

Is the new birth real, and can it really transform a person's life? Have I really been born again?

Are the promises of God really true, and are they really meant to be taken seriously? Do I really believe them and live by them?

When I pray, am I really speaking to God, and is He really listening? Or am I merely talking to the walls or the ceiling or even to myself? Am I just pretending that God is there? Hebrews 11:6 says, "anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Do I really believe in prayer?

When I read Scripture, is God really speaking to me? Or am I just reading words and chapters, promises and warnings, stories and name lists?

Do human beings really continue to exist after death, and are heaven and hell really real? Many people fear death and are devastated by the thought of experiencing it. Sometimes heaven and hell seem almost mythical, unreal, hard to get a handle on, as far as everlasting realms of destiny are concerned; and some believers find it difficult picturing themselves in heaven. Do I really believe in heaven, and am I really going there when I die?

Is Christ really coming again? The fact that He has not returned for 1,963 years makes his coming seem more and more shadowy and unreal, less likely to happen at any time. In Luke 18:8, where our Lord said, "when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?", was He implying that there would be few believers left on the earth at His return, or that the expectation of His return will have dwindled almost to the vanishing point? Do I really believe that Christ is coming?

Does it make any real difference whether or not we really believe in these things? Will it change anything if we live our lives as "real Christians" rather than as "pretend Christians"?

This brings us to our third major question: