

---

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

---

**CHAPTER ONE: HOW CAN I KNOW THERE IS A GOD?**

1. Do you think the majority of people in the world actually believe in God or do they "believe in the belief about God"? What about you? What is the difference between believing in God and believing in your belief about God?
2. What do you believe is the best explanation for the growing number of young adults who admit to doubting the existence of God?
3. The author mentions five major sources of doubt about God. Which of those do you believe is the most common reason people question God's existence? Why?
4. Which of the four arguments for the existence of God are most convincing to you: the cosmological, teleological, anthropological, or the experiential? Why? Which of those arguments do you think would be most persuasive for someone you know who doubts God's existence?
5. While acknowledging that all evolutionists are not atheists, the author still claims that the atheistic and evolutionary explanations for the origin of life are the same. Do you think that is fair? Why or why not?
6. The author discusses the risk of not believing in God if He is a reality, but are there similar risks in embracing belief in God if He doesn't exist? Explain your answer.
7. How would you respond to a friend or family member who said to you, "No matter how hard I try, I just cannot accept the idea that there is a God"?

**CHAPTER TWO: HOW CAN I KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?**

1. How would you respond to someone who said, "It doesn't matter whether the Bible has scientific or historical errors because it is the message of the Bible that is important"?

2. Have you ever doubted the truthfulness of parts of the Bible? If so, which parts have troubled you? How has this chapter helped you resolve those questions?
3. Of the various evidences for the trustworthiness of Scripture explained in this chapter, which one do you find most compelling? Why? Which one do you think would be most persuasive for a non-Christian? Why?
4. How would you answer someone who said, "I don't believe that the writings of Paul are as inspired as the words of Jesus Christ"?
5. The author says that "inspiration" and "inerrancy" only apply to the original manuscripts. Why do you think God didn't preserve those original manuscripts?
6. What do you believe is the greatest difference between the Bible and other religious books such as the Book of Mormon or the Qur'an?
7. If we really believe that the Bible is God's accurate and complete message to us, why don't we read it more frequently?

**CHAPTER THREE: HOW CAN I KNOW  
CHRISTIANITY IS THE RIGHT RELIGION?**

1. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone who embraces a different religious faith? What was that person's greatest objection to what you were saying?
2. Do you believe people reject the exclusivism of Christianity today more than fifty years ago? Why or why not?
3. How can Christians balance true tolerance with the exclusive claims of Christianity, especially when talking with a non-Christian?
4. Does the fact that the majority of the world embraces other religions ever cause you to doubt that Christianity is the "right" religion? Why or why not? How would you answer someone's question, "How could so many people be wrong?"

#### HOW CAN I KNOW?

5. If God truly loves all people, why would He send to hell people who simply chose the wrong religion?
6. The author mentions several ways Jesus is different from the founders of other major religions. Which of these truths about Jesus is the most powerful argument for Christianity? Why?
7. How would you answer the question, "How can God justly condemn people to hell who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ?" What passages in the Bible would support your answer?

#### **CHAPTER FOUR: HOW CAN I KNOW GOD IS GOOD WITH ALL THE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?**

1. The author begins this chapter with two stories about people who had two very different responses to the problem of evil in the world: one was driven away from God and the other was drawn closer to God. How do you explain those different responses to the same problem?
2. Has a painful experience in your life caused you to question the goodness or the existence of God? Have you resolved that conflict yet? If so, how?
3. Which of the three explanations the author cites do the majority of non-Christians use to reconcile the reality of suffering with the existence of God? Do you think the majority of Christians use the same explanation or a different one? Why?
4. Of the four truths the author says you can cling to when you are in "the tunnel of chaos," which do you find most encouraging? Why?
5. Do you think it is fair to attribute most of the suffering in the world directly or indirectly to sin? Why or why not?
6. Why do you believe so many Christians struggle with the belief that God is in control of all of His creation? Does a belief in God's sovereignty diminish man's responsibility for his choices? Why or why not?

7. If a Christian woman who had been brutally raped asked you, "Why would God allow this to happen to me?" how would you answer? Would your response be any different if she were not a Christian? Why or why not?

**CHAPTER FIVE: HOW CAN I KNOW  
I'M GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE?**

1. Have you ever doubted that there is life after death? If so, what precipitated that doubt? Have you resolved that doubt? How?
2. Do you believe most people think about their own death very much? Why or why not?
3. Do you find it difficult to embrace the author's belief that the majority of humanity will be in hell, rather than heaven? Why or why not?
4. How would you answer someone's question, "How could a loving God eternally torment people in hell?"
5. The author explains five realities about heaven. Which of these truths surprised you the most? Why?
6. If you were to die tonight, what is the greatest regret you would have about your life up to this point? Since the chances are you will not die tonight, what could you begin doing differently to erase that regret?
7. The author explains and illustrates what it means to "believe in Jesus" for the forgiveness of our sins. Do you believe most Christians have a correct understanding of what that means? Are you confident you have done that?

**CHAPTER SIX: HOW CAN I KNOW HOW  
TO FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO HAS HURT ME?**

1. What are the hardest kinds of offenses to forgive? Why?
2. Do you agree with the author's explanation of Matthew 6:14–15: "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly

## HOW CAN I KNOW?

Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions”? If not, how would you explain Jesus’ words, without explaining away His statement?

3. The author identifies four common misunderstandings about forgiveness that prevent people from forgiving. Which of those misunderstandings do you think is the greatest barrier to forgiveness? Why?
4. Do you agree with the author that genuine forgiveness does not always require or result in reconciliation with our offender? Why or why not? Can you support your position from Scripture?
5. What do you believe is the strongest argument for unconditional forgiveness?
6. Is it wise to tell someone who has hurt you that you have forgiven him or her? Why or why not?
7. What is the most important insight you received from this chapter? Why?

## **CHAPTER SEVEN: HOW CAN I KNOW HOW TO START OVER WHEN I’VE BLOWN IT?**

1. Do you have difficulty admitting failure? If so, is pride or fear the major obstacle to confessing your mistakes? Which factor do you think hinders most people from admitting their failures?
2. Why are some of the “reproofs” or negative consequences we experience from sin immediate, while others are delayed?
3. Reflect on your biggest failure in life (up to this point!). What was the most important lesson you learned from your mistake? Do you feel free to share that lesson with others to help them avoid a similar mistake? Why or why not?
4. Before reading this chapter, how would you have answered the question, “Why do forgiven people still have to suffer for their

mistakes?" Has this chapter changed your answer to that question? If so, how?

5. What is the longest "intermission" you have ever experienced? Did you use that time profitably? If you experience another intermission in the future, what will you do differently?
6. The author suggests not waiting until a forced intermission to answer some directional questions. Take a moment right now to answer the first question: "What three things would I like to accomplish before I die?"
7. Are you experiencing an intermission in your life right now? Are you sensing any changes in your attitude, emotions, or circumstances that may be signaling it is time for your new beginning to begin? If so, what are those changes?