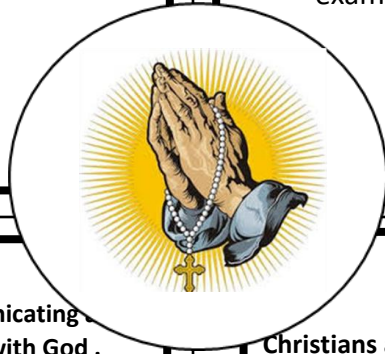
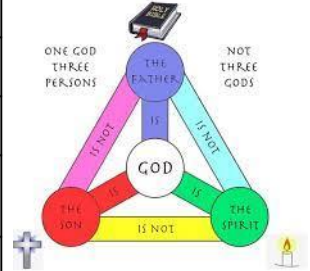


Believing in God: Key Concepts

Theist	Someone who believes in God. (Pronounced: Thee-ist)
Atheist	Someone who does NOT believe in God. (Pronounced: A-thee-ist)
Creed	A statement of belief. (Pronounced: Cr-eed)
Holy Trinity	The belief that God is one, but can be experienced in three different Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). (Pronounced: Whole-ee Trin-ity)
Evil	The absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering. (Pronounced: Ee-vil)
Religious Experience	When someone feels they have had a direct or personal experience of God. (Pronounced: Ree-lj-us Ex-peer-rear-ans)
Agnostic	Someone who holds the view that it is impossible to know the truth about some things, such as God's existence. (Pronounced: Ag-nost-ic)



Believing in God: Key Beliefs

- Christians believe in 1 God. They believe that God is the omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient creator of the world and humankind.
- Within the two categories of prayer (formal and personal) there are 5 different ways that Christians communicate with God through prayer. These are: petition, intercession, praise, thanksgiving and penance.
- There are two types of evil – natural and moral evil. Moral evil is suffering caused by humans whereas natural evils are not caused by humans but affect them. For example, natural disasters.
 - Some non-religious people argue that the existence of God proves that God does not exist.
 - Some Christians argue that having a religious experience can strengthen an individuals faith/belief in God.

How does a religious experience affect a belief in God?


Generally speaking, having a religious experience with God can often make someone believe in God more. This is because that individual then has proof that God exists. For example, Saul used to be a sinner, until Jesus blinded him and he changed his ways. After Saul's religious experience he became a true believer in God and began preaching the word of God.




Moses also had a religious experience when God spoke to him through the burning bush in the book of Exodus.

Why do Christians pray?

Christians pray as way of communicating and strengthening their relationship with God . There are a number of reasons why you might want to talk to God, for example, you might want to say thank you, or you might want to ask God for help with a loved one who is going through a difficult time. There are two main categories of prayer: formal and personal.

- Formal prayers are recited and generally known by everyone, usually at Church. For example, the Our Father. 
- Personal prayers are individual prayers written by an individual. An example of this is when a Christian is asking God for help.

What do Christians believe about God?

Christians are monotheistic and believe God is omnibenevolent (all loving), omniscient (all knowing) and omnipotent (all powerful). Christians believe with this power he 'created all things'. Christians also believe in the Holy Trinity. (The belief that God is one but can be experienced in three different Persons). *This belief can be seen in the Nicene Creed.* 

Christians also believe that Jesus is the son of God. This can be seen in The Trinity stories where God says, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

How does evil and suffering in the world affect a belief in God?

Some people believe that evil and suffering in the world proves that God is either not real, or not very good at his job. This is because, why would an omnibenevolent God allow his creation to suffer? This is also known as the inconsistent triad.

On the other hand, some people like Christians believe that evil and suffering is our fault and that we use our own free will to choose to cause pain and suffering to others. Some Christians believe that evil and suffering came from the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 when they ate the apple and went against God's orders.



Genesis 3 – Adam and Eve