



THREE QUESTIONS WITH NEW-CHRISTIAN,



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Can you tell us about yourself?

I'm 18; a freshman; and a BioChemistry Major. I'm from Tennessee, but was born in India. My family is Hindu. Growing up, my parents took me to Temple and told me there is a God, but that's about it. I was basically agnostic. But I was still fascinated with religion and science. I'd watch God-debates, read books and ask people questions, but I never picked a side.

What compelled you to make your search for God a priority?

My search for God started with my High School "crush." I was heartbroken when she - a strong Christian - wouldn't date me because we weren't on the same page spiritually. She wanted me to come to God on my own, without her influence. I really respected that.

Orange Sunday at Laurel was my first time to attend a Christian church service. Through activities at the CSC – especially the Fall Retreat – I began learning new things about God. One night, Josh Zito and I talked about how world religions claim we must reach UP to God but Christianity claims we can never reach God because of sin; but God reached DOWN to us through Jesus who became a human. That conversation marked the moment I realized I really needed to learn about Jesus.

A week later I had my first one-on-one conversation with Tyler, and that day was easily one of the most blessed days of my life. Tyler then encouraged me to listen to the recording of the sermon he preached the previous Sunday, entitled, "See To It That No One Misses The Grace of God."

For a long time I had believed that the good we do in life must outweigh our bad and that's how we would be judged, by the balance of our deeds. But Tyler's message opened my eyes to a key part of Christianity I had been missing: Jesus Christ. I hadn't understood what exactly the birth and death and resurrection of Jesus meant. Now I was learning that Jesus didn't just come to *show us* the way to salvation, he came *to be* the way.

We aren't perfect. We mess up way more than we'd like to admit. But God so loves us and the world, He gave His only Son whose death would make sufficient payment for our sins and appease God's justice on our behalf.

I came to understand that I shouldn't be obedient to God because I fear Him but because I love Him. Like Tyler says, "Every other religion teaches us that we should do good TO BE saved by *our* merits, but Christianity teaches that we should do good BECAUSE we're saved by *Jesus'* merits."

What practical difference is Jesus already making in your life?

Finding Jesus has been life-changing. Regarding my purpose, I'm learning to use God's gifts and blessings to spread the gospel. I want to become a Doctor, and hopefully go on missionary trips and help people across the world get better physically, and guide them towards spiritual healing through forming a relationship with Jesus.