REAL FAITH
Your Key to a Happy Life
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Real Faith—Your Key to a Happy Life  English (rK-E)

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TODAY’S world is full of problems. Wars, natural disasters, sickness, poverty, corruption, and other evils afflict millions of people. You too may face daily worries. Who can help us? Does anyone care?

We can be sure that God truly cares. In his Holy Word, he states: “Can a wife forget her suckling so that she should not pity the son of her belly? Even these women can forget, yet I myself shall not forget you.”

Is that not comforting to know? God’s love is far greater than a mother’s tender compassion for her baby— one of the strongest human emotions. Never will God abandon us! Indeed, he has already come to our aid in a marvelous way. How? By showing us the key to a happy life—real faith.

Having genuine faith will make you happy. Such faith will help you to avoid many problems and to deal successfully with problems you cannot avoid. It will also draw you close to God, bringing you peace of mind and heart. And real faith leads to a wonderful future—everlasting life in Paradise!

But what is real faith? And how can you cultivate it?

* See Isaiah 49:15 in the Holy Scriptures.
HAVING real faith is more than just believing that God exists. There are millions of people who believe in God yet deliberately do wicked deeds. Such “faith” is like counterfeit money. It looks real but is actually worthless. What, then, is real faith?

*Real faith is based on accurate knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.* These inspired writings tell us the truth about God and enable us to get to know him. They reveal his laws, purposes, and teachings. These teachings include:

- God is one. He has no equal.
- Jesus is not Almighty God. He is God’s prophet.
- God condemns idolatry in all its forms.
- Humans face a coming day of judgment.
- Countless dead humans will be resurrected to Paradise.

*Real faith moves us to do fine works.* Such works honor God and also benefit us and others. These fine works include such things as

- worshipping God.
- cultivating godly qualities—especially love.
- rejecting evil thoughts and desires.
- maintaining faith in God despite trials.
- teaching others about God.

God Safeguards His Word

We can be sure that God has kept the Holy Scriptures in a pure form for us today. God Almighty can protect his own book. His Word states: “The green grass has dried up, the blossom has withered; but as for the word of our God, it will last to time indefinite.” —Isaiah 40:8.
How Can You Cultivate Real Faith?

Ask God for help. The prophet Moses prayed to God: “Make me know, please, your ways, that I may know you, in order that I may find favor in your eyes.”* God heard and answered his prayer. Moses became an outstanding example of faith. God will also help you to cultivate real faith.

Make time to study the Holy Scriptures. Inspired Scriptures, including the Torah, the Psalms, and the Gospels, may be found in the Holy Bible, the most widely translated and distributed book in the world. Do you have a copy of these inspired writings?

Apply the counsel of the Holy Writings in your daily life. Faith, like a muscle, grows through use. As you exercise your faith, it too will grow. You will see firsthand that God’s advice works. Indeed, the practical counsel found in the Holy Scriptures has improved countless lives. Read on to consider some examples.

How Would You Answer?

- Real faith is based on what?
- Real faith prompts what fine deeds?
- How can you cultivate real faith?

* Exodus 33:13.
3 Practical Counsel That Improves Lives

IMAGINE that a new doctor moved into your area. At first you may be a little wary of him. But what if some of your friends sought his help and their health improved dramatically? Might you not consider consulting that doctor too?

In some ways, the Holy Scriptures are like that doctor. Some people are wary of consulting them. But when they apply the wise counsel found therein, their lives improve dramatically. Consider some examples.

Resolving Marriage Problems

"Early in my marriage, I felt that Dumas, my husband, neglected me," recalls Sumiatun. "In frustration, I often screamed abuse at him, hurled objects at him, even hit him. Sometimes I got so worked up, I fainted.

"When Dumas began to study the Holy Scriptures, I mocked him. But secretly I listened in on his studies from the next room. One day, I heard some verses read: 'Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord . . . The wife should have deep respect for her husband.' (Ephesians 5:22, 33) These words touched my heart. I asked God to forgive me for abusing my husband, and I prayed for His help to become a better wife. Soon Dumas and I were studying the Scriptures together."

The Holy Scriptures also say: "Husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies." (Ephesians 5:28) Sumiatun relates: "Learning these things affected us both. I began to bring Dumas a cup of tea when he came home from work and to speak to him in a kind way. Dumas, in turn, showed me more affection and helped me with the household chores. We both worked to 'become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another.' (Ephesians 4:32) In turn, our love and respect for each other steadily grew. Now we have been happily married for over 40 years. The wise counsel in God's Word saved our marriage!"
Controlling Anger

“I had a violent temper,” says Tayib. “I got into many fights and often threatened others with a gun. I also beat my wife, Kustriyah, knocking her to the ground in a rage. Many people feared me.

“One day, I read Jesus’ words: ‘I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you.’ (John 13:34) I was deeply moved, and I determined to change. When anger welled up inside me, I prayed to God for help to stay calm. My anger soon subsided. My wife and I applied the counsel of Ephesians 4:26, 27: ‘Let the sun not set with you in a provoked state, neither allow place for the Devil.’ We read the Scriptures and prayed together every night. This swept away the tensions of the day and drew us closer together.

“Now I am known as a man of peace. My wife and children love and respect me. I have many friends, and I feel close to God. I am a truly happy man.”

Overcoming Drug Abuse

“I ran with a gang of youths, was a heavy smoker, and regularly spent the night collapsed in the street, drunk,” says Goin. “I also used and sold illicit drugs—marijuana and ecstasy—which I kept hidden under my bulletproof vest. Although I looked and acted tough, I lived in constant fear.

“Then someone showed me this scripture: ‘My son, my law do not forget . . . because length of days and years of life and peace will be added to you.’ (Proverbs 3:1, 2) I yearned for a long and peaceful life! I also read:
‘Since we have these promises, beloved ones, let us cleanse ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in God’s fear.’ (2 Corinthians 7:1) So I quit drugs, cut off my association with the gang, and started serving God.

“I have now been drug-free for over 17 years. I enjoy good health, a happy family, good friends, and a clear conscience. And instead of lying in the street drunk, I sleep peacefully in bed every night.”

Conquering Racial Prejudice

“As a teenager, I lived a life of crime,” recalls Bambang, “and most of my victims belonged to an ethnic minority that I hated.

“In time, however, I began searching for God. My search led me to a group that met to study the Holy Scriptures. There, I was greeted warmly by people of the very ethnic background that I hated! I also saw that within the study group, different races mixed freely and happily. I was amazed! I then understood the scripture that says: ‘God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.’—Acts 10:34-35.

“Today, my heart is no longer poisoned by prejudice. Some of my best friends belong to the ethnic group I once hated. Through the Holy Scriptures, God has taught me to love.”

Abandoning Violence

“While still a teenager, I was jailed three times—twice for stealing and once for brutally stabbing a man,” says Garoga. “Later, I joined a rebel group and killed many people. After the conflict ended, I ran an extortion racket as a crime boss. My bodyguards accompanied me everywhere. I was a violent and dangerous man.

Bambang now enjoys happy association with people of different races
“Then, one day, I read this scripture: ‘Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury.’ (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5) Those words touched my heart. I moved to a new area, studied the Scriptures, and applied their counsel in my life.

“Now I am no longer a violent man. Instead, I am respected as a teacher of God’s Word. My life has true direction and purpose.”

God’s Word Exerts Power

These and countless other experiences prove that “the word of God is alive and exerts power.” (Hebrews 4:12) Its counsel is simple, practical, and upbuilding.

Can the Holy Scriptures help you too? Yes, they can, with whatever problem you may be facing. “All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproofing, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.”—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

Therefore, let us consider some basic teachings found in the Holy Scriptures.

What Do You Think?

- Which of the above experiences impressed you the most? Why?
- How can the Holy Scriptures help you?
PEOPLE worship many gods. But the Holy Scriptures teach that there is only one true God. He is unique, supreme, and eternal. He created everything in heaven and on earth, and he gave us life. Therefore, he alone is worthy of our worship.

God has many titles but only one personal name—JEHOVAH. God told Moses: “This is what you are to say to the sons of Israel, ‘Jehovah the God of your forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name to time indefinite, and this is the memorial of me to generation after generation.” (Exodus 3:15) The name Jehovah appears some 7,000 times in the Holy Scriptures. As Psalm 83:18 says about God, “you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”

No human has ever seen God. God told Moses: “You are not able to see my face, because no man may see me and yet live.” (Exodus 33:20) God lives in the heavens and is invisible to human eyes. It is wrong to make or pray to an idol, picture, or symbol of God. Jehovah God commanded through the prophet Moses: “You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion.” (Exodus 20:2-5) Later, through the prophet Isaiah, God said: “I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to graven images.”—Isaiah 42:8.

Some people believe in God but may view him as unknowable and unapproachable, someone to fear rather than to love. What do you think? Is God interested in you personally? Can you really get to know him, even draw close to him? Let us see what the Scriptures say about God’s personal qualities.
How Would You Answer?

- Why should we worship God?
- What is God’s name?
- Why should we not use idols or symbols to worship God?
- How does God use his holy spirit and angels to accomplish his will?

God’s Holy Spirit and His Angels

How does God accomplish his will? One way is by sending forth his holy spirit. God’s spirit is, not a conscious being or an angel, but his invisible active force, the limitless energy that he projects to accomplish whatever he chooses. God used this force to create heaven and earth. “By the word of Jehovah the heavens themselves were made, and by the spirit of his mouth all their army.” (Psalm 33:6)

Genesis 1:2 explains that when the earth was still covered with water and God was preparing the earth for human habitation, “God’s active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters.” God then used his holy spirit to create all forms of life on earth.

God also uses angels to carry out his will. God created them to live in heaven with him. Angels are very powerful. They convey divine messages and perform other important tasks. For example, the Scriptures refer to the Law given through the prophet Moses as “the word spoken through angels.” God’s angels also help his servants on earth. In fact, the Scriptures call God’s angels “spirits for public service, sent forth to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation.”—Hebrews 1:14; 2:2.
THE Holy Scriptures reveal God’s many wonderful qualities, enabling us to get to know him. For instance, the Scriptures tell us of God’s four main attributes—power, justice, wisdom, and love. Let us consider each of them.

Limitless in Power

Jehovah told Abraham: “I am God Almighty.” (Genesis 17:1) His power is matchless, limitless, and inexhaustible. By his power, God created the entire universe.

God never misuses his power. He always uses it in a controlled and purposeful way. He perfectly balances his use of power with his justice, wisdom, and love.

Jehovah generously uses his power in behalf of his faithful servants. “His eyes are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9) Are you not drawn to this powerful yet caring God?

A God of Justice

“Jehovah is a lover of justice.” (Psalm 37:28) He always does what is right and fair according to his own perfect standard.

God hates injustice. He “treats none with partiality nor accepts a bribe.” (Deuteronomy 10:17) He opposes those who oppress others, and he acts in behalf of the vulnerable, including “any widow or fatherless boy.” (Exodus 22:22) God views all humans without prejudice. “God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.”—Acts 10:34, 35.

Jehovah’s justice is perfectly balanced. He is never too lenient, never too harsh. He punishes unrepentant wrongdoers but extends tender mercy to repentant ones. “Jehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness. He will not for all time keep finding fault, neither will he to time indefinite keep resentful. He has not done to us even according to our sins; nor according to our errors has he brought upon us what we deserve.” (Psalm 103:8-10) God also remembers and rewards the faithful acts of his loyal servants. Does not the God of such justice merit your trust?
A God of Wisdom

Jehovah is the Source of all wisdom. “O the depth of God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge!” (Romans 11:33) His wisdom is unrivaled and infinite.

God’s wisdom is clearly seen in physical creation. “How many your works are, O Jehovah!” exclaimed the psalmist. “All of them in wisdom you have made.”—Psalm 104:24.

God’s wisdom is also revealed in the Holy Scriptures. King David wrote: “The reminder of Jehovah is trustworthy, making the inexperienced one wise.” (Psalm 19:7) Just imagine—you can draw on God’s boundless wisdom! Will you take advantage of that opportunity?

“God Is Love”

Jehovah’s principal attribute is love. “God is love,” the Scriptures tell us. (1 John 4:8) Love motivates and guides all he does.

God shows his love for us in countless ways. He gives us good things. “He did good, giving
you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts to the full with food and good cheer.” (Acts 14:17) Indeed, “every good gift and every perfect present is from above, for it comes down from the Father of the celestial lights.” (James 1:17) Through the priceless gift of the Scriptures, God reveals the truth about himself and teaches us his loving laws and principles. “Your word is truth,” said Jesus in prayer.—John 17:17.

God also helps us in our trials. “Throw your burden upon Jehovah himself, and he himself will sustain you. Never will he allow the righteous one to totter.” (Psalm 55:22) He forgives our sins. “You, O Jehovah, are good and ready to forgive; and the loving-kindness to all those calling upon you is abundant.” (Psalm 86:5) And he even offers us everlasting life. “He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.” (Revelation 21:4) How will you respond to God’s love? Will you love him in return?

**Draw Close to God**

God wants you to know him well. His Word urges you: “Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you.” (James 4:8) God called the faithful prophet Abraham “my friend.” (Isaiah 41:8) Jehovah wants you to be his friend too.

The more you learn about God, the closer you will feel to him and the happier you will be. “Happy is the man whose ‘delight is in the law of Jehovah, and in his law he reads in an undertone day and night.’” (Psalm 1:1, 2) Therefore, keep on studying the Holy Scriptures. Meditate on God’s qualities and works. Show your love for God by applying what you learn. “This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3) Pray, then, as did the psalmist: “Make me know your own ways, O Jehovah; teach me your own paths. Make me walk in your truth.” (Psalm 25:4, 5) You will find that God “is not far off from each one of us.”—Acts 17:27.

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**What Do You Think?**

- Which of God’s qualities especially appeals to you? Why?
- How can you draw close to God?
GOD created the earth to be mankind’s perfect home. His Word states: “To Jehovah the heavens belong, but the earth he has given to the sons of men.”—Psalm 115:16.

Before he created the first man, Adam, God chose one small part of the earth called Eden and there planted a beautiful garden. The Scriptures state that the Euphrates and Tigris (Hiddekel) rivers had their source in Eden.* The garden of Eden is thought to have been located in what is now eastern Turkey. Yes, the garden of Eden really did exist on earth!

God created Adam and settled him in the garden of Eden “to cultivate it and to take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15) Later, God created a wife for Adam—Eve. God commanded the couple: “Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:28) Clearly, God “did not create [the earth] simply for nothing, [but] formed it even to be inhabited.”—Isaiah 45:18.

Adam and Eve, however, rebelled against God by deliberately breaking his law. God therefore put them out of the garden of Eden. Paradise was lost. And the damage caused by Adam’s sin went further. The Scriptures tell us: “Through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.”—Romans 5:12.

Did Jehovah abandon his original purpose—that the earth be a paradise inhabited by happy people? No! God states: “My word that goes forth from my mouth will . . . not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11) Paradise will be restored on earth!

What will life in Paradise be like? Consider the Scriptural promises shown on the following two pages.

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* Genesis 2:10-14 says: “There was a river issuing out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it began to be parted and it became, as it were, four heads. The first one’s name is Pishon . . . the name of the second river is Gihon . . . the name of the third river is Hiddekel [or, Tigris]; it is the one going to the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.” The location and identity of the first two rivers are not known.

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6 What Is God’s Purpose for the Earth?
The dead will be resurrected: “All those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out.”—John 5:28, 29.

No more old age, infirmity, or death: “No resident will say: ‘I am sick.’” (Isaiah 33:24) God “will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.”—Revelation 21:4.

Plenty of good food: “The earth itself will certainly give its produce; God, our God, will bless us.”—Psalm 67:6.
A Coming Earthly Paradise

**Fine homes and satisfying work:** “They will certainly build houses and have occupancy... The work of their own hands my chosen ones will use to the full.”—Isaiah 65:21, 22.

**No more war, crime, or violence:**
Jehovah “is making wars to cease to the extremity of the earth.” (Psalm 46:9) “The wicked . . . will be cut off from the very earth.”—Proverbs 2:22.
The ancient prophets showed faith in God. They believed his promises and built their lives around them. What did those promises include?

Immediately after Adam and Eve rebelled in Eden, God promised that he would appoint someone to crush the head of “the serpent,” representing “the great dragon . . . , the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan,” destroying him forever. (Genesis 3:14, 15; Revelation 12:9, 12) Who would that Coming One prove to be?

Some 2,000 years after giving that first prophecy, Jehovah promised the prophet Abraham that the Coming One would be a descendant of his. God told Abraham: “By means of your seed [or, offspring] all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice.”—Genesis 22:18.

In 1473 B.C.E., God gave the prophet Moses further information about the “seed.” Moses told the children of Israel: “A prophet from your own midst, from your brothers, like me, is what Jehovah your God will raise up for you—to him you people should listen.” (Deuteronomy 18:15) The coming prophet like Moses would thus come from among the children of Abraham.

That prophet would also be a descendant of King David and would himself become a great king. God promised King David: “I shall certainly raise up your seed after you [and] establish the throne of his kingdom firmly to time indefinite.” (2 Samuel 7:12, 13) God also revealed that this...
descendant of David would be called “Prince of Peace,” adding: “To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite.” (Isaiah 9:6, 7) Yes, that righteous Leader would restore global peace and justice. But when would he arrive?

The angel Gabriel later told God’s prophet Daniel: “You should know and have the insight that from the going forth of the word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Leader, there will be seven weeks, also sixty-two weeks.” (Daniel 9:25) Those were 69 weeks of years—7 years each—that totaled 483 years. They ran from 455 B.C.E. to 29 C.E.*

Did the Messiah, the prophet like Moses and long-awaited “seed,” really come in 29 C.E.? Let us see.

How Would You Answer?
- What will the promised “seed” of Abraham do to Satan?
- What did God promise through Moses?
- What did David learn about the “seed”?
- What did the angel Gabriel tell Daniel?

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MORE than 500 years after Daniel prophesied, God’s angel Gabriel appeared to a young virgin girl named Mary, a descendant of King David. “Good day, highly favored one, Jehovah is with you,” Gabriel told her. (Luke 1:28) Mary, however, was afraid. What could Gabriel’s greeting mean? “Have no fear, Mary, for you have found favor with God; and, look! you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you are to call his name Jesus,” Gabriel explained. “Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father, and . . . there will be no end of his kingdom.” (Luke 1:30-33) What wonderful news! Mary would give birth to the Messiah, the long-awaited “seed”!

The following year, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. That night, an angel announced to local shepherds: “Look! I am declaring to you good news of a great joy . . . because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David’s city.” (Luke 2:10, 11) Later, Jesus’ family moved to Nazareth, where he grew up.

In the year 29 C.E.—the very year that the Messiah was due to appear—Jesus began serving as God’s prophet, when he was “about thirty years old.” (Luke 3:23) Many people came to realize that he had been sent by God. They said: “A great prophet has been raised up among us.” (Luke 7:16, 17) But what did Jesus teach?

**Jesus taught people to love and worship God:** He declared: “Jehovah our God is one Jehovah, and you must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.” (Mark 12:29, 30) He also said: “It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.” —Luke 4:8.

**Jesus urged people to love one another:** “You must love your neighbor as yourself,” he said. (Mark 12:31) He also said: “All things . . . that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them; this, in fact, is what the
“Messiah” and “Christ” both mean “Anointed One,” that is, one appointed to a position by God. God gave life to Jesus, the Messiah. By means of a great miracle, God caused Jesus to be born to Mary without a human father.

Why did so many people put faith in Jesus? The following are just a few reasons:

- He based his teachings on the Holy Scriptures.
- His teachings and his example attracted lovers of truth and justice.
- He performed many miracles by means of God’s power.
- He fulfilled many prophecies recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Law and the Prophets mean.”—Matthew 7:12.

Jesus zealously told others about God’s Kingdom: “I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth,” he stated. (Luke 4:43) Why is God’s Kingdom so important?

The Scriptures teach that God’s Kingdom is a heavenly government that will rule over the earth. Jesus, the Messiah, is its God-appointed King. The prophet Daniel foresaw that in heaven God would give the Messiah “rulership and dignity and kingdom.” (Daniel 7:14) That Kingdom will establish Paradise earth wide and reward God’s servants with everlasting life. Is that not the best of news?

How Would You Answer?

- What did God’s angel Gabriel tell Mary?
- What prophecy was fulfilled in 29 C.E?
- What did Jesus teach?
- What is God’s Kingdom, and what will it accomplish?
GOD foretold that he would appoint the Messiah as the Leader for all peoples. God knows what kind of leader we really need and chose the best Leader possible. What sort of Leader did the Messiah prove to be? A mighty general? A skilled politician? A wise philosopher? According to the Holy Scriptures, the Messiah was a very special prophet—Jesus Christ.—Matthew 23:10.

God made sure that Jesus was born perfect, holy. Further, Jesus resisted Satan’s every effort to corrupt him. In word and deed, Jesus flawlessly reflected God’s perfect use of power, as well as God’s justice, wisdom, and love. Consider how we can learn from Jesus’ example.

He used his God-given power to help others. Jesus really cared about people, and he generously used his power to fill their needs. “I feel pity for the crowd, because . . . they have nothing to eat,” he said. (Mark 8:2) Then Jesus miraculously fed the large crowds that had come to hear him teach.

Jesus also traveled about, teaching and “curing every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity among the people.” (Matthew 4:23) Understandably, multitudes followed him, and “all the crowd were seeking to touch him, because power was going out of him and healing them all.” (Luke 6:19) Indeed, Jesus came, “not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.” (Matthew 20:28) How many human leaders show such a self-sacrificing spirit?

He reflected God’s justice. Jesus adhered to the letter and the spirit of God’s law. As the Scriptures had foretold, he said, in effect: “To do your will, O my God, I have delighted, and your law is within my inward parts.” (Psalm 40:8) Jesus treated all—rich and poor, male and female, children and adults—with dignity, respect, and impartiality, as God does. Once, Jesus’ disciples reprimanded parents who were bringing their children to Jesus. But Jesus said: “Let the young children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to suchlike ones.”—Mark 10:14.

He displayed divine wisdom. Jesus had keen understanding of people. “He himself knew what was in man.” (John 2:25) When Jesus’ enemies sent men to arrest him, even these acknowledged: “Never has another man spoken like this.” Where did Jesus get his wisdom? He explained: “What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me.”—John 7:16, 46.

He showed godly love. Jesus also had tender compassion for people. A man

* For a discussion of the ransom, see chapter 5 of the book What Does the Bible Really Teach?
who was “full of leprosy” begged him: “Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus “stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him: ‘I want to. Be made clean.’ And immediately the leprosy vanished from him.” (Luke 5:12, 13; Mark 1:41, 42) Jesus truly desired to relieve that poor man’s suffering.

Does Jesus care about you too? Jesus himself answers: “Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for your souls.” —Matthew 11:28, 29.

Jesus is the best Leader we could possibly have. As such, he urges us: “Learn from me.” Will you accept his heartwarming invitation? Doing so will lead to a happy life.

How Would You Answer?

- What position did God give Jesus?
- What qualities did Jesus display? Which qualities appeal most to you?
- What invitation does Jesus extend to us?
LONG before Jehovah God made the earth, he created angels in heaven. In time, however, one angel began to desire the worship that rightly belongs only to God. By acting on that desire, he made himself Satan, meaning “Resister,” that is, one who resists God. How did Satan act against God?

Satan tricked Eve into disobeying God. Cunningly, he suggested that Jehovah God was withholding something good by forbidding her to eat from a particular tree. He brazenly called God a liar and implied that Eve should reject God’s guidance, saying: “God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad.” (Genesis 3:5) Eve foolishly believed Satan’s lies. She broke God’s law and influenced Adam to do the same. Ever since, Satan has been an enemy of all those having real faith. And he has continued to deceive people down to this day. How?

**Corrupted Faith Spreads**

Satan used idolatry and human traditions to corrupt the children of Israel. Jesus, the Messiah, told their religious leaders that because they taught “commands of men as doctrines,” their worship was in vain. (Matthew 15:9) When that nation rejected the Messiah, God rejected them. Jesus told them: “The kingdom of God will be taken from you and be given to a nation producing its fruits.” (Matthew 21:43) Jesus’ followers then became God’s favored people.

Satan next worked to corrupt Jesus’ followers. Did he succeed? Jesus foretold what would happen in a prophetic illustration. In the illustration, a man sowed fine wheat in a field. Later, an enemy sowed weeds in among the wheat. Both crops were left to grow until harvesttime. Then the weeds were separated from the wheat and destroyed. But the wheat was gathered into the owner’s storehouse.

Jesus then explained to his disciples what the illustration meant. He himself is the Sower. “As for the fine seed,” he went on, “these are the sons of the kingdom; but the weeds are the sons of the wicked one, and the enemy that sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is a conclusion of a system of things, and the reapers are angels.” (Matthew 13:38, 39) Jesus likened his true disciples to wheat. But Satan sowed false disciples, like weeds, in among these true followers of Jesus. Thus, as Jesus himself foretold, during the centuries after his death, false disciples appeared. These promoted apostate teachings, such as the Trinity, the idea that there are three persons in one God. The false disciples also began to practice idola-
try and to meddle in politics. Only a few remained true to Jesus’ teachings.

**Real Faith Is Preserved**

However, as Jesus explained, eventually a change would occur. God’s angels would separate out those without real faith to be destroyed. Then, those having real faith would be easier to identify. Finally, Satan the Devil, the original enemy of faith, would also be destroyed. Yes, real faith would triumph!

But how can you identify people who have real faith today? We will discuss the answer to this question next.

**How Would You Answer?**

- Where did Satan come from?
- How has Satan tried to corrupt faith?
- Explain Jesus’ illustration of the wheat and the weeds.

God’s angels are searching for people who desire to have real faith.
MANY people today claim to have faith. But Jesus taught that few people would have real faith. He said: “Broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the ones going in through it; whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the ones finding it.”—Matthew 7:13, 14.

How do people today show that they have real faith? “By their fruits you will recognize them,” Jesus said. “Every good tree produces fine fruit, but every rotten tree produces worthless fruit.” (Matthew 7:16, 17) Thus, real faith produces “fine fruit.” It motivates people to display godly qualities. How do they do so?

**Make Proper Use of Power**

People who have real faith use their power and authority to honor God and to benefit others. Jesus taught: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your minister.” (Mark 10:43) Similarly, men of faith are not tyrants, neither outside nor inside the home. They cherish their wives, assign them honor, and lovingly respond to their needs. The Scriptures say: “You husbands, keep on loving your wives and do not be bitterly angry with them.” (Colossians 3:19) “Husbands, continue dwelling in like manner with them according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since you are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered.”—1 Peter 3:7.

On the other hand, a wife who has real faith “should have deep respect for her husband.” (Ephesians 5:33) Wives should “love their husbands” and “love their children.” (Titus 2:4) Fathers and mothers who have faith spend time with their children and teach them God’s laws and principles. In the home, workplace, and elsewhere, they treat others with dignity and respect. They follow the Scriptural counsel: “In showing honor to one another take the lead.”—Romans 12:10.

God’s servants observe the Scriptural injunction: “You are not to accept a bribe.” (Exodus 23:8) They never abuse their position for selfish gain. Rather, they look for opportunities to help others, especially those in need. They heed the advice: “Do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16) Therefore, they experience the truth of Jesus’ words: “There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.”—Acts 20:35.

**Uphold Godly Justice**

People of faith willingly obey God’s laws, and for them “his command-
ments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3) They know that “the law of Jehovah is perfect . . . The orders from Jehovah are upright, causing the heart to rejoice; the commandment of Jehovah is clean, making the eyes shine.”—Psalm 19:7, 8.

Real faith also moves them to reject all forms of prejudice. They do not elevate one race, country, or social class above another, but instead, they imitate God. “God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.”—Acts 10:34, 35.

Real faith moves people to “conduct [themselves] honestly in all things.” (Hebrews 13:18) A person who has faith also avoids harmful gossip and slander. About the sort of person whom God approves, the psalmist David wrote: “He has not slandered with his tongue. To his companion he has done nothing bad.”—Psalm 15:3.

Reflect Godly Wisdom

Those who have real faith base their beliefs solely on the Holy Scriptures. They believe that “all Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproofing, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) In their relationships with others, they reflect “the wisdom from above,” which is “chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits.” (James 3:17) They shun ungodly traditions and spiritism and “guard [themselves] from idols.”—1 John 5:21.

Show Genuine Love

The prophet Moses said: “You must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force.” (Deuteronomy 6:5) People of faith show that kind of love for God. They respect God’s name, Jehovah. They “give thanks to Jehovah” and “call upon his name” in faith. (Psalm 105:1) God’s servants also heed his command: “You must love your fellow as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18) They reject violence and strive to “be peaceable with all men.” (Romans 12:18) Figuratively, they “beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears.” (Isaiah 2:4) As a result, they “have love among [themselves]” and enjoy a global brotherhood. (John 13:35) Can you identify such people today?

How Would You Answer?

- What identifies people who have real faith?
- How do people of faith reflect God’s qualities in regard to power? wisdom? justice? love?
GOD warns his servants to expect tests of faith. His Word says: “Be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.” (1 Peter 5:8) How might Satan try to destroy your faith?

Satan may use others, even your loved ones, to pressure you not to look into the Holy Scriptures. In this regard, Jesus foretold: “A man’s enemies will be persons of his own household.” (Matthew 10:36) Well-meaning family members and friends may be unaware of the wonderful truths found in God’s Word. Or they may fear what others think. However, the Scriptures say: “Trembling at men is what lays a snare, but he that is trusting in Jehovah will be protected.” (Proverbs 29:25) If you stop learning from the Scriptures in order to please men, will that please God? Certainly not! On the other hand, when we show real faith, God helps us. “We are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul.”—Hebrews 10:39.

Recall the experience of Dumas, related earlier. At first, his wife mocked him for his faith. But later she joined him in learning from God’s Word. Likewise, if you persevere in doing what is right, you may influence your friends and loved ones to do the same. In many cases, an unbelieving family member has been “won without a word through the . . . chaste conduct” and “deep respect” of one who shows real faith.—1 Peter 3:1, 2.

Satan also tries to make people think they are too busy to study the Scriptures. He would like the pressures of life—personal concerns and worries about money—to “choke the word” in your case so that your faith “becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19) Reject such a shortsighted view! The Scriptures say: “This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent

Have you experienced this kind of opposition?

Pray for God’s help

Associate with others who have faith
forth, Jesus Christ.” (John 17:3) Yes, continuing to learn more about God and Jesus, the Messiah, is essential to gaining everlasting life in Paradise!

Think of Moses, who was a member of Egypt’s royal household. He could have pursued wealth, fame, and power. Yet, Moses chose “to be ill-treated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin.” Why? “He continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:24, 25, 27) Yes, Moses had strong faith in God. He put God’s interests ahead of selfish pursuits, and God blessed him richly. If you do the same, God will bless you too.

Satan may try to prey on you in a variety of ways. But you need not become his victim. God’s Word urges us: “Oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) How can you oppose him?

**Keep studying the Holy Scriptures.** Read God’s Word every day. Study its teachings. Apply its counsel. By doing so, you will “take up the complete suit of armor from God,” with which you can resist Satan’s attacks.—Ephesians 6:13.

**Associate with people who have real faith.** Search out others who read, study, and apply the Holy Scriptures. Such ones “consider one another to incite to love and fine works, . . . encouraging one another.” They will help you to grow in faith.—Hebrews 10:24, 25.

**Draw close to Jehovah.** Pray for God’s help, and trust in him. Never forget, God wants to help you. “Throw all your anxiety upon [God], because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6, 7) “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but along with the temptation he will also make the way out in order for you to be able to endure it.”—1 Corinthians 10:13.

Satan taunts God, saying that no one will continue to serve Him if it means suffering trials. But you have the opportunity to prove that Satan is a liar! “Be wise,” God says, “and make my heart rejoice, that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me.” (Proverbs 27:11) Yes, be determined to show that you have real faith!

**How Would You Answer?**

- How might Satan try to undermine your faith?
- How did Moses show real faith?
- How can you endure trials of faith?
“THE righteous one—by means of faith he will live,” say the Holy Scriptures. (Romans 1:17) These words contain a thrilling promise that involves you. In what ways?

After completing his work on earth, Jesus, the Messiah, ascended to heaven to be with God. As his disciples looked on, “he was lifted up and a cloud caught him up from their vision.” (Acts 1:9) In heaven, God appointed him as a mighty heavenly King. In the near future, Jesus, “the Son of man,” will arrive “in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matthew 25:31, 32) When will this occur?

The Holy Scriptures foretell a period of worldwide trouble that would be the sign that the Messiah’s judgment of the nations was imminent. Jesus explained what that sign would include: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another pestilences and food shortages; and there will be fearful sights.”—Luke 21:7, 10, 11.

Today, we can clearly see Jesus’ words being fulfilled. Soon, Jesus will come to destroy the wicked. Finally, even Satan will be destroyed! Earth will become a global paradise. All people will live in peace with one another and even with the animals. “The wolf will actually reside for a while with the male lamb, and with the kid the leopard itself will lie down, and the calf and the maned young lion and the well-fed animal all together; and a mere little boy will be leader over them. They will not do any harm or cause any ruin.” (Isaiah 11:6, 9) “No resident will say: ‘I am sick.’ . . . At that time the eyes of the blind ones will be opened, and the very ears of the deaf ones will be unstopped.” (Isaiah 33:24; 35:5) Even the dead will be resurrected. “Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces,” and “death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.” (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:4) God’s original purpose for the earth will then be fulfilled. What a wonderful prospect!

Keep Growing in Faith

What sort of people will God reward with life in Paradise? People of faith—real faith!

Remember that real faith is based on accurate knowledge of God’s Word. Therefore, continue to get to know God and Jesus better!

Real faith is backed up by righteous works. God’s Word states: “Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26) By doing such good works, you will re-
flect God’s marvelous attributes—power, justice, wisdom, and love. Keep on striving to develop these godly qualities!

Cultivating real faith will bring you rich rewards. Indeed, it is your key to a happy life—both now and on into an everlasting future!

How Would You Answer?

- Where is Jesus now?
- How do we know that Jesus will soon come to judge the nations?
- When Jesus arrives, what will he do?
- How can you keep building your faith?
Have You Ever Wondered?

- What is the truth about God?
- How can you make your family life happy?
- Why are there so many problems in the world?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- What is God's purpose for the earth?
- Where are the dead?
- How do angels affect us?
- How can you draw close to God?

Millions of people have found satisfying answers to these questions by studying the Holy Scriptures. You can too.

Would you welcome more information? You may contact Jehovah’s Witnesses at [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org).