

How our Belief Systems Work

By Peter Guiren

Preparation for this Study

Before you read this study, I ask you to do four things :

Firstly, pray to only receive YHWH's truth, and to not be deceived by any false information.

Secondly, I challenge you to choose to be teachable – to decide to have an open mind.

Thirdly, please don't believe what I have written, but check the Scriptures to "test" that what has been written is correct. (1 Thes 5:21, Acts 17:11).

Fourthly, remember that we are studying to show ourselves approved to YHWH. (2 Tim 2:15).

Please refer to **Preparation for Studying YHWH's Word**, for more details.

Our Belief Systems

I'd like to begin by defining what a belief is. There are many slightly different definitions of what a belief is, but for simplicity, I'm going to use yourdictionary.com's definition. It says :
a belief is anything that is accepted by a person as true.

Can we all agree on that definition ?

Every person has a unique belief system.

Our belief system is composed of a vast array of different beliefs (things that we accept as being true), that include survival beliefs, health beliefs, career beliefs, social beliefs, cultural beliefs, financial beliefs and religious beliefs, to name but a few. The question I want to investigate is "**how did each person develop his/her own unique belief system**" ?

If you examine your own life, I am confident that you will find that the vast majority of your beliefs were developed when you were a small child. You learned many of them in your family environment, and, if you are younger than my generation, in child-care facilities of various kinds. You learned them in schools and in religions facilities, such as churches. Perhaps one of the most influential sources of your beliefs was television.

An example of one possible belief might be, that your parents believed that being well-mannered was important. In this case, you were taught to be well-mannered. Without your parents specifically telling you to believe that "nice manners are important", that idea was absorbed into your belief system. You were not aware of it becoming a belief for you, and you certainly did not question its validity. This was what I shall call "formal" belief development.

I propose that this formal belief development process happens to all of us with the vast majority of the things that we believe as adults.

A summary of this process might look like this :

- 1 Parent has a specific belief at either a conscious or subconscious level
- 2 Parent instructs the child about this belief
- 3 Parent re-inforces this belief

4 Child “absorbs” this belief into their belief system

This same process occurred whether we were at home, in child-care, in school, in church or while watching television.

With each belief that is absorbed into our belief system, there is an “intensity” that accompanies it. We may believe in something “passionately”, “moderately” or “sparingly”.

There are other beliefs that we developed as children, that were not “formally” learned as in the above example. For instance, in my family, my grandparents “argued” a lot with each other. As far as I remember, we never discussed arguing in my family, but somehow, through a process of “osmosis”, arguing, or what I call “discussion”, became something that I have always done. If I disagree with something, I will often express that opinion. During the expression of that opinion, I am usually very “passionate”. However, I don’t usually “take offence” when someone disagrees with me. When the discussion is over, I don’t hold grudges or bad feelings for the other person – I just say to them “you can believe that if you like”. For most of my life I have “argued”, believing that I was right (and therefore, the other person was wrong). I am not like that now ! I still discuss many things passionately, but I now have an open mind to most things, and am willing to consider any reasonable information. After all, I could be wrong.

This “informal” belief development process could go like this :

- 1 A person (child-care person, teacher, minister, TV presenter, authority figure) might say something that catches the child’s attention, for example, “it is fun to travel”
- 2 The child might think about it briefly, but then forgets it
- 3 This or a similar idea may come up somewhere else – the idea is re-inforced
- 4 Over a period of time, the idea is “absorbed” into the child’s belief system

I believe many, many of our beliefs were formed in these two ways. They were ideas that were absorbed somehow from family, teachers, ministers, friends, authority figures and television. As mentioned earlier, the impact of television at an early age cannot be exaggerated. Perhaps the most important point to make about this childhood belief development, is that, at that age we are very impressionable. We sometimes develop “irrational” beliefs as well as contradictory ones.

Of course, there are some areas about which we may not have established a belief. These most likely are areas that we have not yet experienced.

A Theory about the establishment of a person’s Belief System

I am suggesting strongly the following “theory” about a person’s belief system.

- 1 The vast majority of any person’s belief system, is developed in the above ways, as a child.
- 2 Most adults go through their entire lives, without ever asking questions such as :
 - ~ What do I really believe about ?
 - ~ Why do I believe this ?
 - ~ Is this belief valid ?
 - ~ Does this belief help me to be successful ?
- 3 **Our actions or behaviours are controlled by what we deeply believe.**
- 4 The vast majority of our actions operate at an automatic level. We don’t need to think about them, we just do them (most of the time). They are habitual.

I know you may not want to believe this, but sometimes, we have been believed LIES !

What are some lies you have believed? What is the truth about that lie?
Do any of these “ring a bell”?

Lie - Santa is coming tonight

Truth - He's a fictional character made up to make small children feel good

Lie - Flying in an aeroplane is dangerous

Truth - Flying in an aeroplane is statistically a very safe form of transport

Lie - Captain Cook discovered Australia

Truth - Australia was visited by several groups before Captain Cook came

Lie - Electricity is dangerous

Truth - The careless use of electricity is dangerous

Lie - Money is the root of all evil

Truth - The love of money is the root of all evil

Lie - Work is boring

Truth - Work is a privilege, a joy

Lie - I'm not very smart; I can't do things

Truth - I am highly intelligent; I can do anything if I work at it

Lie - Yahushua was born on December 25th

Truth - Yahushua was definitely not born on the 25th December. He was probably born during the feast of Sukkot (September/October)

How do we react when we realized we have believed a lie?

In his book, *Fossilized Customs*, Lew White says “When something believed-in, is exposed as being false or a lie, a reaction is aroused. How an individual reacts depends on how well-equipped they are, and the degree to which they want to believe the falsehood.”

Dresden James wrote, “A truth's initial commotion is directly proportional to how deeply the lie was believed. It wasn't the world being round that agitated people, but that the world wasn't flat. When a well-packaged web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous, and its speaker a raving lunatic”.

From a personal point of view, when I discovered that, many of the foundations of my faith (I was a devout Roman Catholic for 63 years), were not rocks of truth, but as Todd Bennett describes in his series “Walk in the Light”, “rather the sands of lies, deception, corruption, tradition and paganism”, I went into shock. I was in grief and experienced its various stages (denial, guilt, anger, hope and acceptance). **I spent many, many hours attempting to “prove” that the counter-statements I had been confronted with, were false.** When I could not, I experienced great pain and grief. It was a very painful time for me!

Why did I feel that way? My understanding of what happened, is **that when my deep-seeded beliefs were threatened** with rival information, I “re-acted” with all the stages of grief mentioned above. It is very difficult to convince someone who has deep-seeded beliefs about something that they are mistaken. They usually get very defensive, and will not even entertain the “threatening idea”, in any way. Their “reactions” are often “irrational”.

A personal example of a lie I believed, and how believing that lie affected my life

I am currently 65 years old. For most of those years, it never occurred to me to ask the deeper questions about important beliefs. I'd like to share with you an experience that totally changed my life. When I have a live audience, I tell the detailed version of this story. For now, I'll give the abbreviated version.

When I was about 6 years of age, I had an experience with a teacher who asked me to read aloud in class. I was embarrassed because I couldn't read as well as my classmates, and for 34 years, I had the belief that **“I don't like reading”**. It wasn't that I couldn't read, my problem was that I read very slowly, and was unsure of the pronunciation of many words.

This belief, that **“I don't like reading”**, had a great negative affect on my life. I was shy and lacking in self-confidence. I often felt embarrassed, and looking back, I know I was socially quite immature until I was about 40 years old.

At this time, I met a teacher who spent one hour teaching me how to “speed read”. To my amazement, **my reading speed trebled** after that experience. When I examined the “speed reading” method I had been taught, I realised that my problem was not that “I don’t like reading”, it was that I didn’t know the specific skills that I could use, to increase my reading speed ! **I had believed a lie !**

With this **new information**, I was able to correct the deep-seeded belief, that I don’t like reading, by creating a new belief, that I had consciously decided with my adult mind, which empowered me to become an avid reader ever since.

Changing False and Unproductive Beliefs

Soon after this, I became interested in the fascinating topic, “how does the human mind work”, and that led me to realise that I could change any belief I had, to something that I wanted to believe.

During the next few years, I systematically examined many of my previous beliefs about things like food, money, relationships, and career, with my adult mind. It was a very interesting and productive exercise. I strongly encourage each person to do the same. I believe it will be an exciting adventure for you, and that you will find a real peace when you consciously decide “what it is you really want to believe”.

Since then, I have made many conscious decisions concerning my “spiritual” walk and my life in the world in general. They are things like :

- + Someone knows a great way to do everything (I don’t need to discover how to do everything I want to know, right from the beginning or by trail and error)
- + While I pay close attention to what I am listening to or reading, I don’t accept or believe what anyone tells me, until I check it out. I “test it” as 1Thes 5:21 says. I apply this principle to any and every person, teacher or Rabbi. They are human – they can make mistakes.
Why do I do this - I never want to be deceived again !
- + The Bible, **in its original language**, is the inspired, revealed, written word of YHWH. I check all teaching against that source, using several Bible versions and language tools such as Strong’s Concordance, to make sure that what I believe is as accurate as possible.
- + I want to do YHWH’s will.
- + I am very vary or cautious of the “traditions of men”.
They may be helpful and even good, but they are not YHWH’s commandments !

My advice to each of you is :

**Be very careful what you believe !
It will totally control everything you do !**

Deception

The “enemy” (satan) does not want us to know the true meaning of YHWH’s Word, and so he has done many things throughout history to “deceive” mankind. There are many verses in Scripture about deception and being deceived – even Yahushua (Jesus) warns us about it. The following scriptural verses contain some of these warnings :

Matt 24:24

"For false messiahs and false prophets shall arise, and they shall show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray (deceive), if possible, even the chosen ones. (Some versions use "the elect")"

Luke 21:6

*Yahushua replied: "Watch out **that you are not deceived**. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.*

Paul the apostle also comments several times about being deceived. In Ephes 4:14 he says :
so that we should no longer be children, tossed and borne about by every wind of teaching, by the trickery of men (by deception), in cleverness, unto the craftiness of leading astray

In 2 Thes 2:3, he says :

Let no one deceive you in any way, because the falling away is to come first, and the man of lawlessness¹ is to be revealed, the son of destruction

So we must be very careful – because we want to know what YHWH's Word really says. We must test everything we read or hear, by checking it against the original language of the Scriptures, so that we will not be deceived ! We must also ask YHWH to only reveal His truth.

Truth

One of my biggest "hang-ups" is to do with a common use of that word "Truth". How many times have you heard someone say "This is THE Truth" or "G-d told me or Holy Spirit told me", or "a word came to me" ! For me, the most disturbing statement is "we have **the** truth", implying that no one else does ! I'm very, very careful about this. When I stand before YHWH for my judgment, I don't want Him to say to me "What was it, that you said, **I said**, about such and such ?"

I have been told, and it probably is true, that in ancient Israel, all the prophets of old came before the Sanhedrin and spoke their message. Every word of their message was written down, and later checked to see if they were true or false prophets. If we look at Amos 1:1, we see an example of this.

Amos 1:1

The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Teqowa, which he saw concerning Yisra'el in the days of Uzziyah sovereign of Yehudah, and in the days of Yarobam son of Yo'ash, sovereign of Yisra'el, two years before the earthquake.

How could it have been two years before the earthquake ? It must have been recorded in some way.

I wonder if that had been done with all the modern-day prophets, how many would be shown to be true prophets ?

Important Note

It is my reality, that we have all believed lies. How and why we have done this, is the subject of another study. I strongly urge you to develop an open, but critical mind, so that you can receive YHWH's truth, but not be deceived by the enemy.

The story of Galileo Galilei in 1633 explains why. Galileo, the famous Italian scientist, was delivered before the Roman Inquisition to be tried on charges of heresy. He was denounced, according to a formal statement, "for holding as true the false doctrine . . . **that the sun is the centre of the world, and immovable, and that the earth moves!**" The statement went on to read that "the proposition that the sun is the centre of the world and does not move from its place is absurd and... heretical, because **it is expressly contrary to the Holy Scripture!**" Galileo was found guilty and forced to renounce his views. He was sentenced to a life of imprisonment.

We all know now, that Galileo was correct, but clearly, wrong beliefs (lies) at the time, were believed by influential people. (Careful study will show you that the Bible says no such thing about the solar system). Their belief systems were threatened, and so, they needed to take action that supported their deep-seeded beliefs. As a result, Galileo suffered a severe injustice. The Roman Catholic Church finally pardoned him in **1992** !

What should we do to avoid being deceived ?

My research tells me that there is such a massive mixture of YHWH's truth and paganism in the religious world. It is therefore vital that we realize, that **there will be some beliefs we have, that are lies** – that we have been deceived ! As mentioned above, we need to ask YHWH for His truth and **we must to do our own study**. Remember what Paul says in his second letter to Timothy

2 Tim 2:15

Study to show yourself approved unto YHWH, a workman does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

What does the term “truth” really mean ?

I believe **it is very important to always define terms by using YHWH's definitions**. I get a bit nervous when people define terms such as these in a 21st century manner.

If we go to the Scriptures, we find YHWH's definition for the term “truth”

Ps 119:142, tells us :

*Your righteousness is righteousness forever, And **Your Torah is truth.***

In John 14:6, Yahushua said :

*“I am the Way, and **the Truth**, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

1 John 5:6 says :

*And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because **the Spirit is the Truth***

So when we talk about “truth”, we are referring to Yahushua - the Living Torah, the Spirit of YHWH, and YHWH's Torah – the Father's loving teachings, instructions, commands and ordinances.

We must be humble before YHWH, realizing that He is our source of everything we receive. We must “test all things”, including everything we currently believe is true, to see if we really do have YHWH's truth !

It is very important that we be open to any new revelation YHWH might give us – we must be teachable and not arrogant, believing we have “the truth”. Of course, we must also be discerning, and so “test all things”. The apostle Paul speaks about this in Romans 12: 2 which says :

Rom 12:2

*And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim.*

What Spiritual Beliefs Do I Have ?

Over the last two years, I have studied the Word of YHWH very intently. I have read and listened to, the whole of the Bible at least twice, during that time. I have read the teachings of the main Messianic teachers and others, and have arrived at the following conclusion. I'd be very interested in hearing whether you agree with me or not, and if not, why !

Author's Conclusion

- 1 In terms of our spiritual beliefs, there are “relatively” few things, about which, we can be **absolutely certain** !
- 2 The rest of our beliefs are what I call theories. These “beliefs” are **possible** explanations of ideas or events. We can't be absolutely certain that they are true !

To explain what I mean, I will give three examples of beliefs about which I am **absolutely certain** and three examples of “theories”.

My three examples of absolutely certain beliefs are :

- + There is a Creator of all that there is
- + Yahushua is the Messiah
- + There are two houses of Israel

Three examples of theories that I have are :

- ~ The Creator's name is pronounced as Yahweh
- ~ The New Moon is determined by the “mulad”, the dark moon
- ~ Yahushua was born on the feast of Sukkot

One of the big problems we have in the “messianic” community is to do with the group of beliefs I call theories. We often disagree about things like “how to pronounce the Creator's name”. This is what I call a theory – it is not a belief about which we can be absolutely certain.

As I said before, a theory is simply a possible explanation of an idea or event. A strong theory will have a lot of evidence, and that evidence will be sound. A weaker theory will have a lesser amount of evidence, and that evidence will not be as strong. In the end, we need to ask for the Father's guidance, search His Scriptures in their original languages, to see what He says about something, weigh up the evidence, and then make an intelligent decision. I believe that once we agree on this, we won't get so emotional about our “theories”. I realise that I am “human”, and that I may not have all the evidence, and that my reasoning may be flawed, but I am always open for someone to “correct” any error I may have.

With this in mind, if you believe I am in error, I ask you to please show me from Scripture, where my error is.

Two Essential Spiritual Beliefs

If I am not sure about a person's belief in say, creation, I usually ask a person “do you believe that there is a Creator of all that there is, or not”. If the answer is no, I ask them why they have that belief. From where I stand, it takes much, much more “faith” to believe that there is no Creator; that somehow all there is “just came to be” (the Big Bang theory is often quoted). For me, the **belief in a Creator** is the first “essential” belief any person can have.

The next question I ask a person, once they have agreed that there is a Creator, is “what do they believe the Bible is ?” I don't know if you have spent very much time with this question, but I believe it is vital. My answer to that question is that **the Bible, in its original language, is the inspired, revealed, written Word of the Creator** ! The Bible, **the Creator's instruction manual**, is my “absolute authority” for any spiritual belief I have. Remember, there is no such thing as an “inspired translation” !

Why are the original languages of the Bible so important ?

If we are to understand as accurately as possible, YHWH's Word, we must comprehend the original meaning of words, and we must appreciate and understand the idiomatic expressions of those languages. If we fail to do this, we will certainly “mis-interpret” what YHWH's word says. I believe this is what satan wants. He doesn't want us to really know what YHWH's Word says. As a teacher, I often told my students the following :

- + Wrong information ALWAYS gives us the wrong answer !
- + Incomplete information USUALLY gives us the wrong answer !
- + Only complete and accurate information can give us the correct answer !

Do you agree ?

Introduction to Salvation Beliefs

I've touched on two very important beliefs, but for me, knowing what I believe for "salvation" is absolutely essential work. If I don't know what I need to believe (and do) to be saved, then all the rest of what I do is useless.

As I said earlier, I believe there are a relatively small number of beliefs about which I can be absolutely certain. The following list may not be complete, but for now, this is all YHWH seems to have given me. It is always my intention to be open to receive whatever revelation YHWH wants me to have.

So what are the other basic beliefs I need to have ? For me, as I've already said, it starts with a belief in a Creator. Who He is ? What He did and does ? What He wants me to do ? I've also covered the question of what the Bible is.

From there my list expands a bit, but I'm not sure the order is important. My list of essential beliefs includes :

- + The divine character of the Creator and His Son
- + What is the Bible ?
- + The true Names of the Creator and His Son
- + YHWH's Covenants and Promises
- + Salvation and Redemption
- + Torah
- + Sabbath
- + The New Moon
- + Festivals
- + Righteousness
- + Two Houses of Israel

There are obviously several sub-sections within some of the above, but for now, I'm looking at the bigger picture.

I believe **it is vital to make decisions on these essential beliefs first**, and have them firmly established because there are going to be many, many other issues that will come your way, that may cause you to re-consider what you believe. **Our foundational beliefs MUST be solid or they will not stand !**

In some cases, YHWH might be giving you some new revelation, and so you might need to update your belief. But if it is only what I call a "theory", don't get too hung up about it – simply give it to YHWH, for Him to deal with.

What I encourage you to do, when you come across a "controversial" topic, is check it out against YHWH's Word, and not rely on some habitual belief you may have sub-consciously developed in the past.

I've given you just a few examples to think about. With each of these topics, I strongly urge you to ask yourself questions like, "Is this YHWH's truth?", "What does His word say ?", and "Is it a salvation issue ?" The answer might save you from unnecessary worry.

Some of the issues I've come across where there are differing theories (opinions) are :

- + the location of Mt Sinai
- + the discovery of the Ark of the Covenant
- + the land of Israel is in Saudi Arabia
- + the New Moon determination
- + plural marriages
- + what should we do on Sabbath ?

- + do we need to live in “the land” ?
- + which Bible version is most accurate ? Which should I use ?
- + what is the correct pronunciation of the Creator’s name
- + should I wear a kippa ? Should I use a tallit ?
- + should women wear head coverings ?
- + when is the Passover ?
- + who is Elohim ?
- + should I use the Hebrew words for the names of people, places and things
- + there are concentration camps in USA for believers

We can “midrash” on these topics for a long time, but we have to be careful that we aren’t taking our eyes off Yahushua our Messiah, and being side-tracked.

I know I’ve covered this briefly above, but I’d like to examine in a bit more detail how I approached the question of “Is there a Creator of all that there is” and “what is the Bible”. I pray it will be helpful to you.

What do I believe about creation ?

If I ask you the question “where did the words you are reading come from ?”, your answer would be “someone created them”. If I ask you the same question about the pen you write with or the clothes you are wearing or any other object, your answer would be “someone made them”. So it is a relatively small step to assume that when I ask “where did all of creation come from”, the answer is “someone created them”. The pattern continues and it is true in every case.

When I ask an atheist the same question, his answer most probably will have something to do with the “Big Bang” theory, as mentioned previously. As someone who has studied “probability”, that is, the mathematical chance of an event happening, I believe it takes much more “faith” to believe in “that explanation for creation”, than it does, to believe that a supreme being “formed or created” all that there is.

For me, there is absolutely no doubt, that **there is a Creator of all that there is**.

What do I believe about the Bible ?

I realise that what I am about to write could be taken as a “circular” argument, but I ask you to see past that idea, and focus on what I am saying.

Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews is about faith or belief.

Faith is Strong’s word 4102 which means

persuasion, that is, *credence*; moral *conviction* (of *religious* truth, or the truthfulness of Yahweh or a religious teacher), especially *reliance* upon Messiah for salvation; abstractly *constancy* in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) *truth* itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Heb 11:6 says :

But without belief (faith), it is impossible to please Him (YHWH), for he who comes to Elohim has to believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him.

So for me, I believe I must begin by putting my trust and faith in my Creator, YHWH.

As a result of this belief, that the Bible is the inspired, revealed and written word of YHWH, **I only ever want to do what it says ; not what I think it says or what I would like it to say**. I test everything I read or hear, by checking it against the original languages they were written in. For the Tanach, (Old Testament), that means Hebrew; for the Apostolic Writings (New Testament), that means Aramaic or Hebrew, or if I can’t find these, I use the Greek.

I believe it is absolutely vital to know what we believe about the whole Bible.

With regard to the meaning of words or concepts, as I wrote previously, I always check YHWH's definitions, in the Tanach first, **for the Hebraic meaning**. I avoid modern day understanding of important words.

Let me explain using an example. 2 Peter 1:1 reads as follows :

*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Yahushua the Messiah, To those who through the righteousness of our Elohim and Savior Yahushua the Messiah **have received a faith as precious as ours***

I'd like to focus on the phrase "have received a faith as precious as ours" for moment. From a Hebraic point of view, "faith" is an action word – it is something we do !

Faith therefore, can be defined as "belief expressed in action". If we believe what Peter is telling us here, how highly do you value your faith ? Is it precious ?

In James2:17, it says

*In the same way, **faith** by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

So from a Hebraic point of view, "**faith**" is **acting on what you believe**. It is not just "believing something", as is commonly understood in English.

I believe "**faith**" is a gift from YHWH ! I further believe that a gift has to be received – if a gift is not received, it is not a gift !

So an important question that arises from reading this one verse in 2 Peter 1:1 is, If you've received the gift of faith, and it is precious to you, what are you (and me) doing with it ?

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to do some research on these two questions "Is there a Creator" and "what you believe about the Bible". From there you can then examine all the other essential beliefs, many of which I have mentioned above.

Summary Conclusions

- + Each person has a unique belief system
- + The vast majority of a person's beliefs are formed (often by "osmosis") as very small children
- + Most people never ever question specifically what their beliefs are, why they have those beliefs, or whether their beliefs are wanted or useful
- + All people have believed lies – **we have all been deceived**
- + The actions or behaviours of a person are determined by their core belief system
- + Most people, most of the time, behave automatically, without testing their beliefs
- + Many people have believed the lie, that they are not intelligent enough to study and reason for themselves. They believe the lie, that only more educated people like priests, ministers and academics can really understand YHWH's Word
- + Be very careful what you believe
- + Know why you believe something
- + A person can "change" her/his mind in a thoughtful way
- + YHWH defines His "truth" in Ps 119:142, which says :
*Your righteousness is righteousness forever, And **Your Torah is truth.***
- + There is a vast mixture of YHWH's truth and paganism
- + There are relatively few "salvation" beliefs about which we can be absolutely certain – we must focus on these first, and really establish them firmly, so that we can really study YHWH's Word
- + There is a lot of theology, that I call "theory". A theory is a possible explanation of an event. Strong theories have lots of robust, supporting evidence; weak theories have only lesser supporting evidence
- + There is a Creator of all that there is
- + The Bible, in its original languages, is the inspired, revealed and written Word of YHWH. It is the Creator's instruction manual, for how He wants us to live successful lives

- + We must use the original languages of the Bible, and understand the true meanings of words and idioms, if we are to accurately interpret YHWH's Word
- + There is no such things as an inspired translation of the Bible
- + I am cautious about "the traditions of men". While I realize that many traditions are good, I believe they are useful provided they line up with YHWH's Word. I always want to know if any action we do is a "command from YHWH" or "a tradition of man". We may do traditions but we **MUST** do YHWH's commands
- + Faith is "belief in action". Faith is a gift – it must be received !
- + I must be open to receive new revelation from YHWH, and I must not assume that my previous beliefs are absolutely true. We must "renew our mind". I must "test" all spiritual beliefs by checking them against YHWH's Word – the Bible. I never ever want to be deceived about YHWH's Word
- + We all have a different belief system – it contains a mixture of YHWH's truth and pagan influences. Be gentle with those who do not believe exactly what you believe. For whatever reason, YHWH has created things this way

What will we do with this information ?

I realize that there is a lot of information here, and that it will take time for you to "digest" it. I will never ask you to "replace" your understanding of YHWH's Word for mine, but I do ask you to think very carefully about what I have written.

When I first realized all this I made some careful, thought-out, conscious decisions. I ask you to consider what I have done, and if you agree with the above conclusions, **I encourage you to decide now** to adopt them as well.

- 1 I pray to YHWH everyday, to ask Him to release to me His truth, and to withhold anything that is not of Him
- 2 I choose to have an open teachable but discerning mind
- 3 I listen respectfully to, and read carefully what others say and write, but **DO NOT BELIEVE** them, until you have tested it against YHWH's Word, as it is written in its original language.
~ I am very wary of the "traditions of man"
- 4 I read YHWH's Word everyday – I suggest you do this in some systematic way
- 5 I study to show myself approved, but am guided by the Ruach to study the work of any person who some of YHWH's truth (NB there is a vast mixture of truth and paganism)
- 6 I search diligently to find more and more of YHWH's truth
- 7 I find like-minded believers to communicate with – remember, we are each in a different place on our journey, so be patient and gentle with each other.

I'd like to thank you for reading this teaching, and I pray that it will be a blessing to you. Remember, I believe what I have written is correct, but please do not believe what I have written. Check it out for yourself. I'd be interested in any feedback, positive or negative.

May YHWH continue to bless you and expand your understanding of His Word.
Shalom.

Peter Guiren

E-mail : prosperpete@aol.com

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Home Study Exercise

I encourage each person to do what I did, and examine each major belief you have about the Creator and His Word. If you would like some assistance with this, you might like to use the information provided in the Appendix.

Appendix

Use the follow questions as starters to the study of your belief system

Is there a Creator ? Who is the Creator (God) ?
Why did He create the universe and us ?
What is His name ? What do I know about Him ?
Are names important ?
What is the Bible ? Why are there so many different versions ?
Who are the "Old Testament characters such as Adam and Eve, Noah, Abram, Moses, David, and so on ?
Who are the chosen people of YHWH ? What were they chosen for ?
What did YHWH ask them to do?
Why did He ask them to do those things ?
What are the Ten Commandments ?
What does YHWH want us to do ?
What is the Sabbath day and what are we to do on it ?
Who is the Messiah ? What is His name ?
Who were the Messiah's parents ? Where did He live ?
What was He taught ?
Who were His apostles ? Who were the first century believers ?
What did the Messiah live and teach ?
Why was He so upset with the Pharisees ? Who was Paul ?
What is righteousness ? What is salvation ? What is the kingdom ?
What is the "good news" of the kingdom ?
Who are Messianic believers ?
The list goes on and on !!!

I encourage you, if you can, to use Bible software on your computer. E-SWORD at <http://www.e-sword.net/>, provides an excellent free version of Bible software that is readily available. It will help you to answer these and many other questions. Click the Icon on the **For Those New to These Ideas** page, to go to the e-Sword website.