

Is GOD Real?

In The Beginning



I first encountered the question of “*Is GOD Real?*” in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 3, 1958, for this is where and when I was born. I truly believe that every newborn baby is shaped and molded with curiosity that surpasses their own understanding. This curiosity is what helps them develop into the infants, children and adults that they become. It’s also a big part of what their belief system becomes.

If you watch infants closely, you’ll notice that every visual, audial or physical thing they encounter is an exciting discovery. They are sometimes uncontrollably drawn to the new things in their life. If you notice, they’re even fascinated by their own bodies, especially the fingers and toes. I believe that these fascinating events all form questions in their minds even though they don’t know what a question or a mind is. These questions are open doors to their minds that can be filled with whatever walks in.

As children grow and develop, they’ll sometimes put their own answers to the questions they have, and sometimes they’ll accept whatever answers they’re given by those they trust. The answers to their questions are a very important part of what shapes their lives.

Most children will get to the point of relentlessly asking questions. Their persistent interrogation can be more than the adults around them can handle, which in that case, may push the adults to force the child to be quiet. At the time, the adults may feel that the silence is what they

really want. However, if a child's natural curiosity isn't directed properly, they may grow up to be something that's the opposite of what the ones raising them would have liked. That's why it's so important to feed their little minds with the right food.

If you can remember back to your childhood, you can probably tell how your present belief system was formed. You can start with the things that are common to most children in America as a basis to start the search for your path of development. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, the Boogey Man, the devil and God are a few of the stories that most American children will grow up hearing. The people and environment around them, as they grow and develop, are the things that will feed their natural curiosity and shape the extent to which they believe or disbelieve in those childhood stories. When you think back over your life you'll see how true that last statement is.

Christmas, as it relates to Santa Claus, is probably the biggest day of the year for most American children. They look forward to and talk about that day all year long. They're always putting their list of Christmas toys together. A lot of American parents use the Santa Claus myth as a tool to try to discipline their children. They tell their children that Santa is watching to see who's naughty or nice and that the nice children will get a lot of presents for Christmas.

This idea of getting presents for Christmas is an American tradition that extends from the children to the adults. Although the adults don't believe in Santa anymore, they still look forward to getting the presents. The retail stores look forward to this holiday season as well because it's their biggest money making time of the year. They'll start their Christmas advertising just before or right after Halloween. There are people who shop all year long in order to have Christmas presents for as many people as they can. This present giving tradition is also a source of great depression, jealousy and frustration. It's no telling what a child's belief system will be, based on the actions of the adults, when it comes to this gift giving thing.

As far as believing in Santa, I can't say for sure that I never believed