

EFFECTIVE WAYS TO GIVE ANSWERS & DEFEND YOUR FAITH

April 12, 2026
Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

IN THE "ANSWERS" SERIES:

March 8: *Does God Exist?* **March 15:** *Can We Trust the Bible?*
March 22: *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* **March 29:** *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?*
April 5: *What Does the Resurrection Prove?*
April 12: *Effective Ways to Give Answers and Defend Your Faith*

Jude 3 (NLT) (3) Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, **urging you to defend the faith** that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) (15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, **always be ready to explain it.** (16) But do this in a gentle and respectful way....

SEVEN PRACTICAL THINGS:

1) **Be clear about what you are** _____.

> A great resource is the book "Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Spiritual Convictions" by Gregory Koukl

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NLT) (6) I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. (7) It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

YOUR GOAL IS TO PUT A STONE IN SOMEONE'S SHOE.

2) _____ **is more powerful than making statements.**

Two Great Questions:

- **What do you mean by that?**
- **How did you come to that conclusion?**

Luke 20:1–8 (NLT) (1) One day as Jesus was teaching the people and preaching the Good News in the Temple, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. (2) They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" (3) "**Let me ask you a question first,**" he replied. (4) "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" (5) They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn't believe John. (6) But if we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet." (7) So they finally replied that they didn't know. (8) And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

3) **You don't have to have** _____.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) (15) Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and **who correctly explains the word of truth.**

John 14:26 (NLT) (26) But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and **will remind you of everything I have told you.**

Luke 12:11–12 (NLT) (11) "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, (12) for the **Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.**"

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU HAVE SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.

EFFECTIVE WAYS TO GIVE ANSWERS & DEFEND YOUR FAITH

April 12, 2026
Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

IN THE "ANSWERS" SERIES:

March 8: *Does God Exist?* **March 15:** *Can We Trust the Bible?*
March 22: *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* **March 29:** *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?*
April 5: *What Does the Resurrection Prove?*
April 12: *Effective Ways to Give Answers and Defend Your Faith*

Jude 3 (NLT) (3) Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, **urging you to defend the faith** that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) (15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, **always be ready to explain it.** (16) But do this in a gentle and respectful way....

SEVEN PRACTICAL THINGS:

1) **Be clear about what you are** _____.

> A great resource is the book "Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Spiritual Convictions" by Gregory Koukl

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NLT) (6) I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. (7) It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

YOUR GOAL IS TO PUT A STONE IN SOMEONE'S SHOE.

2) _____ **is more powerful than making statements.**

Two Great Questions:

- **What do you mean by that?**
- **How did you come to that conclusion?**

Luke 20:1–8 (NLT) (1) One day as Jesus was teaching the people and preaching the Good News in the Temple, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. (2) They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" (3) "**Let me ask you a question first,**" he replied. (4) "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" (5) They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn't believe John. (6) But if we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet." (7) So they finally replied that they didn't know. (8) And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

3) **You don't have to have** _____.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) (15) Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and **who correctly explains the word of truth.**

John 14:26 (NLT) (26) But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and **will remind you of everything I have told you.**

Luke 12:11–12 (NLT) (11) "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, (12) for the **Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.**"

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU HAVE SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.

4) You need to know when to _____ because not every conversation is worth having.

Proverbs 23:9 (NLT) (9) Don't waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice.

Proverbs 26:4 (NLT) (4) Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are.

Proverbs 26:5 (NLT) (5) Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.

Matthew 7:6 (NLT) (6) "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

NOT EVERY COMMENT DESERVES A REPLY. PROTECT YOUR WITNESS BY CHOOSING YOUR BATTLES WISELY.

5) You already have _____ to the most common objections.

6) _____ matters as much as what you say.

1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) (15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. (16) But **do this in a gentle and respectful way.**

Colossians 4:5–6 (NLT) (5) Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. (6) **Let your conversation be gracious and attractive** so that you will have the right response for everyone.

THE GOAL IS NOT TO WIN THE ARGUMENT. THE GOAL IS TO WIN THE PERSON. YOU DON'T WIN PEOPLE TO JESUS BY MAKING THEM FEEL STUPID.

7) Your _____ is the most important argument for the Christian faith.

PETER DIDN'T JUST TELL US TO EXPLAIN "THE" HOPE. HE TOLD US TO EXPLAIN "OUR" HOPE.

THIS WEEK, PUT A STONE IN SOMEONE'S SHOE AND TRUST GOD TO DO WHAT GOD DOES.

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*

4) You need to know when to _____ because not every conversation is worth having.

Proverbs 23:9 (NLT) (9) Don't waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice.

Proverbs 26:4 (NLT) (4) Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are.

Proverbs 26:5 (NLT) (5) Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.

Matthew 7:6 (NLT) (6) "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

NOT EVERY COMMENT DESERVES A REPLY. PROTECT YOUR WITNESS BY CHOOSING YOUR BATTLES WISELY.

5) You already have _____ to the most common objections.

6) _____ matters as much as what you say.

1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) (15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. (16) But **do this in a gentle and respectful way.**

Colossians 4:5–6 (NLT) (5) Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. (6) **Let your conversation be gracious and attractive** so that you will have the right response for everyone.

THE GOAL IS NOT TO WIN THE ARGUMENT. THE GOAL IS TO WIN THE PERSON. YOU DON'T WIN PEOPLE TO JESUS BY MAKING THEM FEEL STUPID.

7) Your _____ is the most important argument for the Christian faith.

PETER DIDN'T JUST TELL US TO EXPLAIN "THE" HOPE. HE TOLD US TO EXPLAIN "OUR" HOPE.

THIS WEEK, PUT A STONE IN SOMEONE'S SHOE AND TRUST GOD TO DO WHAT GOD DOES.

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*