

## Why I Still Believe

### Part 1: Is Following Jesus Worth It?

w/ Ken Silva - August 14, 2022

#### Summary

Early on, when Christianity was still a new and sort of fringe belief, the Apostle Peter knew the best way for someone to understand what following Jesus was all about was for someone to personally explain it. For us today, it's not simply knowing facts or being able to debate philosophically... but to share from their own experience who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. In this series, we want to give those of you exploring Christianity some personal examples of what it is like to follow Jesus... your chance to safely explore and listen with an open mind. And to give those who are Jesus Followers encouragement in hearing what Jesus has done in real people's lives.

#### Partial Transcript:

Faith is interesting. On one hand it's a community endeavor. People come together with shared beliefs, hopes, purposes, even rituals.

But... on the other hand it's a deeply personal choice and experience.

Especially true when it comes to following Jesus.

Every JF follows the same Jesus, uses mainly the same scriptures. but each has their own relationship and reason for following.

- Every JF own experiences, stories, challenges, questions.

But, why would someone in 2022 still believe that an ancient Jewish rabbi from 2000 yrs ago was God in a human body?

Is it just blind faith or is there more to it? What does it mean to believe?

And does it actually make any difference in our real lives?

What is it like to follow Jesus... today? Is it worth it?

It's important to explore these questions not just philosophically but through real, personal experience.

**[Zoom out to show both of us]** So, let's talk about it... together.

#### WE:

When Xianity was still a new, fringe belief, the Apostle Peter knew the best way for someone to understand what following Jesus was all about was for someone to personally explain it... so he encouraged JF'S **1 Peter 3:15b.**

Not simply know facts and be able to argue/debate philosophically...but to share from their own experience who Jesus is and what it means to follow him...

So we wanted to give those of you exploring Xianity some personal examples of what it is like to follow Jesus... your chance to safely explore and listen with an open mind.

And to give those who are JF's we wanted to give encouragement and stories about what Jesus has done in real people's lives. And give examples of how you can share your story...

**If you've experienced it, you can share it.**

### **Episode Breakdown (Interview Portion)**

02:45 Who are you?

03:23 Who is Jesus to you?

04:35 How did you come to believe?

08:05 How would you describe your life as a Jesus Follower?

12:00 What have you discovered / enjoyed?

18:00 What questions are you still pondering?

19:40 Why do you *still* believe? Is it worth it?

22:00 What would you say to anyone exploring Jesus right now?

### **Discussion Questions for Groups:**

1. What stood out to you in Ken's story?
2. How would you describe/explain what it means to follow Jesus?
3. If you're willing, share with your group your earliest experiences with hearing about, experiencing, and/or following Jesus.
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable would you be in sharing why you believe what you believe? Why do you think that is? If you answered between 1-9, is there anything that might move the scale closer to 10?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?