

WHY I KNOW THERE IS A GOD

We welcome Dr. Dean Miller today to Christchurch Baptist Fellowship. When I invited Dr. Miller to be with us and to give his testimony, my goal was to encourage God's people who have been cynical about God answering prayer and to also afford an opportunity for those who are unbelievers to hear a testimony of a man whose very existence cries out, "There is a God!" Believing in the very existence of God is a necessity to having a beginning point of faith in Christ. The Bible says, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"* (Hebrews 11:6). Believing that "God is" is where we must begin. Why do I believe in God?

1. THE SYMMETRY OF THE UNIVERSE

Colossians 1:16 informs us, *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for Him."* You know what I believe about the creation of the universe and man. I would agree with Norman Geisler and Frank Turek who wrote, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Allow me to let you hear from the unbiased assessment of some of the leading scientific minds of our time:

John Polkinghorn (professor of quantum theory at Cambridge) said, "If you examine the early relationship between expansion and contraction forces in the early picoseconds of the universe, you will see that the exactitude was so precise that the margin of error and the precision required would be like taking aim at a one square inch object twenty billion light-years away (on the other end of the universe) and hitting that bull's eye." He went on to say, "When you realize that the laws of nature must be incredibly finely tuned to produce the universe we see, that conspires to plant the idea that the universe did not just happen, but that there must be a purpose behind it."

Paul Davies (English physicist writer and professor at Arizona State University has held previous academic appointments at the University of Cambridge, University College London, University of Newcastle upon Tyne,

University of Adelaide and Macquarie University) said, "There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all...It seems as though somebody has fine tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe...The impression of design is overwhelming."

Dr. Paul Brand put it like this: "The more I delve into natural laws – the atom, the universe, the solid elements, molecules, the sun, and even more, the interplay of all the mechanisms required to sustain life – I am astounded. The whole creation could collapse like a deck of cards if just one of those factors were removed. Some people really believe that all the design and precision in nature came about by chance, that if millions of molecules bombard each other long enough, a nerve cell and sensory ending at exactly the right threshold will be bound to turn up. To those people I merely suggest that they try to make one, as I did, and see what chance is up against."

"Donald Page of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Science calculated the odds against our universe randomly taking a form suitable for life as one in 10,000,000,000¹²⁴. That is one in ten billion to the 124th power! This is a number so large, it is safe to say that the universe did not come together randomly. It was created by an incredibly intelligent and powerful designer."

Charles Townes, Nobel Prize-winning physicist stated, "Many have a feeling that somehow intelligence must have been involved in the laws of the universe...I strongly sense the presence and actions of a creative being far beyond myself and yet always personal and close by."

2. THE TESTIMONY OF THE BIBLE

There are only a handful of manuscripts to document Homer's Iliad, but no one disputes their authenticity. In the Received Text of the Bible alone we have over five thousand ancient manuscripts to speak of the infallibility of the words of the Bible. In this Divine Book, the way of salvation is given and the way to live life is explained.

Proverbs 30:5 declares, *"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."* Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). Other best selling books have faded and many have disappeared, but the Bible remains the best seller of all time. Its existence says, "There is a God and He has revealed Himself to us in this Bible, the only Book He ever wrote!"

3. THE LIFE OF JESUS

In the last book of the Bible the resurrected Jesus made an appearance to John saying, *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death"* (Revelation 1:18). No leader in history, no founder of any religion could ever say this! You cannot honestly study His life and the influence of Jesus' life and not agree there was no one else like Him. Dr. James Allan Francis said, "I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

In 1876, after a conversation on a train with the well-known atheist Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, General Lew Wallace realized that he didn't know as much as he would like to about his own faith. In his attempt to understand the Christian faith, he wrote *Ben Hur*, a study in the life of The Christ. This became the best selling book of the nineteenth century (outside of the Bible). Many people who read it, converted to Christ. Any honest person cannot look at Christ and remain the same. The most life-changing thing that ever happened to me was studying the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself"* (John 7:17).

4. THE CHANGED LIVES OF CHRISTIANS, INTERMINGLED WITH SUPERNATURAL LOVE

Many followers of other religions and cults claim their lives have been changed. The changed lives of Christians possess one ingredient that other faiths cannot supply and that is "love." Only a Christian can love unconditionally. Only a Christian can forgive even when severely mistreated. It has been documented that, while viewing Christians dying as martyrs in the coliseum, the Romans exclaimed, "Oh, look how they love!" Jesus said, *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"* (John 13:35).

5. THE PERSONAL ANSWERS TO PRAYERS THAT DEFY LOGIC, COINCIDENCE OR WISHFUL THINKING

There are far too many coincidences to be coincidences in the matter of answered prayer. I have seen people whom medical science has totally given

up on, people declared terminally ill, who after the prayer of faith have recovered one hundred per cent. I have seen men who were prayed for over twenty years get saved in answer to prayer and their lives totally changed. The only explanation: God answers prayer! Jesus said, *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”* (Mark 11:24).

6. I WANT TO BELIEVE.

The longing within the heart of every person for relationship is undeniable. Although many relationships in this life do not last, relationship with Christ lasts forever. I want to believe this! I want to believe that Christ really and truly forgives sins. I want to believe one day those who believe in Jesus will live in Heaven with Christ in a body that shall never get sick or die. I want to believe this! This final reason for believing in God may not satisfy the intellectual nuances or may not answer some more difficult conundrums, but it is a valid reason to believe in God. We do what we want to do; we believe what we want to believe. If someone doesn't want to believe, they will not believe. More than one atheist have stated they do not believe in God because they do not want to answer to God. This is by far one of the more truthful admissions by the atheistic crowd. For doubters, disbelievers and deniers, I challenge you to “want to believe.” Follow the admonition of Isaiah 1:18, *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”* Believe by faith and watch what God does!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.