

# Why I Believe in God

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

## Intro

Lisa Baker, a 20 year old who is disenchanted with religion, still seeking, says, *“All I want is Reality. Show me God. Tell me what He is really like. Help me to understand why life is the way it is, and how I can experience it more fully and with greater joy. I don’t want empty promises. I want the real thing. And I’ll go wherever I find that truth system.”*

Lisa is like a lot of people who want reality and want to experience life more fully and with meaning. Basically people are looking for truth and will go anywhere to find the truth, as long as they have an open mind.

Well, I believe that Christianity deals with truth and shows the way to understand reality and the meaning of life. I believe Christianity gives answers to the most fundamental questions of life. I would like to look at 4 basic questions that deal with reality and the meaning of life. And through those questions to give reason why I am a Christian.

## 1. Where did Everything Come From – Including Me?

Who or what created all this? What is the best explanation for the universe? I believe that atheism is inadequate as a worldview because it cannot adequately explain the origin and existence of the universe. The majesty and order of the universe and the wonder and complexities of life on earth, cries out for an explanation. The atheist, however, is unable to provide a consistent one.

If they argue that matter is eternal, they are going against modern science which states that the universe had a beginning and is gradually running down. If the atheist affirms that the universe had a beginning, then he must account for what caused it. Either way, the atheist cannot adequately explain the universe and this world that is full of complex forms of life.

Science has no laws or observations to show how something could have come from nothing. It doesn't even have a theory to propose such an event. Science can observe only what is in existence and study the formations but origins are outside of its domain.

The ultimate origin of the universe is impossible for science to study, as Dr. Milton Rothman (physicist) states, *“there is no way of obtaining evidence concerning a prior existence”* (i.e., before the universe began).

Dr. Robert Wilson, one of the discoverers of the microwave radiation still emanating from the moment of the beginning of the universe, stated: *“Certainly there was something that set it all off. Certainly, if you are religious, I can't think of a better theory of the origin of the universe to match with Genesis.”*

Einstein said, *“I have a deep feeling of faith, a deep religiosity that comes from my appreciation of the way the Lord made the universe.”*

As science continues its research into the 21st century it has yet to come up with a natural explanation for the universe's origin. It would seem that the supernatural explanation found in Hebrews 11:3 is the only best one we have: *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”* This kind of faith is reasonable.

I like what Pascal said: *“There are only three types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live not seeking, or finding him. The first are rational and happy; the second unhappy and rational, and the third foolish and unhappy.”*

Christianity answers this fundamental question and that’s why I believe in God. The Judeo-Christian God fits the picture so well of the Creator.

British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle too recognizes *“The Judaeo-Christian idea of a deity outside the Universe is a unique concept among the world's early religions.”*

Dr. Robert Jastrow a world renowned scientist admits, *“For a scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance he is about to conquer the highest peak as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”* (Robert Jastrow, NASA’s Goddard Institute)

## **2. What is the Meaning & Purpose of Life?**

For centuries philosophers and great minds have tried to find the meaning of life. They have tried to solve the most fundamental and most important question that faces humanity. The question of what is the meaning of life. But no one has satisfactorily arrived at the answer. Many are still searching and groping and they have come empty.

So what are we to do? Are we to continue seeking aimlessly and take stabs in the dark? Do we continue to put forth arguments for things that we are not absolutely sure of? Do we place all our hope on our personal presumptions and presuppositions? Can we rely on them and with what authority? Can I say for sure that in my mind and thinking that I am right? On what authority or evidence do I base that?

Dr. Francis Collins, (director of the Human Genome Project) had this to say, *“I had to admit that the science I loved so much was powerless to answer questions such as “What is the meaning of life?” “Why am I here?” “Why does mathematics work, anyway?” “If the universe had a beginning, who created it?” “Why are the physical constants in the universe so finely tuned to allow the possibility of complex life forms?” “Why do humans have a moral sense?” “What happens after we die?”* It’s true, science is powerless to answer the most basic and important question of what is the meaning of life?

### **Faith is needed**

Or do I simply take a step of faith toward the Creator who did not leave us in the dark but revealed to us what truth is and that life has a purpose and destiny. Life is too short and I believe every human being desires to know what the meaning of life is. I believe that this is the ultimate question of all questions.

People often mistake a belief in faith as *“a blind leap of faith.”* To the contrary, Biblical faith, as defined in Hebrews 11:1, *“faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

Gregory Koukl (author of Stand to Reason) writes: *“For the biblical Christian, the facts matter. You can’t have assurance for something you don’t know you’re going to get. You can only hope for it.”*

Bertrand Russell (philosopher and atheist) reluctantly admitted in his book *“Impact with Science”*: *“There are certain things that our age needs...the root of the matter is a thing so simple that I am almost ashamed to mention it for fear of the derisive smile with which wise cynics will greet my words. The thing I mean, please forgive me for mentioning it – is love, Christian love or compassion. If*

*you feel this, you have a motive for existence, a guide in action, a reason for courage, an imperative necessity for intellectual honesty.”*

Pascal who was a French Physicist and Mathematician set the 17 century on fire with his personal convictions about Christ. He said, *“Not only do we know God by Jesus Christ alone, but we know ourselves only by Jesus Christ. We know life and death only through Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ, we do not know what is our life, nor our death, nor God, nor ourselves.”*

He also said, *“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”*

The meaning of life is to be found in God who gives us purpose and reason for living. Without him we would be lost groping about in darkness and in hopelessness. That’s why I believe in God and why I am a Christian because Christ came to give us life – more abundantly and meaningfully.

### **3. Is There Life Beyond Death?**

Are we just merely a biological organism or a random accident of nature that lives for a brief time with no ultimate purpose and nothing to look forward to but the termination of life? Why should we continue to live in complete darkness and despair if there’s nothing in the end? If this is the only existence and life ends like a bad dream then why continue to live in hopelessness?

We cannot deny that deep inside each human being is an innate desire and consciousness that cries out for immortality. Ecclesiastes 3:11 we read, *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”* The Creator has set eternity in each human heart and we cannot deny it. It throbs deep inside each person and speaks powerfully when we are facing death’s final moments.

For centuries philosophers and great minds have tried to find the meaning of life. They have tried to solve the most fundamental and most important question that faces humanity - the question of the purpose of life and if there is life beyond death. No one has satisfactorily arrived at the answer. Many are still searching and groping.

#### **ALCOR**

A number of people are banking on the idea that modern science will someday find or engineer a fountain of youth. These people, all deceased, are “patients” of the Alcor Life Extension Institute in Scottsdale, Arizona, where their bodies - or merely their heads! - have been frozen in liquid nitrogen at minus 320 degrees Fahrenheit awaiting the day when medical science discovers a way to make death and aging a thing of the past.

Some of the patients paid about \$200,000 US to have their entire body frozen. Other patients paid about \$80,000 to have only their head frozen, hoping that molecular technology will one day be able to grow a whole new body from their head or its cells.

It sounds like science fiction, but it’s called CRYONICS. As you can imagine, cryonics has its share of critics and skeptics. And of course, Stephen Bridge, president of Alcor, cautions, “We have to tell [people] that we don’t even really know if it will work yet.”

Nevertheless Thomas Donaldson, a 50-year-old member of Alcor who hasn’t yet taken advantage of its services, brushed aside the nay-sayers and explained to a reporter why he’s willing to give cryonics a try: *“For some strange reason, I like being alive .... I don’t want to die. Okay, guys?”*

For those, like Donaldson of Alcor and his cryonics, who like being alive, God has good news. Christ has risen from the dead with an eternal, resurrection body. He has conquered death. All those who believe in Jesus will someday also be raised from the dead with an eternal resurrection body. Jesus is the only sure hope of life beyond the grave.

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:25-26).

Gene Charles Brown of Yale University said, *"There are three things I could never believe. One, that God would create a world like ours and turn His back on it. Two, that He would create man and then desert him at the grave. Three that He would plant a desire for immortality in the heart of man and not fulfill it."*

Humanity has always longed for immortality. People have always chased immortality and have always tried to define it. It's there. Everyone feels the tug in their soul. And the Bible confirms this consciousness in each person. The Word of God confirms this innate consciousness of immortality in human beings because repeatedly the Bible discusses life after death.

### **Christ's resurrection**

Through Jesus' resurrection he conquered death for all humanity. Jesus accomplished what He set out to do: provide the **only** means of eternal life for humanity. Buddha did not rise from the dead. Muhammad did not rise from the dead. Confucius did not rise from the dead. Krishna did not rise from the dead. Only Jesus has physically risen from the dead, claimed to be God, and raised others from the dead. He has conquered death. Why trust anyone else? Why trust anyone who can be held by physical death when we have Christ who is greater than death itself?

**A Muslim in Africa** became a Christian and some of his friends asked him why. I like what he said. He answered: *"Well, it is like this: Suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in 2 directions, and you didn't know which way to go. If you met 2 men at the fork – one dead and one alive – which one would you ask to show you the way?"*

This is another reason why I believe in God because only Jesus Christ conquered death and has given us the only sure hope of eternal life.

### **4. How Can I Have Peace with My Maker**

After answering these questions:

- Where did everything come from?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Is there life beyond death?

The next logical question is "how can I have peace with my Maker?"

First of all the Bible says that we are alienated from God and we need to be reconciled to Him.

In Colossians 1:21-22 we read, *"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation..."*

When we were lost we were at enmity with God and He was at enmity with us. Some wonder how God could love us and yet at the same time be our enemy. Simply, God loves his enemies. We are no longer enemies- but friends- because Jesus bore the penalty of our sin that separated us from God. Jesus reconciles us to God.

Reconciliation means enemies become friends. Jesus made us friends with God and through him we have peace with our Maker.

### **Conclusion**

Evel Knievel the motorcycle daredevil died in November 2007, but earlier that year, Knievel called Lee Strobel after a friend gave him a copy of *The Case for Christ*. Knievel said the book was instrumental in his conversion from atheism to Christianity. Strobel, a motorcycle fanatic since childhood, and Knievel became friends, speaking weekly over the telephone.

Strobel said, *“Knievel just transformed in amazing ways.”* Strobel continued, *“I know his last interview was with a macho men's magazine, and he broke down crying, talking about his newfound relationship with Christ. He was so grateful. He knew he had lived a very immoral life and regretted that. He told me many times how he wished he could live his life over for God, and yet God reached down in his last days and dragged him into the kingdom. He was so overwhelmed by God's grace. Here was this macho daredevil who became this humble, loving, and sincere follower of Jesus. It was an amazing thing to behold.”*

That's what Christianity does. It changes a life and prepares us for eternity. That's why I believe in God and why I am Christian!

Why I believe in God:

- Where did everything come from – including me?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Is there life beyond death?
- How can I have peace with my maker?