

21T13b Why be a Christian? (Part 2)

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA coffee table. So, get your coffee or tea and Get comfortable so we can talk.

Before we start. If anything I say today is useful to you, it proves God can even use a person like me. If what I say is folly, then that's all me. I'm human and I am flawed.

Last time I asked you a question.

This was a question we posed over the dinner table. We usually hear a lot about the Cost of being a Christian, But what about the cost if you are not Christian. Or you might hear the things you can't do if you become a Christian. Instead why don't we talk about what we can do because we are Christian and things we get because we are followers of Jesus.

God promises to give us guidance & help. **Proverbs 16:9** *A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.*

And again in **James 1:5(NKJV)** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*

If we follow Jesus, He will give us help making decisions. We have the bible and the holy spirit to help us.

These verses promise us Peace and Assurance if we surrender control to our leader, King Jesus.

We also have a reason not to be overwhelmed by our circumstances. **2 Cor 4:14-18 (NLT)** ***¹⁴We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. ¹⁶That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.***

There are many, many more promises in the scriptures. But, I know all this in the Bible may not be compelling to everyone. So let me give you some EXAMPLES from real life. From my life and my families lives.

My life and my families lives are filled with what I'll call Beautiful Catastrophes.

A Beautiful catastrophe is a burden like health, finance, family issues. Burdens. The world sees catastrophe but the outcome is beautiful. A Beautiful catastrophe.

These Beautiful Catastrophes, Teach me, I can trust Jesus with the outcome. I've learned in the valley or on the mountain top. No stress. God defines success. No worry of outcome. It's truly beautiful.

HEALTH story. Health is one thing we can't control and can't buy. I had COVID-19 in March 2021. I was very sick. In COVID isolation unit at the hospital for a week. I was barely able to breath. This was a test of how much I trusted God. As I laid in the Hospital thinking I could die. I felt peace and assurance. I realized Death is just graduation to heaven. I trusted God loved my family and they would be taken care of if God was going to take me home. If I was not a follower of Jesus, I'd be scared to die. I'd be worried about my family. Peace and assurance is an amazing feeling, its complete serenity in the midst of the storm.

MONEY story. I work as a consultant. For more than ten years, I've only gotten paid when I have work. I have to trust God will bring me work to pay my bills. During this same time period our giving to Charities and Ministries has steadily increased. When we began our charity, we committed a large amount of our finances to fund the mission activities God was asking us to do. For years my work was good, we had plenty of money for our mission work. Then my work almost completely dried up. Very little work. God kept telling us to do our mission work. So we kept using our money for God's work. Now I was working less than a quarter of my old workload, yet we had plenty of money. Our bills shrank. Our costs of living went down while inflation went up. God's economy. We have learned if God wants us to do something, the funds will be there. If it's His will, it's His bill. I don't worry about money because I know the one I follow is trustworthy. I trust He will take care of my needs and provide for His plan.

Now this is not blind trust or blind faith. I trust because Jesus has provided. Jesus has proven to be trustworthy.

Now my wife and I both have stories about finding jobs which are miraculous. God truly leading us as His followers. And there are many other stories.

Through the process of following my Master Jesus. I have lost my insecurities. If He asks me to do public speaking, then I speak. If He asks me to give money, then I give money. I follow wherever Jesus leads. And my old selfish, self-centered life is gone, replaced with an exciting, amazing life of being a follower.

As an old Hymn says, "It is well with my soul". No matter what situation I'm in life. I trust God and it is well with my soul.

We talk around the dinner table about the bigger view. Seeing God's bigger plan at work. It is so **Exciting waiting on God.**

So I asked you Why Jesus? I say who else.

- No worries, No burdens
- Sleep like a baby
- He'll care for you
- Guidance & Help
- Hope & Peace
- Assurance.

Why wouldn't you choose Jesus.

The last question I have for you is Will You?

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your word the Bible. Thank you for loving us, even though we don't deserve it.

Thank you for showing us you are trustworthy, so our faith in you is based on you and your character.

Thank you for being my master. Leading me where I need to go, when I need to go. And giving me all I need to accomplish what you ask me to do.

Thank you for this amazing exciting life following you. Waiting eagerly for what unbelievable thing you will do next and extraordinary way you will use me. We pay in your name Jesus, Amen.

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or on our website or email me.

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.