

Does God exist?



By Chris Losey



Welcome to the Answers Course

Today many people have legitimate questions about religion. They want to know such things as:

- **Does God Exist?**
- Is the Bible God's Word?
- Who is Jesus?
- Is the resurrection true?
- If there is a God, why do evil, suffering, and pain exist?
- Has science disproved the Bible? What about evolution?
- How is Christianity different from other religions?
- How does a person get to heaven?

People don't want to believe things on blind faith; they want reasonable answers. If you are honestly looking for answers, *The Answers Course* is for you. It has been designed to give solid answers to many of life's important questions.

As you go through the course, hopefully many of your questions will get answered, and you will see why believing in God is not a blind leap of faith, but a reasonable step of faith.

In addition, as you go through the course there may be other questions that come to mind. Bring them up and hopefully they, too, can be answered in a reasonable fashion. The only bad question is the one that is not asked.

I believe God gave us our minds so we could think and learn. Part of the learning process is asking questions and seeking answers. In this regard, I hope this material is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Chris Losey

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*

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IDM - Institute of Disciple Making*



Chris Losey grew up in Calistoga, California in the beautiful Napa Valley. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1973. After serving for five years as an infantry officer in the Army, he resigned his commission and returned to school receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon in 1982. During that time he also served in the Army Reserve. After graduation from Western, Chris returned to the active duty military where he served as an Air Force Chaplain retiring in 1994. For the next twenty years he served as senior pastor of Valley Baptist Church in San Rafael, California, retiring a second time in 2014 due to Parkinson's Disease. In 2017 Chris had successful Deep Stimulation Brain surgery for Parkinson's and is now an advocate for the same. Chris and his wife Sharon have been married for 43 years and are enjoying life in Elk Grove, California where they both serve as volunteers in their local church. They have two children and five grandchildren. Chris and Sharon enjoy walking, golf, and living close to family. Chris also has a website called "Building Godly Families". The web address is www.chrislosey.com.

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*Dedicated to those who want answers
to life's important questions!*

Does God Exist?

Do you believe?

When it comes to spiritual things, there is no more basic question than, “Does God exist?” Those who believe in God sometimes do so for no other reason than, “That is what I was taught in church.” Likewise, those who don’t believe sometimes have less-than-solid reasons.



Which of the following reasons for believing or not believing in God’s existence do you think are reasonable?

- I believe God exists because that’s what my parents told me
- I don’t believe there is a God because I can’t see Him
- I believe there is a God because it seems the right thing to do
- I don’t believe because there is too much evil in the world

None of these reasons is built on strong evidence. They are simply based on what others have said, or on personal opinion. If a person believes there is a God, he should have a better reason than, “That is what I was taught in church.” Likewise, if a person rejects God’s existence it should be based on something more than not having seen God.

What about faith?

Is the question, “Does God exist?” a fair one? Some people say, “yes,” others “no.” The nay-sayers might argue, “A person should not need reasons to believe that God exists because faith is central to religion. After all, the Bible teaches, *‘And 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 seek Him'
(Hebrews 11:6).”

There is no doubt that faith is important when it comes to religion, but consider for a moment two kinds of faith: one is *blind faith*, the other, *reasonable faith*. *Blind faith* is a leap in the dark. It believes in God without good evidence. *Reasonable faith* believes in God based on solid evidence.

If there is a God, it seems reasonable that He would give people sufficient evidence so they could have *reasonable faith*. To leave them in the dark would seem out of character, especially if God is loving as many people claim.

This brings up the question, “Is there evidence for God’s existence?” The simple answer is, “Yes.”

Before examining the evidence, it is also important to state that God’s existence cannot be proven scientifically. God cannot be put in a test tube and measured, but neither can anger, loneliness, joy, sorrow or love; yet we all know these things exist.

Beyond the test tube, there is other strong evidence for God’s existence. A person might be able to explain away some of the evidence; but when taken in total and considered objectively, it is overwhelming. Faith is still involved, but it is not blind faith, it is quite reasonable.

The atheist

When talking with a scientist, one atheist said, “I know for certain there is no God.”

“How do you know?” asked the scientist.

“I just know,” said the atheist.

The scientist then politely replied, “Friend, consider this. It has been said that of all there is to know, scientists postulate that all men who have ever lived only know one tenth of one percent. Put another way, if all the knowledge in the universe was contained in a thousand-page book, all men together would understand the content of one page. Any one man might know one word on that page. For you to say emphatically, ‘There is no God,’ is like a person opening a thousand page book at random, reading one word, closing the book, and then saying dogmatically, ‘The author has no grasp of his subject.’ If you say you are an agnostic and aren’t sure about God’s existence, that would be understandable. But to say confidently, ‘There is no God,’ is an unsupportable position indeed.”

I am personally convinced that people reject God’s existence not because of the evidence, but because they choose to.

Here, then, is some of the evidence for the existence of God.



1. Consciousness of God

The first evidence for God’s existence is man’s consciousness of God.

This may sound insignificant, but it is interesting that men everywhere have what might be called a “God-consciousness.” Put another way, it is accurate

to say mankind is incurably religious. No matter where a person goes in the world, men worship something: the sun, an idol, trees,

animals, or some other god. As far as we know, humans are the only creatures with this consciousness.

The question arises, “Where did this consciousness of God come from?” I believe the only reasonable answer is, it came from God! It seems God created a spiritual void in all men that can only be filled by Him. Men know instinctively that God exists and, in general, long to reach out to Him. The fact that some people reject God is proof they possess a God-consciousness.

If people are honest with themselves, many would admit their rejection of God simply comes out of a desire to run their own lives. They do not want to submit themselves to anyone, especially God. To do so would mean they might have to change the way they live.

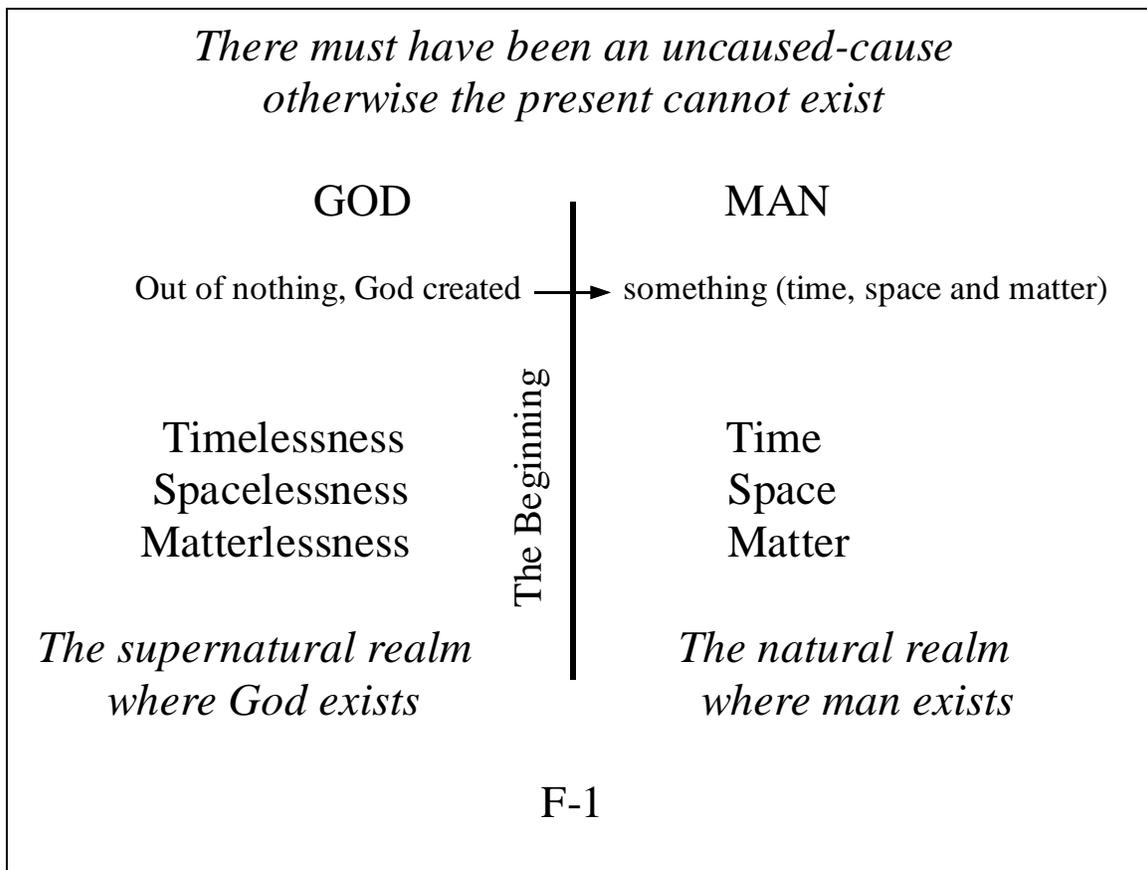
2. Cause and Effect

A second evidence for the existence of God is *cause and effect*. Simply stated, every effect has a cause. For example, if you found a dime on the sidewalk you would conclude that someone dropped it there. If you drove in a neighborhood and saw a new home, you would conclude that someone built it.

Since every effect has a cause, there must be a first uncaused-cause that started everything. If not, the argument deteriorates into an infinite, meaningless regression. In other words, if there is no first uncaused-cause, the beginning can never be found. If the beginning is never found, there is no starting point from which to come forward to the present. This would mean the present could not exist. If the present does not exist, we do not exist. But we do exist! Therefore there had to be a beginning. Everything, then, was triggered by the uncaused-cause. We call this uncaused-cause, God.

Put another way, we live in a **time-space-matter** continuum. In order for each of these to exist in the present, they had to have a beginning. For example, if matter did not have a beginning, then a person would go back forever trying to find its origin. If he went back forever, there would be no starting point from which to come forward to the present. This would mean matter could not exist in the present. But, matter does exist in the present, thus making it impossible for matter to be eternal. Matter then, must have a beginning. The same is true for time and space. Both must have a beginning in order to exist in the present. These are mind-stretching concepts, but logically speaking, they must be true.

Take a few moments to study Figure F-1 as you read the next several paragraphs.



Based on the preceding evidence that time, space and matter all had a beginning, there had to be a timeless-spaceless-matterless state before they began. In F-1 the portion to the right of the beginning might be termed *The Natural State* in which time, space, and matter exist. The portion to left of the beginning might be called *The Supernatural State* – *super* meaning *above nature*.

Although man exists in the natural state, only God and other supernatural beings like angels can exist in the supernatural state. This squares with the Bible, because it teaches that God and angels are spirits. A spirit does not have flesh and bones and is not bound by time, space or matter.

In F-1, something (time, space and matter), comes out of nothing (timelessness, spacelessness, and matterlessness). Interestingly, this is exactly what the Bible teaches, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). The word for *create* is the Hebrew word *bara* (Hebrew is the original language of the Old Testament). It means *to create something out of nothing*. God said, “*Let there be light, and there was light.*” He spoke things into existence.

Some people argue, “In order for God to exist, He, too, must have a beginning.” This, however, is a faulty reasoning. When the *beginning line* (Shown in Figure F-1) is crossed from the natural to the supernatural state, human logic and laws no longer apply. In our finite minds, it is impossible to completely understand the infinite. The Bible says God’s ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8,9).



The argument from *cause and effect* is strong evidence for God's existence!

3. The Complexity of Life

The world around us is incredibly complex. When we look at it, we should realize it never could have come about by random processes.



Consider the human body. It has a circulatory system, digestive system, nervous system, muscular/skeletal system, immune system, hormonal system, reproductive system, respiratory system, heating and cooling systems, balance system... brain, heart, and lungs... sense of smell, touch, sight, hearing, and taste... skin and speech, and the list goes on. All of these work in amazing harmony. Indeed, we do not realize how incredibly complex we are until something goes wrong. For anyone to

believe this intricate myriad of interrelated systems and processes evolved requires much more faith than believing in God.

Many folks believe that evolution happened through small mutative changes over a long period of time. The problem with this argument is that at least 99.9% of all mutations are harmful causing things to deteriorate rather than improve. For example, to create something as intricate as a human eye with its lens, muscles, optic nerve, cones, cornea, blood supply, eyelid, eyelashes, depth-perception (two eyes are needed for this) and tear ducts would take literally millions of positive mutations each one needing to be

passed on to the next generation. Also a center in the brain would have to develop to interpret the information received through the optic nerve, somehow make sense of it, and communicate it to the rest of the body. The statistical possibility of this happening is essentially zero.

In addition, until an eye was fully formed it would be of no advantage to the creature that possessed it. In fact, it would be a hindrance and lessen a creature's chance of survival, thus undermining the idea of natural selection. There are myriads of books that discuss the whole evolution-creation debate in much more depth. This issue will be looked at in greater depth later on in the Answers Course.

Suffice it to say, King David in the Bible was correct when he said in Psalms 139:14, *"I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well."* The human body is fearfully and wonderfully made. The One who made it is to be reverently respected (feared) because He possesses awesome power far greater than man.

Listen also to the words from the Bible found in Romans 1:20, *"For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."* Simply stated, people who look at the complex world all around them and still reject God will be without excuse when they stand before Him at judgment.

4. Common Moral Standards

The fourth evidence for God's existence is ***common moral standards***. Every society has a set of moral standards that condemns things like murder, adultery, stealing, cheating, and oppression. Even in countries where power-hungry political

leaders are in control, people long for human freedom and fair treatment.

Why do men everywhere have these common standards even though many have never heard the Ten Commandments? The most reasonable explanation is, God placed them in their hearts. Again, this is what the Bible teaches. Because man is made in the moral image of God, he has an inherent awareness of right and wrong. Although he can numb his conscious through repeated sin, he still knows God's basic standards. If evolution were true, man's moral standards would be as varied as the colors of the rainbow, but they are not.

Some people argue, "I see no problem with adultery or things like stealing." This argument falls apart however, when someone steals from them or commits adultery with their spouse. They are then quick to scream foul. Universal moral standards are strong evidence for God's existence.

5. Character and Emotions

The fifth evidence for God's existence is ***character and emotions***. Not only do humans have a universal moral code of right and wrong, they also have a common code of noble character traits. Qualities such as boldness, courage, endurance, sensitivity, patience, self-discipline, self control, forgiveness, and generosity are looked upon as laudable. Traits such as slothfulness, stinginess, arrogance, insensitivity, selfishness, and impatience are considered undesirable. Who placed the value of these qualities in the heart of man? The most reasonable answer is, "God did!"



The same is true of emotions. It is impossible to weigh ten pounds of anger, two ounces of loneliness or a gallon of joy. It might be accurately said that emotions have a strong connection to the supernatural. We can't see, taste, or weigh them, but they are every bit as real as things in the physical world. A person's broken leg may heal in eight weeks, but a broken heart may take years.

Some people argue that emotions are associated with chemical reactions in the body. Although this is true, these chemical reactions were placed there by God as His means of bringing emotions into the physical realm.

Character and emotions are powerful evidence for God's existence.

6. Colors

Another evidence for God's existence is colors. Although this may sound a bit strange, consider the following. The color of an object is based on the wavelengths of light it absorbs and reflects. A red object absorbs all colors but red, which it reflects. The same is true of green, blue, yellow and every color except black and white. Black is the only color that absorbs all colors. White is the only color that reflects all colors.

In one sense, color is a phenomenon that seems to be in the supernatural realm because there is no way to describe it accurately to a person who cannot see. If a rough or smooth, hot or cold, big or small object is given to a blind person, he can understand its properties by touch. On the other hand, he cannot understand color without seeing it. A red object feels the same as a blue one. A black one feels identical to a white one.

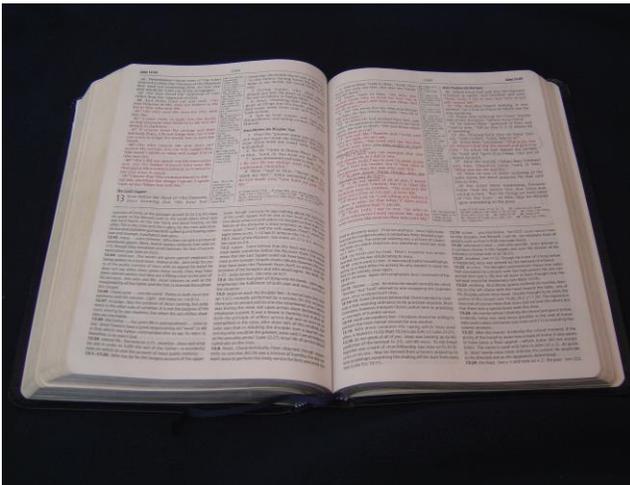
For a moment, picture yourself talking to a blind person. Try describing the color blue. You might say, "Blue is like the sky." But the sky can also be red. You might say, "Blue is the color of water." But brown water would feel the same. Although it is

possible to describe objects that are a certain color, it is impossible to describe them adequately to a person who has no visual reference. Any explanation falls short. Colors thus point to the supernatural realm and the existence of God.

7. Continuity of the Bible

A seventh evidence for God's existence is the ***continuity of the Bible***.

If forty different authors, over the next thousand plus years, who knew little about each other, were given the task of writing chapters for a book on religion, do you think there would be any contradictions in the writing? Absolutely! Yet the Bible was written in precisely the same manner, and done so with perfect harmony.



Someone said about the Bible, “If men would write such a book, they could not. And if they could write such a book, they would not.” This statement basically means that if men set out to write the Bible they *could not do it* because it is too perfect. It flows together too well. On the

other hand, if men could write the Bible *they would not* because its godly values and tone point to the holiness of God and the sinfulness of mankind. In essence by writing such a book, men would be condemning themselves. This flies in the face of human nature. Humans aren't in the habit of self-condemnation, but instead self-justification.

Every religious book (except the Bible) that men have written has men reaching up to God through good works trying to earn salvation. The Bible shows just the opposite; sinful men unable to reach God through their own efforts, needing to rely on God's graciousness to reach down to them in their sinfulness. The very tone of the Bible does not fit human authorship.

If mankind is incapable of writing the Bible, how did it get written? The best explanation is that God inspired and guided men in its writing. He revealed His truth to them and they spoke it or wrote it down. This is precisely what the Bible teaches (2 Tm 3:16, 2 Pt 1:21).

8. Completed (Fulfilled) Prophecy

Another aspect of the Bible that points to Divine authorship is fulfilled Bible prophecy. Scholars have identified approximately 300 specific prophecies about Christ. Most were fulfilled at His first coming, and some have yet to be fulfilled at His second coming. Many of the prophecies were written hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth. Most of the prophecies are extremely specific. Two such prophecies are that Christ would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and die the death of crucifixion (Psalm 22:16). Not only is a virgin birth miraculous, but crucifixion was not a form of capital punishment at the time the prophecy was written.

It is one thing to prophesy that a person will die. All of us will die! It is something else to prophesy *how* a person will die; especially when that form of death is not being used at the time the prediction is made. Statistically speaking, the chance of fulfilling 300 specific prophecies without supernatural intervention is zero!

The Bible and its fulfilled prophecies are strong evidence for God's existence. The entire second lesson of the Answers Course addresses the question of the Bible's origin.

9. Comfort and conviction of the Holy Spirit

A ninth evidence for God's existence is the **comfort and conviction of the Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian and brings comfort and conviction. He comforts believers during difficult times. He brings conviction by working in a person's conscience to give him a heightened awareness of right and wrong.

Listen to 1 John 4:13, *“By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”* When a person comes to Jesus Christ and asks Him to be Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in his body. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 reads, *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own. For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”*



It is one thing to say the Bible teaches the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all believers. This proves nothing. It is quite another to experience firsthand the comfort and conviction of the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, Christians everywhere have similar experiences

regarding the Spirit's ministry and work in their lives. Here are some things I and other Christians have personally experienced many times:

- Comfort and peace in the midst of difficulty. When I have faced things like major surgery, I have gone in with a new sense of peace since becoming a Christian.
- A new sensitivity to sin. Things that used not to bother me, like swearing and crude jokes, have become repulsive. As one person put it, “I can’t get into a good sin without the Holy Spirit reminding me that I am a Christian.”
- A new love and concern for people. Since becoming a Christian I find that I care more about others.
- Inner promptings to do things for God’s kingdom like giving of my resources to help others in need.
- A new understanding of spiritual things. The Bible has taken on new meaning and seems much more understandable when I read it.

The closer a person walks with God; the more the Spirit’s presence is felt. There is no other way to explain these things than to say, “The Holy Spirit really indwells believers and ministers to them.”

10. Changed lives

Another marvelous evidence of God’s existence is *changed lives*. This is simply the natural result of the indwelling Holy Spirit. To me, it is incredible to see what God can do with lives yielded to Him.

I vividly remember being in church one evening when a couple gave their testimony. They were happy people, but I soon learned this had not always been the case. Only two years earlier, the husband had an alcohol problem and the marriage was on the rocks. The husband shared how he and his wife were constantly in verbal battles. Then, through a neighbor’s sharing, the wife became a Christian. As a new believer she decided not to take part in the hurtful verbal exchanges in their home. This infuriated her husband. One evening after too many drinks, he exploded. Amidst his screaming and her silence, he picked up a butcher knife and

threatened to kill her. Her response was, “Do what you will, but I won’t fight with you anymore.” She said the tears welled up in her eyes, as she stood frozen in place waiting for the piercing pain of the blade. The seconds seemed like eternity. In frustration, her husband finally threw the knife at the wall. It bounced off of cabinet doors as it ricocheted around the kitchen. He stormed out of the room and his wife stood physically unharmed.

Not knowing how to handle his wife, the husband began avoiding her. Amidst this rejection, she silently continued her wifely duties and met with her neighbor who helped her grow as a Christian.

Through a series of events, sparked by his wife’s silent witness and changed life, the husband finally gave his heart to Christ. Soon he stopped drinking. Two years later, he was holding his wife’s hand and giving a personal testimony in church about how Christ had changed his life and saved their marriage. It was a powerful evening.

How does one explain such stories? The most logical explanation is God’s power changing the lives of people! I could tell many such stories and perhaps you could, too. They are strong evidence for God’s existence.

11. Christ’s Life, Death and Resurrection

Perhaps the most powerful evidence for God’s existence is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible states that Jesus was born of a virgin, which in itself is a miracle. It also states that during His life He performed many amazing miracles. But what is arguably the most amazing thing about Jesus is His resurrection. The Bible states that He physically rose from the dead. 1



Corinthians 15:14 states, “*And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.*” This verse makes it clear that Jesus Christ’s resurrection is the crux of Christianity. If He actually rose from the dead, He can promise eternal life to others. If He did not rise, Christianity has no real authority.

Even today with all our amazing technology, no one comes back from the dead after three days! If God wanted to prove Christ was His Son, and Christianity was true, a real resurrection would be a great way to do it. This is precisely what God did. Lesson four in the Answers Course covers in detail the evidence for Christ’s resurrection.

The life, death and resurrection of Christ are historic facts. There are many convincing arguments to illustrate this. Regarding Christ’s life, our whole western calendar revolves around Him. The key holidays of Christmas and Easter are about Him. Christmas commemorates Christ’s birth, while Easter celebrates His resurrection.

If Jesus had not lived, there is no way He could have become our calendar’s focus. Even the dating system of the western calendar is based on Jesus. The year AD 2004 means 2004 years since the birth of Christ. Some people think AD means *After Death*. Actually, it is two Latin words *Anno Domini*, meaning *in the year of our Lord*, dated from Christ’s birth. BC means *Before Christ*. If AD meant *after death* (which it does not), the 33 years that Jesus lived on this earth would be lost from the calendar. Having BC mean *before Christ*, and AD mean *in the year of our Lord* (dated from his birth), no years are lost.

In recent days there is a very deliberate attempt by those who oppose Christianity to remove anything Christian from society. One rather covert way has been by changing the calendar’s dating system. Rather than BC meaning, before Christ, writers have

changed dates in many new textbooks to read BCE defined as *Before the Common Era*. Unsuspecting readers and school children are caught totally unaware. Rather than having a calendar that for 2,000 years revolved around the central figure of western civilization, Jesus Christ, many are trying to have it revolve around nothing.

Through His resurrection, Jesus did something that no other man has done before or since. He predicted his own death and resurrection, and then fulfilled both predictions.

Today, medical personnel may revive someone whose heart has stopped for a few minutes, but no one except God can revive someone who has been dead for three days. And that is precisely what He did with Jesus.

Summary

There is strong evidence for God's existence from many areas:

1. Consciousness of God
2. Cause and effect
3. Complexity of life
4. Common moral standards
5. Character and emotions
6. Colors
7. Continuity of the Bible
8. Completed (fulfilled) prophecy
9. Comfort and conviction of the Holy Spirit
10. Changed lives
11. Christ

Does this evidence give people good reasons to believe in the existence of God? Absolutely! Although belief in God requires faith, it is certainly not blind faith. And, all the evidence when taken together is rather overwhelming. God does exist!

Does God Exist? – Discussion Questions

1. Which of the arguments for God's existence seem strongest to you? Why?
2. Which of the arguments seem weak in your opinion?
3. What reasons do some folks give for why they believe in God? Are these good reasons? What in your opinion is a valid reason?
4. Would a loving God require people to have blind faith regarding His existence? Why or why not?
5. What is the argument presented in this study against being an atheist?
6. What other evidences can you think of for the existence of God?

8. How has this chapter affected your belief in the existence of God?

Write down in the space below any questions you want to ask at the next session of the Answers Course.

At this point, you may be interested in knowing what it takes to have a personal relationship with God. If so, here is what you should know.

- God created humans as His finest creation. He created them with the ability to make moral choices (Genesis 1-3)
- Mankind chose to disobey God i.e. to sin – Genesis 3
- Sin separates mankind from God – Isaiah 59:2
- All humans have sinned – Romans 3:23
- The penalty for sin is death – Romans 6:23 (All men will die physically. Their sin also causes them to be spiritually dead. If they die without having their sin forgiven, they will be eternally separated from God.)
- After physical death comes judgment – Hebrews 9:27 (Men will stand before God and be judged. Those whose sins are not forgiven will be eternally separated from Him in Hell.)
- No amount of good works, or any other human effort can pay the penalty for a person's sin & get him into heaven – Ephesians 2:8,9
- Only Christ can/did pay the penalty for man's sin – 1 Peter 3:18
- A person's salvation is not automatic. Instead it comes when a person believes in God by placing his faith in Him – John 3:16 (This is not just head belief, it is wholehearted commitment.)
- A person can place his trust in Christ by receiving Him as Lord (the One who now calls the shots in a person's life), and Savior (the One who saves him from sin). – John 1:12, Romans 10:9,10

If you would like to place your faith in Christ today, here is a prayer you can pray. As you pray, remember that God is more concerned with the attitude of your heart than the exact words you use. He loves you.

Salvation Prayer - *Lord, I admit to You that I am a sinner. I have sinned in thought, word, and deed. I repent of my sin and ask You to forgive me, and to come into my life through the power of the Holy Spirit to be my Lord and Savior. I give myself to You. Make me the person You want me to be.*

If you sincerely prayed this prayer you are saved. Your salvation is not based on any good thing you have done, but on Christ's death for you on the cross. In order to grow as a Christian you are encouraged to get a Bible and begin reading and studying it. You are also encouraged to get involved in a good church and to pray. If you have Christian friends, tell them about your decision and allow them to help you grow in your faith. Blessings... CL

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