him, and you've heard Bible stories about Him. The concept of Jesus gives us warm fuzzies. You've probably even heard people say – or maybe even said yourself – “He was a great teacher, and we all need to model ourselves after Him.”

But Jesus is much more than a storybook character, much more than a good teacher, much more than a good example to us. He is Emmanuel, God among us.

As C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*:

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who 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.”*

Or in the words of the Bible itself:

*In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9)*

*He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15-16)*

### **But Is the Bible True?**

It's pretty tough to believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be if you don't even believe that the whole Bible is true. But the Bible is, in fact, the single most corroborated work of antiquity. The fact that it has been carefully translated throughout the centuries continues to be affirmed as archeologists discover ancient manuscripts. Secular historians confirm its historical accuracy. And scores of fulfilled prophecies confirm its source could only be God Himself.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, instruction, rebuking and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)*

Speaking of scores of fulfilled prophecies, Jesus Himself fulfilled 324 Old Testament prophecies. To help us get our heads around the statistical significance of all that, let's play a game of visualization. Imagine that Jesus only fulfilled, say, eight prophecies. That alone is akin to covering Texas with 2 feet of quarters and asking a blindfolded person to pick out a marked one on the first try. So does the evidence show that the Bible and Jesus Himself are authentic? I'd put my money on it.

### **What Does That Mean for Me?**

That's a valid question. Does Jesus want you to acknowledge Him as a great teacher and a good moral example? Absolutely. Does Jesus

want you to live out His example on the earth? You bet. But He wants more from you – and still, somehow, less.

See, the more that He wants is your complete surrender to Him. He wants you to receive Him, to believe in His name and to become His child.

*Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

But He asks less of you than you would expect. Because in the eyes of the world, we have to work our way to heaven. But by God's grace, Jesus completed the work of our salvation on the cross. The good works you accomplish as His child are attempts to live out His love through your life. That's why the gospel is such good news.

*For it is by grace we are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Someday you will face judgment . . .

*. . . just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*

. . . and you will realize, on that day, that what you have done with Jesus matters. Are you ready to face Him as Judge or as Savior and Lord? Let today be the day of salvation.

## *Judaism*

**Beliefs:** As God's chosen people, Jews believe in one eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God who revealed Himself in the Scriptures revealed to His prophets, of whom Moses is preeminent. They believe God is a rewarder of good and a punisher of evil, and that He will send His Messiah to deliver His chosen people. Jews, like Christians, believe in the resurrection of the wicked and the righteous.

**Their Holy Book:** Known among Jews as the TANAKH, a Hebrew acronym for the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), the Nevi'im (the prophets), and the Ketuvim (writings). It contains 39 books.

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah because they expected Him to fulfill all the messianic prophecies in His first coming instead of fulfilling the remainder with His second coming.

**Followers:** 13.7 million, with 43 percent living in Israel

**Teachings on Salvation:** Unlike Christianity, Judaism does not teach the existence of original sin. Instead, they believe they are saved first by being a member of God's chosen people, and second by obeying the Torah. Salvation is a matter, then, of works and free will.

**The Jewish Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

**Waiting for Messiah**

God's chosen people are precious in God's sight. For 6,000 years, you've been waiting on Him. Waiting on a Deliverer. Waiting for your Messiah.

The Old Testament points to His coming. It also points to our sinfulness.

*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:1,2)*

### **A Child Is Born**

Messiah would come to us as a child, God in flesh, might in the form of a helpless babe.

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

### **A Final Sacrifice**

The Scriptures tell us Messiah must suffer to bridge our great chasm of sin that separates us from God.

*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. . . . Therefore, I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:5,6; 12)*

Messiah would die as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. No longer would a priest need to make atonement. No longer would blood need to be shed for the remittance of our sins. Messiah would become the spotless, perfect Lamb.

That perfect Lamb – that precious Babe, that suffering Servant – is Jesus.

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)*

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)*

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” (Revelation 5:12)*

### **A New Covenant**

Through Messiah, God offers you a new covenant, a perfect covenant of grace through which you may know perfect peace.

*Look, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by their hands to lead them out of the land of Egypt. I disregarded them, says the Lord, because they did not continue in My covenant. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. And each person will not teach his fellow citizen, and each his brother, saying “Know the Lord,” because they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins. (Hebrews 8:8-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

Your Messiah has come. And when He comes again, He will come as a conquering King, He will establish His throne in Jerusalem, and His saints will reign along with Him.

*And just as it is appointed for people to die once – and after this, judgment – so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)*

*At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky; and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30)*

Will you reign along with Him? Will you receive your Messiah?

## *Islam*

**Origins:** In the sixth century A.D., a trader named Mohammed claimed to have visions of the angel Gabriel, who laid out the precepts and practices of the Islam faith.

**Beliefs:** Muslims, who believe there is one God whom they know as Allah, accept the Old Testament prophets. "Islam" actually means "submission to God."

**Their Holy Book:** The Quran, which they believe Gabriel dictated to Mohammed

**Who Jesus Is to Them:** They view Jesus merely as a prophet, and they do not acknowledge His death and resurrection.

**Followers:** More than 1 billion people worldwide follow Islam, and its followers are generally found in what's known as the 10/40 window, the area between 10 degrees latitudinal north and 40 degrees latitudinal north ranging from the eastern side of North Africa to the western side of Asia.

**Teachings on Salvation:** Islam is a works-based religion, and salvation can be achieved – though is not guaranteed – through strict obedience to God's law and Muhammad's doctrine. A Muslim's path to heaven requires following the five pillars: confessing faith in Allah and his messenger, Muhammad; praying five times daily; giving to the work; fasting throughout Ramadan; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

### **The Islamic Path to Accept Jesus Christ as Savior**

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