

Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Best of Introductions Series 4- 8

by Ben Huot

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First Things

For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at
<http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at
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I even enjoy constructive criticism

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Real Love

To most people today
Romantic love is the highest bar
So do today's prophets
And artists and singers
Preach this message
That sex is love
But there is so much more to romance
And a romantic worldview
Sexual love is seen as the holy grail of faith
It is today's standard way to find joy in life
Does it take less faith
To believe in a loving God
Than to believe that fate will deliver
Faith that it will bring true love
Faith that the love you find in another
Will make yourself happy
That the love will be based on honesty
That the lover will be faithful
That the love will be enough
To survive the storms of life
Can another person make you happy
Can a person alone satisfy you
How can someone that doesn't know you completely
Give you all that you need

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How can a person that does know you perfectly
Accept you for who you are
It is truly a greater thing
To believe in love
Than to believe in God
It takes a greater leap of reason
To finding real peace
In the arms of another person
Truly it is great falling in love
But what is it to those who cannot
Those who are too old, ugly, or picky
To those who no one can love
Because they have so many problems
To those who never meet the right person
To those who cannot afford to wait that long
Romantic love is for the few
Can you really be true to another forever
Can they even to the end of this life
God accepts all and is always faithful
Not only can God truly love us
He does so while knowing who we truly are
He can do this because of who He is
Both Creator and Savior
Only He can bring the peace
That is absent in people
The joy of knowing the God of the universe
Cares about even us little peons
That He became one of us

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And showed us how to truly love one another
He knew this was necessary
Before He even created us
Why He loves us is a mystery
But it is the most real love we will ever experience
It is the most genuine acceptance
Of who we really are
We associate love with sex today
But romance is really much more
Romance is not just sex
Anymore than God is just human

She is The Only One

Can a person be too kind?
Can a person be truly good?
Dropped straight from Heaven
Like an angel walking among us
Wise as a prophet in Scripture
Sharp in mind and soul as a diamond
The best human counselor
The softest heart and strongest mind
Spontaneous in spirit and subtle in decision-making
Of the highest order of service and sincerity
She becomes brighter each day
And stands out more at night
Even if she now walks a little slower
And is a little less steady in stride
She is more careful with others feelings
And more gentle in words
She has fought the good fight with pain and illness
With honor and distinction
With each decision her family grows closer
Her only critic is herself
Always a Mary at heart
But a Martha in action
She has the inner strength
To make mountains move

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She is faithful and true

Her candle never grows dim

Her faith is like a lighthouse

She is always ready to see the Lord

She is the subject of the Sermon on the Mount

Her life is a beatitude

Conversations with God

I cannot stop talking
Of what the joy of the Lord brings
I cannot speak enough
Of what God has done for me
Each day I hear His voice
Each night He hears mine
I do not stop to pray
Because I never stop my conversation
With my Creator and Redeemer
In each frustration I experience
He guides me through the thorns
When I struggle as the sea does against the sand
He stands watch over me without ever blinking
There are times when doubt fills my mind and heart
Sometimes I can barely see as the glory of God blinds me
I constantly need to stretch my mind to wrap my head
Around what He reveals to me
I fight to get the words out before I forget them forever
For some thoughts of God there are no words
Language can only take you so far
The Bible keeps being written a new each reading

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On the hearts of His people
Who can really understand what God says
Who can truly master the word of God
We cannot understand the mind of God
Anymore than we can be perfect morally
How difficult it is to conceive of God's point of view
Even when we praise Him
We are just saying what is true
Just as God cannot swear on anything higher than Himself
So our worship is merely a restatement
Of what everyone already knows is both truth and fact
When we turn our face from God
We act out in sin
We understand why we need to fear God
When we ask to be forgiven
We cannot truly understand why He chooses to do so
Sin and evil are a mystery to many
But I think God's mercy is harder to explain
But God can only be approached with an appropriate attitude
With honesty and sincerity is where the conversation must start
Just as God always accepts us unconditionally
We must never disown Him
We blame God for evil
But who are we to criticize God
He is blameless but we are not
When we accept we need Him
But He does not need us
Our journey of faith has truly started

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Until we die we cannot estimate how strong God is
And how weak we are
But faith is not about knowledge
Faith is about worship and acceptance of our reality
Faith is about accepting how much we need God
Faith is about hating evil
But not evil-doers
Faith is an expression of loyalty and respect
But also love and gratitude
Faith is how we understand God
As there are no words that can truly bring us close to Him
As living through a problem too big for us to solve
To bring us victory over things we know not how to fight
Just as the laws of physics need to happen for the universe to exist
So must God be worshipped

Walking with God

Like the first person
Taking a step onto a new Earth
At the other end of the galaxy
Will it be a giant desert
Or a water world
We think we need
The biggest rush possible
Or life is not worth living
I propose a middle road
Where we live lives of dignity
A life that we can all live
A life striving for greater morality
Not for more money, power, and stimulation
A relatively quiet life
In a relatively rural location
Not very important
To the outside world
Is the best we can find here
The sage is said to know all
Without every traveling anywhere
How far did Jesus travel
What great school did He graduate from

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Was He royalty, military leader, or wealthy merchant
God who can go anywhere or do anything
Chose to spend His time
Talking to ordinary people
While living as an ordinary person
He healed His people
And rescued them from the consequences of their actions

God can count even if we cannot
Eternity is greater than 75 years
Why even focus on something so little
When you have so much more opportunity
And so much more of your life
If the greatest experiences of your life
All happened after you became an adult
How many greater things await you
After your death
We fight incessantly for wealth and power
But in Heaven the streets and walls
Are all made of gold and precious stones
If you can say you are truly happy
If you can say you experience real peace
Why does it matter if you own anything
Many take drugs to be happy
With the little they have
Many who are wealthy take drugs
Because they are still unsatisfied
If you could get to the perfect balance

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Without chemicals that can be poisonous
And without putting your life at risk
Why not try things God's way for once
We have as a society and as individuals
Tried finding joy under every rock
With every human vice or remedy possible
You cannot control your path to pleasure
Your drug of choice is then the one in control
If you cannot have freedom
To do what you don't really want to do
Why are you afraid to have the freedom
To do what you really want to do
If your Creator diagnoses you as needing a treatment
Don't you think you should at least try it
You have tried everything else under the sun
But you will only find God
When you search for Him
With everything you have inside you
Taking the plunge off the cliff
Hand in hand with God
Awakening from your present dream world
You can follow Him
Beyond the sorrow of now and here
You don't have to wait to die
To experience His joy and peace
You will have to give up all the things
You once thought would bring you happiness
You once thought would bring you meaning

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You once thought would satisfy

What is truly different
And hasn't ever been tried
That will save the world from us
We need to really change our minds
By changing our allegiance
Instead of Americans or Earthlings
We accept the universal Christian label
As we are accepted into a bigger
Yet more intimate family of God
We have proven we all have
The maturity of young children
And desperately need better leaders
If you are looking for an ideology
More radical than any other
Try what Christ did as a role model
But that only starts one you truly commit
By first renouncing your previous opinion leaders
The government wants your money
God wants your heart
And both want you to follow their laws
Make peace with both
Commit to become a better you

Pass through the water and into eternity
Humble yourself down below your Creator
He will then raise you back up

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Unto life more abundant
Sometimes one decision
Changes your entire life
The hard part is that this is not
Just a one time decision
You need to live your life
Like you are committed to it
But God will always give you
The strength to stay with Him
You will lose the faith
From time to time
Just come back right away
He will always be there for you
How always believed in you
Will you not believe in Him
If we ask who is more likely to exist
God or me
I have so say there is more evidence for God
We are different people each day
But God is the same forever
He now calls us friends
Because we know His plans
Join God hand in hand
And follow His lead into eternity

Times of Life

I have had times of great fear
My entire military service and ever since

I have had times of great joy
In my high school years and my memories of it

I have had times of great depression
When we realized the world might end soon in 2008

I have had times of deep insight
Often when I get ideas to write

I have had times of great loneliness
Many times I talked to my father about

I have had times of great frustration
When I couldn't get something to work

I have had times of great confidence
After I have written something

I have had times of great doubt about myself
When I think of how easy it is to get hurt really bad

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I have had times of great anger
When I watch the news (of evil being done)

I have had times of great insignificance
When I reflect on who God is

I have had time of great excitement
When I learn about other times in history

I have had times of great passion
When I put together ideas

I have had times of great impatience
When I have to wait for things

I have had times of great peace
When I pet my stuffed toys

I have had times of great worry
When I try to explain myself to others

I have had times of great severity
When discussing computers

I have had times of great hope
When I look forward to eternal life

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I have had times of great weariness
Ever since my diagnosis of Schizophrenia

Psychology of Water

Nothing is softer than a drop of water
Nothing is clearer than the sound of thunder
Nothing is as unclear as the edges of a cloud
Nothing is more intense than the reflection of the sun off of water
Nothing is as cold as a coat soaked in water
Nothing is as clean as when the soap makes contact with water and
cloth
Nothing is more common than water on earth
But most of it we can never drink
Our form of life needs water to live
We fight wars over it and build entire civilizations around it
The water below is another world like the sky above
This parallel world is full of life unlike ours

Nothing hurts less to the open wound than pure water
Nothing cools hot coals faster than water
We are born again by passing through water
While many are afraid of drowning in it
Transforming rocks to sand and metal to rust
Nothing infiltrates as subtlety as water
Nothing transforms human creations more than water

The repeating sound of a rainstorm

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Beating the side of the building
Like a drummer's stick
The rain hits the window so hard
It is surprising the glass doesn't break
Sometimes I feel as cold inside
As winter rain with a leaking jacket
Sometimes the water just soothes
It is easier when it burns less inside my heart
For what is right and for what is not
Water can make you feel new like nothing else
It feels as if you no longer carry a burden
Dreams are like water
Soft but intense at the same time
Sometimes I feel like someone dropped
A bucket of water on me
Sometimes I feel so little control
That I might not make it to the bathroom in time

It is in our waking dreams
That we plan our goals
And fantasize about possibilities
To experience better feelings about life
Is waking not like walking through a waterfall
With your eyes closed
Is not the sunrise better than the sunset
Isn't the sunset the beginning and the sunrise the end
We spend more time in the dark than the light
We put more effort into changing

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Things we have no control over
Surely we can do greater things
In the heat of the day
Than in the cool of the night
Especially when it stops raining

What are We Waiting For?

I am not patient sometimes
Other times it is easy
The scary and the painful
This is what is hard to deal with
It is not death but aging
It is not the end but the journey
I fear those things I cannot prepare for
I fear those things which cannot be avoided

I do not fear being old
Or getting slower and weaker
I take confidence in protection
From what God has promised
But even faithful Christians suffer
More than we think should happen
It is unfair to blame God
For the mistakes we have made
For things He has never promised

Simply waiting through the boredom

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As a person standing in line
For a very long time
Waiting for love or companionship
Never experiencing adventure or romance
Never being important or even useful
These are easier to accept

Being a peon has its advantages
Being useless is one of the greatest protections
People now fight for fame
Until their lives are destroyed
By jealousy and revenge
If I had to choose
Between boredom and suffering
I would always choose boredom

Many fear plateauing in their faith
But if it is a high plateau
Doesn't that mean you have previously
Ascended a tall mountain
To be finished with your trials
Is one of the greatest feelings
To have finished creating something
Is a joy in and of itself

It is understandable to fear suffering
But fearing loneliness and rejection
That only requires a little waiting

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In light of this being a very short life
Even ninety years is little in terms of eternity
Suffering is different in that time is accelerated
Ninety minutes in waiting is not the same
As nine minutes of suffering

We only understand the world
From our point of view
And whether or not you can explain away
Someone else's trials
Does not make them easier
I would be reasonable to be more afraid
Of hurting others
But more honest to be more afraid
Of our own painful experiences

Pain is more real than boredom
And suffering outdoes any distraction
If only I had the strength of mind
To overcome the fear and the pain
If only we could make reality change
To experience only the good or ordinary
It is selfish to care about yourself
More than you do others
But it is also human to be selfish

Sacrifice is not so difficult
Depending on what you give up

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Some things hurt more than others
Some things are easier to do without
Patience is easy
When you don't add pain or fear
Which effectively amplifiers the suffering

When we think of the sacrifices of Christ
And choose not to respond in kind
To prevent the suffering of others
This makes us realize how weak and common we are
When I think of whether I would be a hero
Or whether I would rather just hide in shame
It does not hurt as much to be called a coward
Than it does to have the pain of the victim

We think we are good people
Until we realize we have sacrificed nothing
When others were in pain
How much would we take the punishment of others
Just because we are kind
Can we even call ourselves true believers
If we cannot accept persecution silently
If we cannot hurt so others do not
Are we real followers of Christ
Would we do better to admit that to unbelievers
So that better Christians could serve better examples

How can we consider ourselves disciples

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And lecture others about morality
When we are unwilling to confront our own demons
How can we be fallen and yet lights for others
If our faith is only lukewarm
How can we serve as the salt of the earth

Some fear death
Some fear boredom
All fear pain
How do you accept the pain and still act
This is what heroism is
That is why Christ is the greatest hero

A New Kind of Peace

I woke up late today
My stuffed toys smile at me
We are all adjusting
To a slower moving lifestyle
I am proud to be able to save money
And not have to work

The Internet is fast here
And there are no expectations for me
As long as I don't do anything too stupid
I think everyone will leave me alone
I am enjoying the weather
Even though most prefer the sun

Things are doing better now
For Global Warming and related pollution
I still look 20 years younger than I am
Except for my long curly beard
I have gotten a lot done
In terms of writing and design work
I am learning new techniques
And I am exploring new ways
Of getting around and buying things

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We certainly have more time
And the homeless seem to have disappeared
I found out we don't need toilet paper
You can use a water can down your back
My bus system has been more challenging
But I have had more time with my sister and niece

We seem to get on each other nerves easily
I read about people living in seclusion
They get past a certain point and get better
Maybe I hit that point sooner
Since I am more sensitive to this
To be honest
My limitations are greater

But I just need to embrace the future
I need to make better use of the Internet
I just need to make sure
I don't make it too easy
For others to rob me blind

I am a very creative person
And I am sure others will adapt
And find new ways to move forward
With what we now refer to as
Social Distancing
We need to interact where we are
At least 6 feet apart

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It is a major change
It is good for some and not for others
Some things won't exist going forward
But new thing will be used too
I did study disaster survival well
But i did not expect a semi-crisis
With only limited social breakdown

I am really surprised
We entered a sustained crisis
While still keeping our technology

Maybe we can eradicate communicate diseases
There seem to be less dog droppings and trash

I feel for the people
Who are essential
As they tend to make less money
And they suffer at both ends of the crisis
Some people may get a check from the government
For their cooperation and patience
There is a big election coming up
And many businesses are donating supplies

More and more countries are noticing problems
Even in backwaters and frontier zones
We seem to live in the best place

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Of our entire planet
For climate and resources
And our government still fears us
So far no martial law or military presence

I guess we won't have riots in the future
And it will be harder to persecute people
As long as we can leave at peace with ourselves
Maybe our country will be at peace with us

One thing that still concerns me
How do you have a church
While still staying 6 feet apart
Maybe we need to gather in stadiums or big parks
Or maybe we could do very small groups
Meeting in peoples' homes
Much like the early church
Or the church in many other countries

This might be the first truly global medical crisis
That we have a common experience from
Maybe this can be a way forward internationally
We can build on this to renegotiate
Treaties to limit free trade
And thereby promote our own communities
Both wealth wise and environment wise

And this means we must get serious about the Internet

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Stop tolerating hacking by anyone for any purpose

We have to protect the supply lines

And the exchange markets

The Internet must now be a place of peace

It is too important for us all now

God is Not Boring

Life as a Christian is not boring
Sometimes I wish it were
Christianity is always a challenge
In America today people seem to agree
That Christians are the problem
And the mainstream promotes everything
That is contrary to God

But the real exciting things of God
Are what He does in our lives
The spiritual growth and insights
That help us become better people
There is nothing more exciting than trying something new
But to change the direction of your life brings more joy

There is much talk about following rules under Christianity
But everything has rules
The rules help define areas of study
And give structure and meaning to every discipline
Math and Science and Languages all have extensive rules
And this is not seen as a deficiency
At least God is simple, consistent, and logical in His rules

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God really only gives us one rule
The Golden Rule
Love the Lord your God
With all your mind and heart and soul
And love your neighbor as yourself
This rule is more a philosophy of life
Than a legal rule to do something
Even in God's rules He is creative and personal and challenging

God is direct and we should be to when we talk with Him
God already knows what you think Him
So it is best to at least be honest with Him
I think our perception of what is interesting today is warped
We think that having fun means
Being out of control and destroying things
This life choice only leads to addiction and pain

Refraining from these kind of activities
Does not mean Christians cannot have fun
In fact one of the major commandments of the Old Testament
Was to celebrate numerous festivals
One of the Ten Commandments is literally to rest
And not work one day of the week
God introduced the idea of debts
Being forgiven after a period of 7 years
And giving the land rest
Which is good for the soil
God also created the concept of sex which

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He actually encouraged
And there is an entire book of the Bible about sex

God knows like many wise people have found through the ages
That life is about balance
God also did most miracles in a peaceful and sometimes funny way
Like feeding people and having food drop from the sky
Or taking over towns by blowing trumpets
Or using an unusual chain of effects to fulfill a prophecy
God even spoke up for animal rights
When He had a donkey talk back to someone hitting it
And God is sad when cows are not heard mooing

Jesus actually wrestled with the ancestor of the Jews
And was born in the food bowl of a cow or sheep
He saved people from being tortured by making lions gentle
And allowing people to not be hurt after being thrown in a furnace
Christ healed people with mental and physical ailments
And ultimately saves us from Hell
The cost to Him is unimaginable suffering
But for us all we have to do is
Say a 1 minute prayer

Having fun is good but it does you no good if you end up
Permanently hurting yourself in the process
Reckless and fun are different things
Christian compatible pursuits vary
Almost as widely as the imagination will allow

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Many famous Christians pursued philosophy, arts, music, literature,
sports and all other types of games, crafts, hobbies, and the like
All these kind of things are considered Good Christian fun

God actually has us drink wine and play music in worship of Him
Some of the greatest secular singers in the contemporary music world
Started out singing and playing instruments in church services
Most churches that can afford it have elaborate activities
Designed for young people to do constructive and interesting things
For free usually and learn to relate with others peacefully and intelli-
gently
Some of the biggest, oldest, and most successful charities and other re-
lief organizations in the world
Are directly connected to churches

Do you know the secret thing that unites
People's common criticisms of God and Christianity
Nothing
Critics just find the most unpopular things
And exaggerate and fixate on these things

One of the really adventurous things
For those who like to take great risks
Is to becoming a missionary to another part of the world
This combines travel with learning about other cultures and languages
And helping poor people conquer injustice and natural disasters

For those more risk adverse

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You can spread the Gospel in your communities and online
Certainly Christians can do things
Like skydiving and cave exploration
If they have a burning desire to do so

If there is something you are excited about
And have been for a long time
And the end results are something positive
Chances are this interest is the result of God calling you
To this field as your service to God

Studying the Bible can be fun too and can take many forms
Some people study the languages and cultures and traditions
Of the ancient middle east
To understand Scripture better
But this is just the tip of the ice berg
Christians have different opinions
On many of the major topics of the Bible
So being Christian does NOT mean
You have to choose a certain political party or social group or philosophy

God gives you room to express yourself
And the Christian community supports art, music, theatre, public
speaking, as well as sports and crafts of all kinds
The major western philosophers were mostly doctors of divinity
This means that they were trained to be pastors academically
Before starting in philosophy

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Some of the greatest art throughout most cultures and time periods
Was directly inspired by religion and religious ideas
Christianity is no exception
A lot of what people see when they visit
Major art and architecture throughout the world
Are different peoples' perspective on a Christian idea
These Christian arts and architecture now serve as the base for
Most the cultural value of Europe
Even by secular standards

Concluding Prayer

I pray that
I may know
What are
The things that
I cannot change
And what are
Those things
Which I can

I pray that I may be as water
And have the strength of mind
To doubt the reality of pain
To realize I am but a figment
Of God's imagination

To not be haunted by suffering
And to conquer my demons
By letting God engage the enemy
And just letting the struggle
Pass through me
As if I wasn't even there

I doubt many things

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Let me doubt the reality of pain
Let me be invincible to desire
And not be hit by
The arrows of the evil one
As if they would just cease to exist
Or that I may be removed
From their path continually

I realize evil has unimaginable power
I pray that it might not have
Such power over me
Please give me strength
To dodge the arrows
And protection for any
That may hit me
If there be a resolution
To my struggle
Let it come rapidly
And never leave me
We can be sure of very little
But I will never stop fighting
Until my issues are resolved

How does one reject
Part of society
And yet still exist
As a member of it
How does one keep

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From being of the world
While dwelling within it
How do you fight a war
That has no opponent
And is not even visible
How do you conquer
Your own mind
How can I both
Let God fight for me
And yet have the strength of will
To make good decisions

We are saturated in glamorous
Portrayals of materialism
Where we find no end
To our hunger
I pray that God may
Give me the water
That only He provides
I want to never thirst again
I pray that the Lord
Be ever with me
And get me to stop and listen
Before I do something
I might later regret

Some people may think my issues
To be normal today

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But morality is not based
On the latest trends
And what is right and what is wrong
Will always be the same
No matter what society thinks
No matter what it accepts or doesn't

In Buddhism, enlightenment is defined
As the extinction of desire
In Chinese Buddhism
Monks take a vow to not fully ascend
Before every living thing has done likewise
Let me not fall into the trap
Of helping others
If it causes problems for me
That I may have the insight
To know when to stop
Let me not stop desiring completely
As that may drive me
To be a better person
Let me instead find God
To be the one
Desire of my heart

Some think Christianity can be practiced
In your spare time
They believe that you don't need
To focus on God constantly

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That you can have other important goals in your life
That family can take the place of faith
Or that you can live a normal life
That you can choose your life goals or religion
The only choice we really have is
Will you serve God at any cost
Or will you not serve God at any cost

I need no weapons in this fight
And all appears normal
Even in the midst
As to proving this reality
I have no desire
Just to say this
Faith only works
When what you believe in is real
If you believe in a religion
That is not real
There is no point
In your faith
There are many things
That are not visible
But are still real
Some things are also real
In very different ways

Spiritual things are very real
And our struggles really change things

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I would prefer to live a boring life
But it seems this fight is unavoidable
If only I could lay down my pain
As a burden I no longer need to carry

I know Christ promises this
I just continually expect the worse
God does not guarantee
He will always intervene
And He is responsible
For none of our problems
We cannot expect Him
To cater to our whims
But as we are to
Pray for spiritual things

I pray for healing and liberation
For both my mind and soul
I seek to be set free
From the pains and the desires
Of my very human situation

There are no excuses
To making poor choices
To make excuses
Would downplay its significance
To not ask for salvation
Would be to prolong my pain

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Is it right for me to ask
I know that in a sense
I cannot do it on my own
But if I do not make
The move to overcome
Who will

Regardless of the possibilities
I still pray for
What must require a miracle
I do not know
What the one thing
I am missing that I need
Is it grace or strength or perseverance
Or just asking God to just
Make some things impossible

We all need miracles and I am sure
God has better things to do
But He has promised to help
And has throughout many times in my life
That is the most rational explanation
For what happened then
It is not God's fault or responsibility
But God please send Your grace

Time for God

I can still breathe
Praise God
We have had a tough year
Many have lost
The breath of life

Many are so consumed
With anger and bitterness
They barely take a breath
Before exhaling hate

We have put the economy
Through decades worth of changes
In only one year
Many lost their homes
And many struggled to breathe

In my own community
The skies literally turned
Red, orange, or yellow in color
A big nasty insect
Looms over our near future
Also orange in color

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We seek an anchor
To hold us
In this time of great change
The news becomes a singularity
A choice which will unfold
As a lose-lose situation
Where have all the real people gone

We will be ok
Once we again admit
That we need God
Without conditions
With allegiance undivided

What is life
What is reality
If we find other people
On other planets
What would they think of us

The whole world pulls closer
As we continue to fight each other
Nation against nation
And those who build
Against those who destroy
Everyone and everything
Can disappear without notice

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So much anger and revenge
The poor always get hit the hardest
Those who sacrifice most
Are quickly and easily forgotten
And some may never be known at all
As might be best for their own safety
We question more and more
About things we once were sure of
But do we have to be so mean
And turn on our neighbors

The Internet has finally grown up
It is now the focus of
Crime, warfare, money, and hope

We have delayed many decisions
Over and over again
But it won't belong until
We are forced to choose
Many see the future
To be the outcome of our election
But many see us as mere pawns

We are becoming a civilization
That might leave literally nothing behind
Other than our trash
Will language and writing
Survive the information revolution

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People are now bored
With any form of learning
They want to be entertained
And they want huge benefits
Even though they put out little effort

The big down to the little
Are all corrupt
From the individual to giant corporations
All focused on short terms things
Like reputation or stock portfolios
Does anyone care about anything lasting
Does tomorrow matter anymore

When we think of the state of people
And the state of our planet
The one thing all our problems
Have in common is us
We Need God
Now more than ever

Let us use this time we are voting
To stop and think and listen
Stop to take a breath
And pause to reflect
The world wants us to think
We are in control of our future
But all of us are peons

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In comparison to our Creator
And we only breathe because of Him

Let us spend more time with God
And less time debating each other
Let us learn from our past mistakes
But more importantly
Learn we all need God to simply live
We appreciate our country
At least with words and pictures
But how do we show we appreciate
The Creator of us and everything else

With so much destruction in our wake
We must accept our own personal responsibility
For how things have gotten out of control
We have had many problems
Going back at least thousands of years
But never have we had such
Disrespect and contempt for God

We need to dial back the criticism
When it comes to God
And have a little humility
Considering He is watching us
Can you not believe in what you cannot prove
Can we have science leave religion alone
And have religion leave science alone

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We have too much respect
For many things we don't understand
Why is it harder to believe in a God
Who you cannot fully understand
We have a lot less control over our lives
Than we want to admit
Maybe this non-pandemic can help us
See how much we need God

As we take a moment to breathe
And listen to God's voice
Maybe we need to take a break
From assuming we know everything
Allow some doubt in what we believe in

Not in God but those other things
That we give our allegiance to
That compete with God for our attention
This other things we think we cannot live without
Loyalties to other people, causes, and organizations
That are not focused on glorifying God

Why do we need to compromise our morality
Moral responses to problems are never easy
But religion was not meant to be easy
Because life itself is not easy
Do you think being God is so easy

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The most natural thing is human nature
But that is just how we see it now
Why do we need to accept this premise
When we think of law and order
Let us think of God and His will
Not that of our chosen leaders

God has already chosen us
To be representatives of Him
In our lives and our communities
God honors us be welcoming us
Into His family
It is time we honor Him
With our time

Rhythm in Doubt

What is freedom

What are its limits

What is its cost

When do we get past this

When do we accept who we are

How do we know

What to choose and when

Are we really free

Freedom makes little sense

Are we free

To make just one choice

The choice to fight for control

Or give up and follow God

How do you win

If you just give up

How do you gain eternal life

With just one prayer

Is it a life of struggle

That cements our inner faith

Or is it a feeling

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That hits us in the middle of the night

Did we just destroy ourselves
Or did I just blink
How do you make sure
You are not left behind

How do you control your will
If you are not in control
Does that mean God is
We struggle for God
But isn't it He
That does all the work
The faith beyond reason
The logic of the spirit

How do we think like God
If we can't read His thoughts
One you start the journey
How do you know when to stop
When you follow your conscience
Is there ever a wider road

If I die tonight
What is my life worth
If I live forever
Does this life even matter

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Why does religion make more sense
To the foolish than the wise
Why does God forgive
The truly depraved

How do we know
How to please God
When we can barely
Make it through the day

Is religion an art
That we master with practice
Or a secret formula
That we are given silently

How is the Bible so simple
Yet we fail to comprehend
Is it that religion is
Hard to do right
Or do we just not care enough

Why would someone
Not believe in God
Why am I mentally will

In seeking wisdom
Why do we need a time of testing
If we fail so often

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Why does God give us free choice

How do you accept pain in life
And never question God
If you care for the lost
How do you accept some
Are already found

When the road is most difficult
Why is its hard to see God
When pain overwhelms
Why does God not intervene

People talk of the problem of suffering
They talk about it as if
It is God's problem
Did God create evil
Then we did achieve something
All on our own

If the goal is not to be good
What is the point of wisdom
If we are saved regardless
Why do we still pray
If life is so short
Why is it such a struggle

In each day we begin anew

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But our sins still affect us
If it is wrong to worry
Why is it so hard to relax
God intervenes so much
So why doesn't He show us

In each phase of life
Some have different problems
While some fight
The same enemy
All the days of their life

If we cannot get past sin
How do we live with ourselves
If we do not experience joy
How do we know what heaven is

If we cannot accept our limitations
Why do we have such ambitions
If someone has little to give
Why do they try so hard
If you cannot see God
Why does He always stay close

When your time runs out
Why do you fear the inevitable
How can you just accept
That people will suffer

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And not try to stop it
How can you accept Christianity
And ever give up the fight

If you truly do not believe in God
Why are you so angry with Him
We think we are so logical
But most of our lives are emotional
What makes us different from animals
Is our subjectivity not our souls

Why would God create something good
He would later throw away
If He wants to save us
Surely He has a plan for animals

When we see how evil the world is
How can we accept our contributions
When we see others suffer unnecessarily
Why don't we try something different

If we believe in God
Why does politics matter so much
If we believe God is real
Why are we so afraid of the devil

If we do not fear ourselves
Can we say we have read the Bible

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If we never struggled
How could we understand how bad we are

If we never find a resolution
Can we ever get past our failures
If there is no point in life
What is the point in saying that
What is the point of saying God is dead
Does that mean we don't exist

If science has the last word
What happens when they change their minds
If morality varies by age and time
What is the point of being good
If we cannot experience heaven on earth
How can we make it until we get there

There is a gut response to things
And there is a more educated guess
Should they be different or the same
We have emotional questions
Why do we expect logical answers to them

Young Earth

Disclaimer

The following poem is a fantasy story illustrating many ideas in philosophy from Taoism, Existentialism, and ideas about having Schizophrenia and ideas from Tolkien and the music of Max Richter.

This is not meant to be about religion nor is it any account of actual history.

I did try to make it so it was not directly contrary to the Bible, but it is not meant to be Biblical in any way.

It was written in a stream of consciousness while I was very much awake.

Some of the events may not even be logical and have holes in reasoning as is in many stories and even many people's theories of things.

Poem

A sound in the early morning
Like a single ray of light
Bursting in like a robber
From out of nowhere
Growing slowly
Like a child in the womb
To a young adult

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Then a break in the noise
And the fall of soft rain
Another melody starts
Like a single note
From a single instrument
In the audience of a symphony

An invisible hand
Orchestrates the start of morning
The sun races across the sky
And the day is like night
Slowly fading into yellow

Did I miss the day
Lost in a dream

Sleep is a strange thing
Spontaneous and subtle in nature
Exporting us to another reality
The other side of our mind
That takes backstage
During our waking hours

When we are not asleep
We fixate on little things
Like the tapping of the rain
Upon the window

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And the footsteps pacing above

But although we think our minds empty
When we dream
It is in these silent times
That our minds race
Creating thoughts and reconciling events

Emotions are more vivid
As our logical side diminishes
We experience dreams as impulses
As an older time in our history
Before the modern world
Before even farms and cities

When the land was at rest
And it was we who were hunted
That early development in our minds
That predates our understanding of history

A reality like that of a foreign world
Where we responded to action
Without excessive thought
We need to be people who fought
Not in a metaphorical sense
But ones that struggled just to live

Where we experienced freedom

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In its rawest form
Where fear was ever present
And sights and sounds were heightened
And our daily experiences
Were surreal and eventful

A day did not go by
That we did not struggle for our lives
Our minds were clear as the outdoor air
Unclouded by the factories and megacities
Our minds were so clear
That we could see even in the dark
Our thoughts took flight and emitted light

We were not separate from nature
And every experience was spiritual
We did not need to find enlightenment
As wisdom was not challenged by technology

The first tool was fire
Like a double edged sword
It cut both ways
And enemy and a friend
Much as other people, animals, and our entire world

With each step forward
Everything was new
There was always plenty of wood

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And the rivers were full of fish

We did not sit down in school
We were always running
As soon as we learned to crawl
There was no need for speech
For ages sound was a luxury

We treated each other as rivals
We respected each other
But were able to respond to violence
In less than a moment's notice

What we knew at the time
Was not like what we now write down
Even then we had no words
For most of what we felt and believed

God was very real to us
Much as He is in your time as well
We respected God
And He did not anger us

With each passing day
We looked to the stars
And just accepted His role
We knew that He was our Creator
And we were His children

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We lived in a vast garden
Tended to by Him
As we grew older
We began to walk with Him
In the cool of the day

We never thought of technology
Like you do today
And our knowledge of fear
Was of merely a warning
And pain was similar

We did not fear death
As we did not die yet
What you think of now as violence
Started out just as a game
To test our skills and strength of mind

We used to leave our homes
With no locks or guards
There was no reason for walls
As no one was trying to steal
As we had no possessions

We had heard of a great city
A city of light on a hill
It was thought of as an idea

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But some believed it real

The way to it was like a gate
The gate was overgrown with vegetation
And there were no people around it
It stood in the center of the garden

We knew to not go near it
Because it was our one rule
We called it the golden rule
Because from the gate it glowed
Like the golden fish in our rivers

This color was unlike any other
It was not just a color
But a mist and a living and moving thing
We approached it with reverence

From the water surrounding it
We drank for strength and vitality
Only one at a time
In each family

We had one person
Be drawn into the light
And pass on to the other side
We never heard of them again

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Soon we saw a great warrior
Stand before us with a great blade
And he was surrounded with fire
With each swing of his sword

The vegetation caught fire
And we were soon left
With a patch of dirt and ash
Much like that of a volcano

We then scattered across
The entire planet
People feared death then
So many died soon after

It was hard to grow things
And we starved for many years
Without the light from the portal
The nights were even darker
And sleep was less satisfying

Even in our darkest moments
We held out hope of our Creator
To provide us a way forward
From the consequences of our sin

We heard a prophecy about a book
That would be written

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That told our story
And that God Himself
Would enter our world
And defeat the evil within us

Many people wanted to join together
And build great stone monuments
And live under the rule of other people
In exchange they were protected and fed well

Those who resisted this change
Would have to fight wars
To stand their ground
And worship God instead of technology

We would not bow down to the leaders
So the cities rejected us
And we began a great migration
To the other side of the world

Some thought the world was ending
But this was just the beginning
Our descendants did not survive long
But our story did

Waiting Time

Standing in line

To enter the gas chamber

Standing in line

To throw a live grenade

Waiting to ship off

For basic training

Waiting for my enlistment to end

Waiting for the fear to lessen

Waiting to get my disability recognized

Waiting for the fatigue to pass

Waiting for a better medicine

Waiting for terrorism to end

Waiting for us to stop torturing

Waiting for the government

To stop stalking us

Waiting for the government

To get something done

Waiting for the news

To stop making people afraid

Waiting for the politicians

To stop screaming for once

Waiting for the riots to end

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Waiting for the tear gas to dissipate
Waiting to be evacuated
Waiting for the fires to end
Waiting for businesses to reopen
Waiting for the governor's latest notions
Waiting for a new president
Waiting for this era to end

Waiting for people to accept
The modern world is failing
Waiting for people to accept
It is all our own fault
Waiting for God to return
Waiting to see Heaven

Is it just a different
Way of thinking
Or only a technology
Or does it go deeper
We have long forgotten
The difference between
Hunter-gather and farming societies
It is one of those things
We just assume that it is better
We just assume it is a better way
We just assume it is the only way
We think about machines
The same way today

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There existence is just assumed
To make life better
Along the way
The goal posts are moved
And the basis for comparison is lost
Our world moves faster and faster
It used to be timeless
Now we are using everything up
We are going through centuries
Of social revolution in mere decades
We are again running out of energy
And running out of raw materials
Like before the Spanish and Portuguese
Started their colonies
And first challenged the Ottomans
But we have nowhere to go now
And no one to conquer
There is no way for us to start over
Individually or collectively
We cannot even go out for an evening
Into the woods and hear ourselves think
Or go anywhere far from people
The wild animals are finding few places
To stay away from people
We cannot really sleep well
As our screens are always on
Even when the lights are out

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Popular computer use in general started
As an escape from the modern world
Many people thought meaningful change
Would have happened by now
Many put great hope in the Internet
It was my generation's frontier
And people had the ability
To work together and improve our world
Like all utopias the scammers came in
And so many found such easy money
It really is a deep element
In the soul of our nation
Not thinking of consequences
Not thinking deeply enough
We swindled the Native Americans
And got their rightful inheritance
We fooled ourselves
Thinking China would sleep forever
And that the Russians
Would not copy our strategies
That we would keep our greatest secrets
No matter how sloppy we became
From those we thought were irrelevant
And the poorest and weakest
Have now climbed our backs
And have turned the tables on us
They are working harder than ever
And we are working as little as possible

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It is said that during the medieval period
Peasants ascended to royalty
And royalty descended into peasants
This would take a total of 6 generations
For the complete cycle
What we consider living like a monk today
Would be considered hedonistic
In most eras of history
And even most regions of the world today

Why do we find it so hard
To think outside the box
That we have created
To make the modern world
Why do we seem to run into problems
Wherever we look
We seek big and flashy solutions
Like great dams or great submarines
At the same time
We look to solve our problems
With as little effort as possible
Spending money is of often easier
For us than devoting time
To many this world
Would seem like a utopia
And yet many people today are unhappy
And the suffering in the world
Is greater than ever before

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Is this technology's fault
Or is it that we substituted science for God

We are now ruled by the machines
And those who understand them
Because we are treating them as magic
They hold power in our lives
Because we value them greatly
But we will never become better people
And so with such amazing power
We abuse it like with every other addiction
We want the power it gives us
But we do not want to do the hard work
To understand and use it responsibly
Computers were supposed to make life easier
But they have really made life more complicated
Part of the problem is computers were never designed
For the uses we use them for now
In terms of reliability, security, and compatibility
Computers almost never happened
And most of the history of the last 500 years
Needed to happen as it did
For us to even have computers
As we now know them
And we wanted more and more features
Which made things more and more complex
And then we ran into the problem
Of people using computers

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Without ever learning how
They really work underneath
Then we drag in our fights in politics and religion
Into every aspect of the Internet
We basically magnify and recycle
The same ideas until they become dangerous

Security has gotten really bad
As the professional criminals
Just started a few years ago
To use the Internet
As the main venue for crimes
We are becoming a society
Where it is impossible to enforce laws
Because anyone can fake anything now
Including our identities
Which will make law enforcement irrelevant
And the police are actively and deliberately
Making the problem much worse
For themselves and us

How do we as mere peons
Affect any change in this world
Spiritually, of course!
We first must accept that
We cannot change others
We have to look in the mirror
And change that person

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We can always make things better or worse
No matter who or where we are
We can choose our attitude
If we can choose nothing else
It is hard to wait on the world to change
But maybe we can change
Our individual lives
And find peace and joy spiritually
We can make everything
We do have control over
The best we can make it
And we just need to make sure
The machines don't control our souls
They need to serve us
Not the other way around
Just as we need to serve God