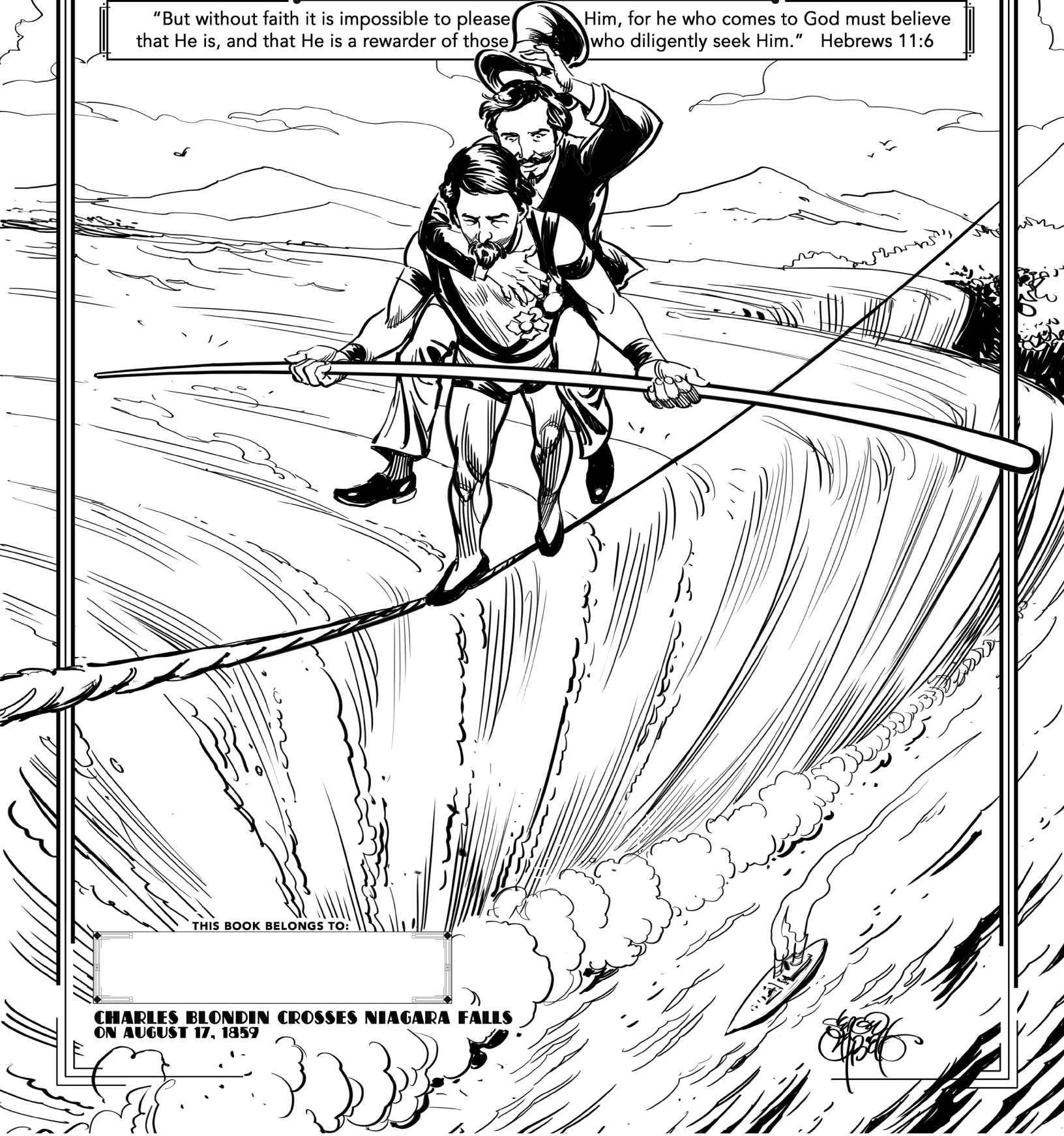


FAITH

PLEASES GOD

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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**CHARLES BLONDIN CROSSES NIAGARA FALLS
ON AUGUST 17, 1859**

[Handwritten signature]

FAITH PLEASES GOD

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FAITH PLEASES GOD

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BIBLE STUDY



Let's practice:

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
Hebrews 11:6



THE TRUE NATURE OF SAVING FAITH

Because the word "**BELIEVE**" is used in many ways and can mean different things, we are going to examine three beliefs of the various ways that people say that they **BELIEVE** in **GOD**.

The **FIRST** belief is:

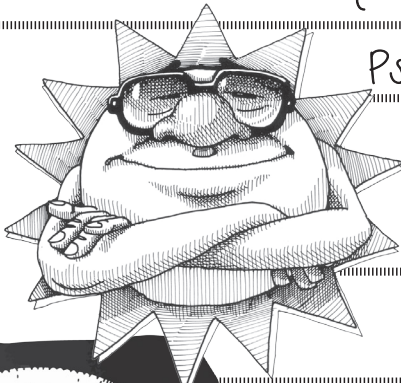


The belief that there is a possibility that **GOD** may exist.



The very first verse in the **BIBLE** says

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1



Psalms 19:1 states,

"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament (**expanse of heaven**) shows the work of his hands."



And later in Romans 1:20 it says

"For since the creation of the world His (**God's**) invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."



People may **LOOK** around at the world and say to themselves, "*There must have been something that made all of this, it couldn't have just happened. Well, maybe there's a God out there. But I'm not sure, but I think it's possible. Maybe there's a God.*"

Some people are taught that **GOD** doesn't exist, but they **LOOK** around and realize that someone must have **MADE** the world.

All people have to do is to **LOOK UP** into the heavens to see the evidence of a Creator; the evidence that there is a **GOD**. Even people in the remotest parts of the world have **BELIEVED** in a creator **GOD** by thinking about what they see in **GOD'S CREATION**. **GOD** tells us in the **BIBLE** that we can know that He exists simply by observing the things He **CREATED!**

When you **LOOK** at a phone, you know someone **MADE** (CREATED) the phone; or a watch, someone had to have **MADE** it, it didn't just happen.



Do you **BELIEVE** that He is, that **GOD** exists?

We should not find it impossible or difficult to **BELIEVE** in **GOD**. This belief that **GOD** exists is the very least that is expected of those whom **GOD** **CREATED**.

The **SECOND** belief is:

2 The belief that **GOD** is real, but not following what He wants, not committing our lives to Him, and just doing what we want to do and really not caring about what **GOD** says is right or wrong (in the **BIBLE**).

Some people **BELIEVE** in **GOD**, but they don't give their lives to Him. They don't *love* Him. They agree that there is a **GOD** that exists, but they don't **BELIEVE** in a way that actually changes their lives because they don't **BELIEVE** in their hearts.



Deuteronomy 6:5 says,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."



So, it is possible to have a belief of **GOD** in your head, but not in your heart.



Many people **BELIEVE** that if they have the correct belief, all is well, all is right. But it can be a **BIG** mistake to think, "all is well" if I just have the correct belief!

In James 2:19 it says,

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"



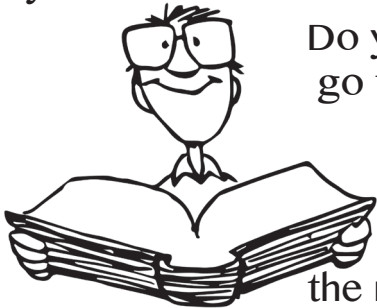
Why do you think the demons “tremble”? To tremble means to be troubled by fear. These creatures **BELIEVE**, not only in **GOD’S** existence, but also in His power. They do not *love* and serve **GOD**. They have an understanding of who **GOD** is and that causes them to tremble!



So it is with many people! They may have a “head” belief about who **GOD** is, but they haven’t given their lives (hearts) to Him and do not serve Him.

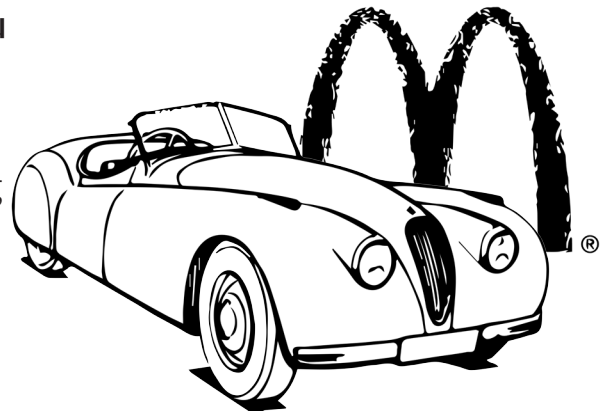
James is trying to communicate that head-belief is good, but it is heart-belief that is necessary for salvation. Let’s think about that!

THINK ABOUT THIS! Do you think that because you’ve memorized some **BIBLE** verses, that makes you all right with **GOD**?



Do you think that because you go to church, that makes you all right with **GOD**?

That would be like saying that because you stand in the middle of your garage that makes you a car. **OR** because you go to McDonalds that makes you a “happy meal.”



Not so! Your life will show what you really **BELIEVE**. Your **ACTIONS** will show if you only **BELIEVE** in your head or you really **BELIEVE** in your heart.

Answer this question quietly to yourself. “Do I show by how I live that I have: **A**) a head belief or **B**) a heart belief.” You may want to talk with **GOD** about this.

The **THIRD** belief is:

3

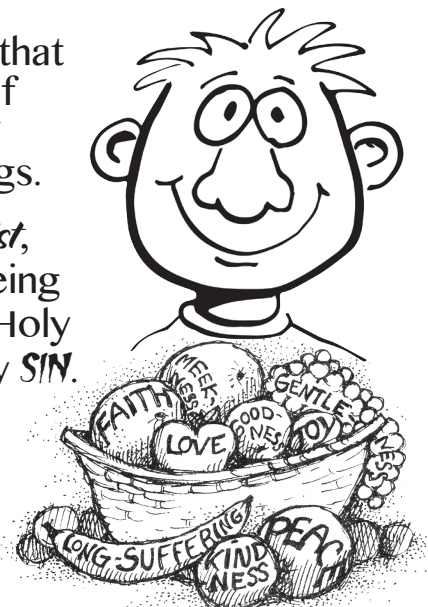
The belief that causes a person to give his or her life to the **LORD**.

This is someone that is a follower of *Jesus Christ* and His teachings.

When a person truly **BELIEVES** in the Lord *Jesus Christ*, that person receives forgiveness for his **SINS**; the result being a spiritual birth (being “born again”), being indwelt by the Holy Spirit and receiving His enablement to not be controlled by **SIN**.

If we have really given our lives to the Lord, there will be the proof or evidence in our lives.

Answer this question quietly to yourself...
“Is there evidence in my life that I am a **C**HRISTIAN?”





Some evidence in a person's life is that they treat others with kindness and not meanness. They aren't angry and hateful, but forgiving and loving. They aren't selfish, but they do caring things for others. They care about what **GOD** wants them to do, so they read their **BIBLE** to find out. They talk to **GOD** in prayer. They ask **GOD** to help in obeying Him. They like going to church to learn about **GOD**.

James 2:20 tells us that

"...faith without works is dead."



We are not saved by our works, but our works (the things that we do in our lives, the way we live), give evidence of what we really **BELIEVE**. If we have really committed our lives to the Lord **Jesus**, there will be **ACTIONS** in our lives to prove what we **BELIEVE**.

The apostle Paul states in *Ephesians 2:8-10*

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."



If you are not yet a **CHRISTIAN**, it would be good to talk to someone today about giving your life to the Lord.

Write down two things that show evidence that you are a **CHRISTIAN**.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

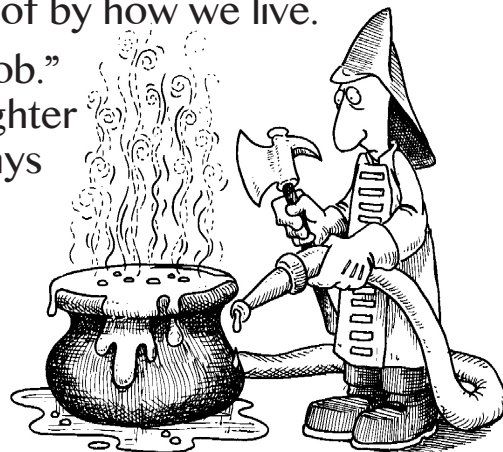
James **BELIEVED** the same thing that the Apostle *Paul* wrote in *Ephesians 2:8-10*, that we are accepted by **GOD** by grace through **FAITH**.

We can't be accepted by **GOD** on the basis of our works.

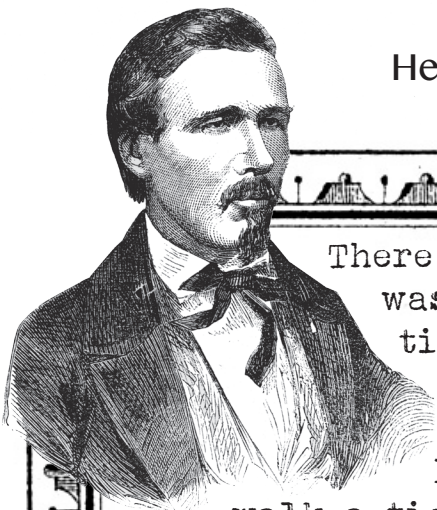
James just focused on the fact that if we really have **BELIEVED** on *Jesus Christ* and we follow His teachings, there will be proof by how we live.

If someone says to you "I am a firefighter. That is my job." Then you would expect that person to do what a firefighter does – put out fires and help people. **OR** if someone says to you "I am a doctor. That is my job." They too would be expected to do what a doctor does, tries to help sick people get well.

What *James* is saying is, that if you say you **BELIEVE** in *Jesus Christ*, then you will live that way!



Here are two little stories that hopefully will help you understand this idea of **BELIEF**.



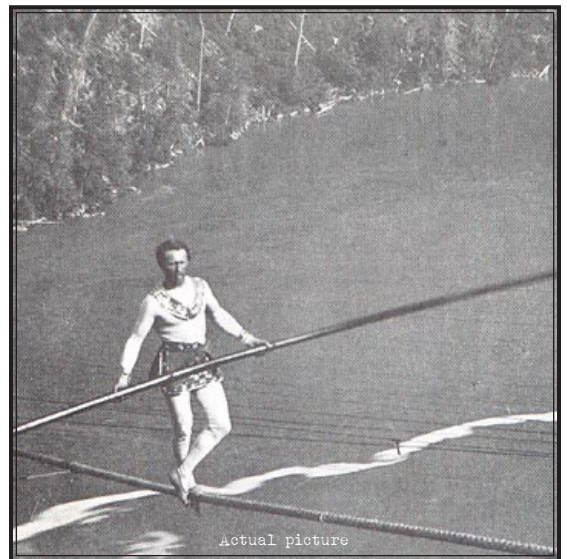
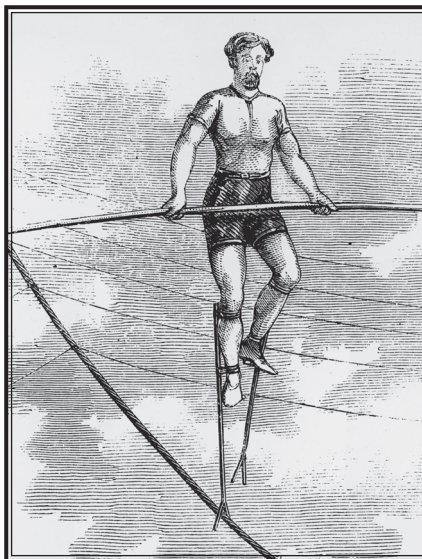
There was a man back in the 1800's whose name was Charles Blondin. He was a French tightrope walker.

One of Charles Blondin's greatest accomplishments was in June of 1859 when he attempted to become the first person to walk a tightrope that stretched over a quarter of a mile across the mighty Niagara Falls.

He walked across 160 feet above the falls several times, each time doing a different daring ACT – once in a sack, once on stilts, once on a bicycle, once in the dark, and once he even carried a stove and cooked an omelet!

On one occasion Blondin was waiting to perform across the tightrope again, when he noticed a young boy standing by, excited and curious with interest. Addressing the boy and pointing up to the rope, Mr. Blondin said, "Do you BELIEVE I can walk across that rope?" "Yes, I do," was the boy's reply. Mr. Blondin asked another question, "Do you BELIEVE I could carry you on my back and walk across?" Unhesitatingly came the answer "Yes, I do!" Charles Blondin bent down and replied, "All right! Jump up!" But the boy disappeared!

He had said that he had **BELIEVED**, but did he really?
What kind of belief did this boy have? Was it a head belief or a heart belief?



The second story goes like this...

A grocer was down in the cellar (basement) of his shop, when he noticed his small son standing at the open trap door. He called up, "Here I am, son, jump down". But the boy hesitated. "I can't, Daddy. I can't see you," he said. His father answered, "Trust me and jump and I will catch you." At his father's words, the boy jumped, because he believed his father.

To BELIEVE is to TRUST, to place full confidence in, to rest upon with FAITH.



The first two kinds of belief we LOOKED at were only "head belief." They were beliefs that did not involve TRUST.

But, the third kind of belief was a "heart belief" because it involved TRUST and ACTION. The young boy in the first story displayed only "head belief". He was not willing to TRUST Mr. Blondin to carry him across the tightrope. He didn't REALLY BELIEVE. But the grocer's son had a "heart belief" in his father when he jumped into his arms even though he couldn't see him. He TRUSTED his father.

Hopefully, these two little stories will help you understand what we mean by

"FAITH is BELIEVING GOD'S WORD and ACTING upon it, no matter how I feel, because GOD promises a GOOD RESULT."

Let's say what FAITH is together... Repeat it. "FAITH is..."

Which FAITH do you have? The disciples said to Jesus, "Increase our faith." in Luke 17:5.



FAITH, that is a saving FAITH, is a belief in Jesus, committing ourselves to Him, and TRUSTING in Him, as the grocer's boy TRUSTED and committed himself to his father.

We have been STUDYING about FAITH a lot. It's time to make sure you can say by memory Hebrews 11:6 and the DEFINITION of "FAITH." Practice together, then fill in all the blanks.

Hebrews 11:6

"_____ faith _____ to _____ Him, _____ who _____ to _____ must _____ that _____, and _____ is _____ of _____ who _____ Him."

Definition of Faith:

"FAITH is _____ and _____ it, _____ how I _____, because _____ a _____."

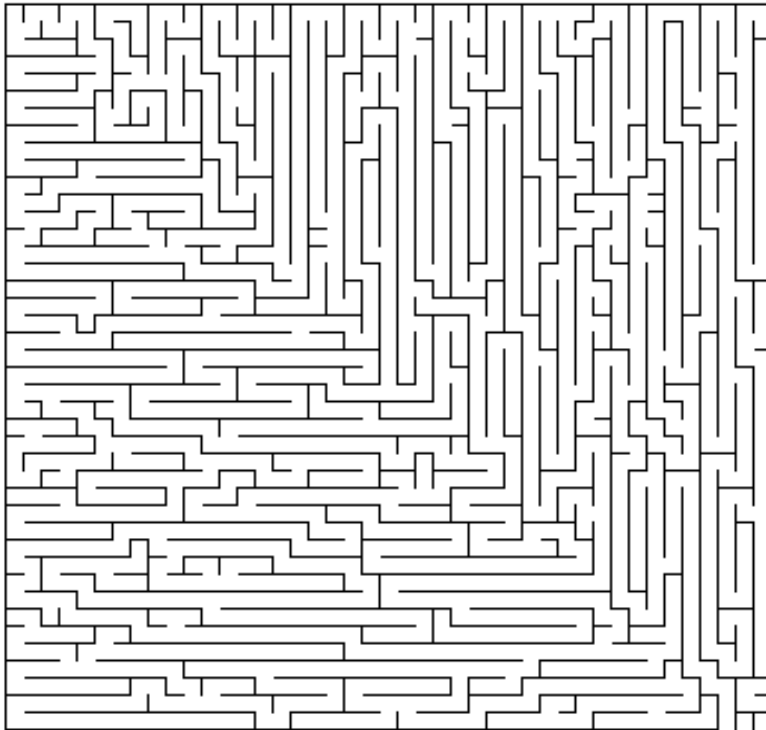


ACTIVITY PAGE

1

"The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

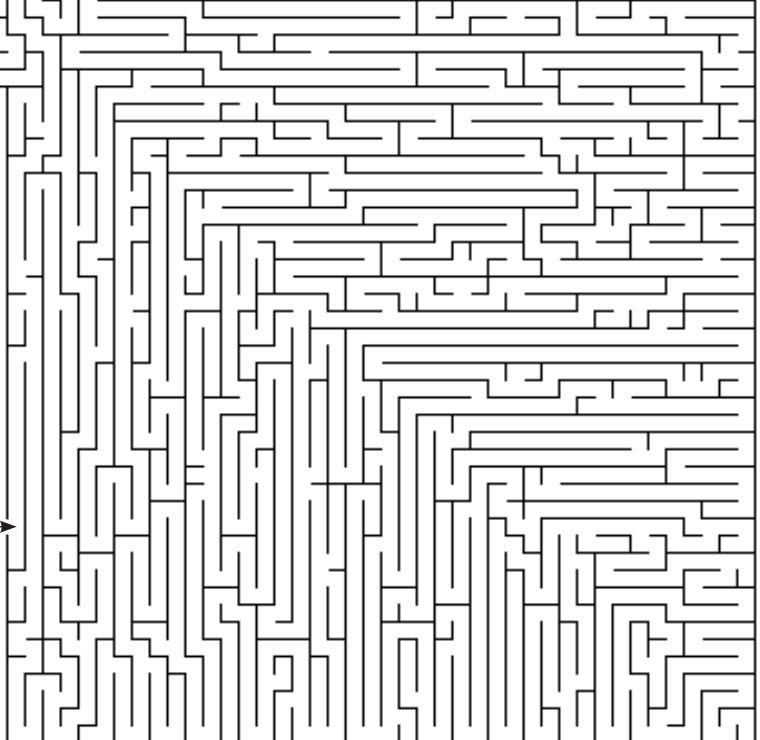
FIND THE ABOVE **BIBLE VERSE** BELOW



Z B R Z Y Z B S T L G T S L A N E D F D E W R W O U V
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 A D L T R C Y U G Y L S H O R H O O O U L Q
 S E A Y F Y L O S Y B O L I C Y O F O H M G R
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 S T W P L O I O U O Q O T I D I S O A B Y E T E
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 N D I O G A I S R O L A O U A R I S W M A F A
 A L O U H G W W K D H T Y M Q B M A H O F H H O
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 I T Q O E V U U W Q K K E E Y C K E V H W

R E H N R B E I N G D M Z A L P L O Z G U P
 I H I S A D B Y D O F A O N T E Q T S E
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 O Y S I N C E R A U G C I A T A O S P B R
 R G R I G S K Z O N V A N I P H Q E M H T T
 L W V S L K O P S W D Z V T Y T E H C U E G
 F K F G O D H E A D O T I K V H H L R L A Z
 I L V E R A K B V L W S P K A T A E I V I
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 I O G C L R Z N G A N B I T D U R T D N Q
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 C S E D E R Q L A S P E D Y E H T O O R Z
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 O C D U T B E B S W O M S T A P O E E R
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 Z T G L U H Y L A E L C W C I T E O N S E
 M C C V I H I S I P L E L I H I M I H U O N
 S I O C B S E P W C N R E H B A U V G T O G
 S E R A K T E H T R A L C E D E R A S R O
 W S O F U V M I B Q A T T A R I B U T E S A

FIND THE BELOW **BIBLE VERSE** ABOVE



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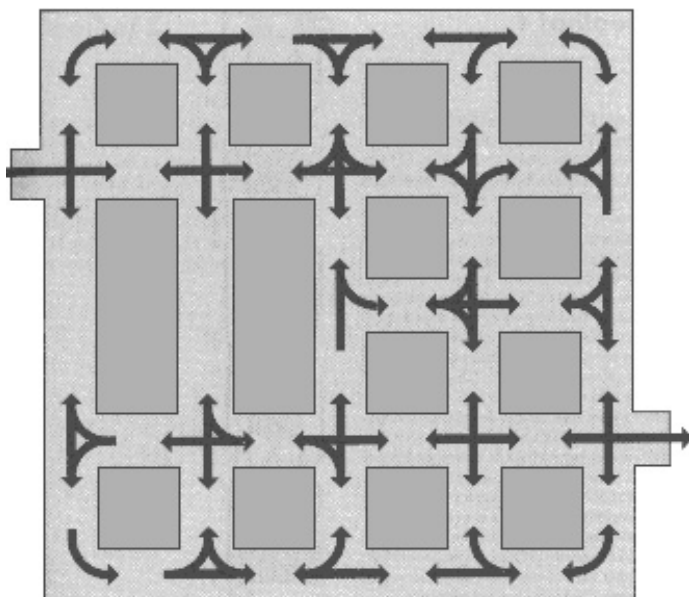
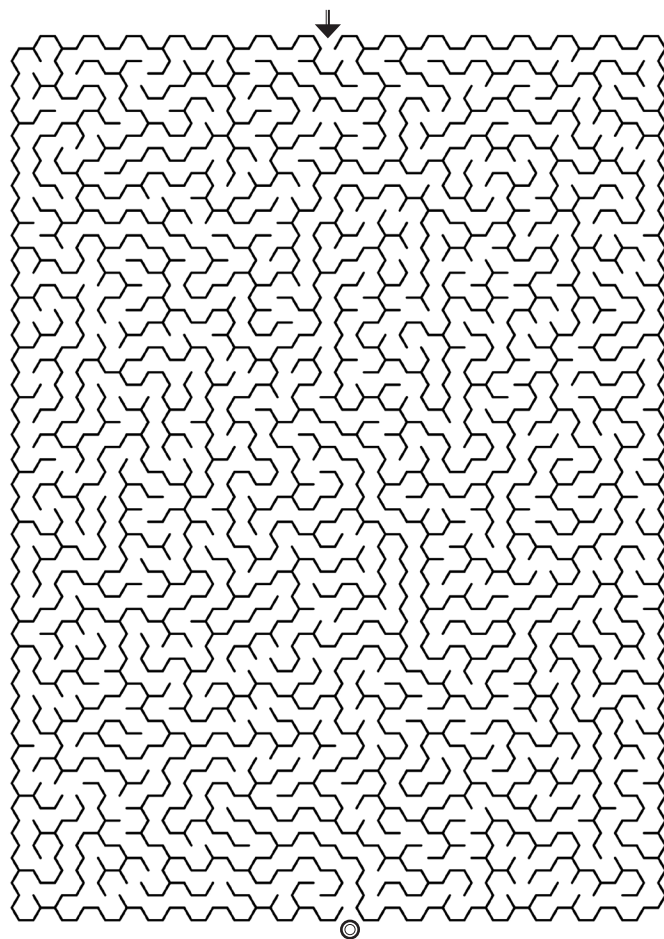
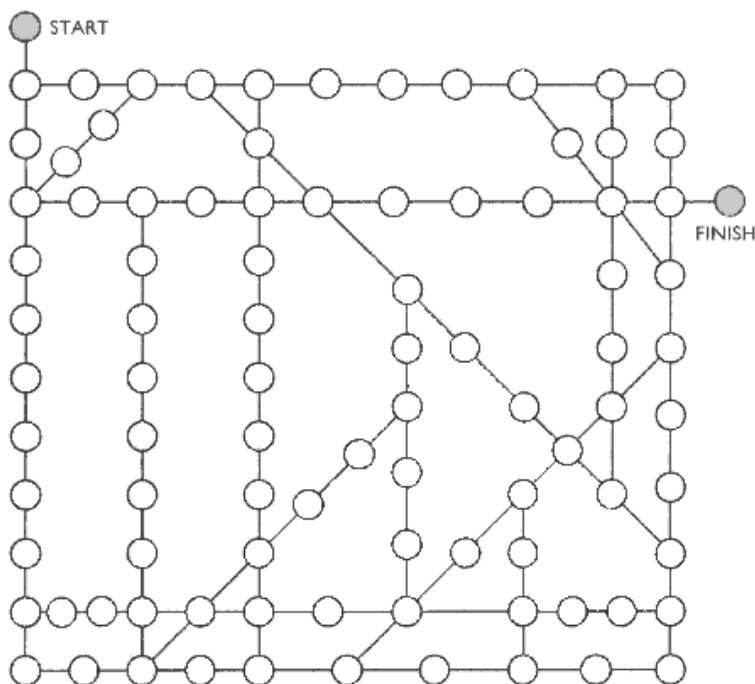


ACTIVITY PAGE

2

DOTS

1. Begin at Start.
2. Each move must go in a straight line (you may not turn a corner).
3. Each move must follow the lines in the figure.
4. With each move you jump over two points; you always land on the third point.
5. If you land on a junction, you may choose to go in another direction on your next move.
6. The objective is to reach the finish following these rules.



ARROWS

1. Start on the left.
2. At each fork you must follow one of the arrows.
3. Therefore, you may only go left, right or straight ahead if so indicated by an arrow.
4. Always leave a fork in the direction of one of the arrows.
5. You may not turn around.
6. The objective is to exit on the right.