

ELEVATOR FAITH STATEMENT

Cratfing a faith statement anyone can understand



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Seven Simple Steps to Saying What You Believe

Do you have a hard time explaining and sharing what you believe? Maybe “God said it. I believe it. That ends it” doesn’t quite convey the extent and depth of your faith, but you don’t want to give some rambling explanation either.

Perhaps you don’t even have the words to articulate what you believe, or the whole idea of sharing your faith just makes you uncomfortable.

Here are seven simple exercises to help you craft a concise and easy-to-share faith statement.

Keep in mind three things as you work through these exercises:

- 1 Faith statements are fluid. They are every-changing and growing. You are not creating a static document to stand for now and all time.
2. Faith statements shouldn't tell EVERYTHING you believe. What they should do is provide the basics and make people want to know more.
3. No judgment here. Don't stay what you think you ought to believe or what other people tell you you should believe. Faith statements should be authentic or they're not very effective.

1. What About God?

When you pray or call out to God, what name feels right for you? Circle all that apply and then pick one or two that really resonate.

Names for God

(this is not an exhaustive list—feel free to add your own)

Adonai/Jehovah (one true God)

Creator

El Elyon (God on High/Sovereign God)

El Emet (God of Truth)

El Emunah (faithful God)

El Roi (the God who sees)

El Sali (the God of my strength)

El Shaddai (Almighty God)

Elohim Chayim (Living God)

Father

Jehovah-Jireh (the One who provides)

Jehovah-Rapha (the One who heals)

Mother

Reflect on why those names of God appeal to you. What do they say about what you believe or how you feel about God?

2. Who is Jesus?

How do you best relate to Jesus? Jesus has many attributes, and throughout our lives, we will connect to Christ in different ways.

How to you relate to Him most right now? Circle the ways that most appeal to you and then narrow it down to one or two names that most resonate with you where you are in your faith life right now.

Who Is Jesus to You?

Bread of Life	Emmanuel (God With Us)
Friend	Gentle Healer
Lamb of God	Light of the World
Lord	Master
Miracle Maker	Redeemer
Savior	Seeker of the Lost
Son of God	Teacher
The Way	The Word

How has Jesus played (or is playing) this roll in your life? (i.e. What has He taught you? How has He healed you? How has He redeemed/saved you?)

3. What exactly is a Holy Ghost?

There are many images for the Holy Ghost or Spirit (God moving in and among us).

A mighty rushing wind

Tongues of fire

A dove

Breath of God

A wild goose (in Celtic Christianity)

Flowing water

How do you see the Holy Spirit living and working in your life and in the world around you?

Take a moment to reflect on which “person” of the Trinity drives your faith. Though you may believe and call out to each of the three-in-one at times, is your faith mainly driven by God, Christ or the Spirit? For instance, your faith may be rooted in the belief that God loved us enough to send God’s son, or it may be that Christ died for us, or that Christ is risen, or that the Holy Spirit still moves among us. Which member of the Trinity do you most strongly connect with?

4. The Bible

What do you believe about the Bible? There are a number of approaches you can take when studying scripture. Which of these is the closest to what you believe?

- God is the author of the Bible, and it is all infallible and absolutely true
- The Bible was written by humans inspired by God. A holy text, but context, metaphor and human-ness should be taken into account when studying and applying to life.
- The Bible is simply great literature.
- The Bible is combination of history, holy writings and literature that give us insight in to God and God's plan for us.
- Something else entirely?
- Maybe you're still trying to figure it out?

How does the Bible inform your faith or guide your life?

5. The Church

All Christians are part of the Church Universal, but what is the roll of a particular/local church in your life? Is it important to you? Why or why not? If you are active in a church, why did you choose that particular group of believers?

6. You

How does being a Christian change the way you live your life?
How does it change the way you view life after death?
Why is Christianity your faith path?

7. Putting it Together

Take the words you've identified and the answers you've written down and put them together in a rough-draft paragraph. Put it away for a day or two, and then come back to it and make some edits.

Note: if there is something that is central and essential to you about your faith that is not listed here (forgiveness of sins, the nature of heaven, sharing the Good News), go ahead and incorporate in your statement.

Begin to synthesize into a crafted statement. Come back and change and edit some more. Edit down whenever you can. Try to keep it to 200 words or less. The more succinct you can be (without being skimpy), the easier it will be to share with others. Write your final draft (for now!).

Just to reinforce: a faith statement is not a one and done kind of thing. It is something to be revisited and adapted as your own faith changes and grows. It also not meant to be read verbatim when sharing your faith with others, but to help you organize your thoughts and craft the language you need to express what you believe.

Blessings upon your continued faith journey and your growing ability to share that faith with others.

Peace,

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