

Believing in the God Who Is

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All of Scripture really rests upon the notion that *“He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”* (Heb. 11:6). God’s existence must first be believed before the nature and character of God can be known.

God is. He exists. This truth is set forth in the very first verses of the Bible (Gen. 1:1-2:3). The rest of the Bible is an explanation of God’s nature and character. He is the God (Hebrew, *Elohim*) who created everything from absolutely nothing. He is the ever-present Lord (Hebrew, Jehovah or “I AM”).

According to Hebrews 11:1-3, *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”* Faith stands under our convictions and eliminates guessing or supposing that God is.

Faith is not blind, but is based upon good evidence, a word meaning “a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested.” Faith is not a leap into the dark. The word “framed” in our passage means “ordered or perfected” — such as intelligently designed or organized. “Visible” means to “become evident, brought to the eye” — suggesting something material we can see. So, Bible faith requires objective evidence, sound reasoning and necessary conclusions. Incidentally, atheism meets none of these criteria.

Scripture demands that we *“test all things; hold fast what is good”* (I Thess. 5:21). We must closely examine everything, including atheism and evolution. As we study evidences for our faith, we organize clear arguments and point to the reasoning and evidences outside the Bible itself which necessitate our conclusions. When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, *“He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them [the Apostles] during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3). “Infallible proofs” means something is “surely and plainly known, an indubitable evidence, a proof.” Because the Bible gives us a written record of these “proofs” and because *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17), the best evidence for faith is the word of God. Other evidences for faith may be supplied, but real faith will ultimately rest upon the testimony of the word of God itself.

The Bible is a remarkable testimony. It presents statements confirmed by external facts, making it a veritable textbook on evidences for faith. Consider the following four statements and the Scriptural corroboration for each one.

1. Every effect must have an adequate cause. *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”* (Gen. 1:1). *“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God”* (Heb. 3:4). *“By faith we understand that the world were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”* (Heb. 11:3). All scientific facts show that matter is not eternal and so, must have had a beginning. Science deals only with what it sees and can demonstrate. It cannot speak authoritatively about the beginning of the universe. At best, evolution is only a guess about the origin of the world and the life found in it. Voices with no god (atheists) and gods with no voices (“dumb idols”, I Cor. 12:2) cannot explain this truth to the rational mind.

2. There is order and design to life. Jesus pointed to the intrinsic order in agriculture when He said, *“For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come”* (Mark 4:28-29). A better description of seedtime and harvest could not have been written by a modern school of agriculture. Such order

and design described in this passage could not occur by chance. Jesus is referring to an orderly, consistent law by which crops are planted, grow and reach maturity for harvest. David spoke of the intricacies of human development and birth: *“You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.”* (Psa. 139:13-16). The millions of intricate details involved in each human’s development and birth are mesmerizing, yet faith-building. The birth of even one human being demands an imposing attention to design, but is impossible if left to random chance. God is our Maker and designer. Faithful Abraham *“waited for a city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God”* (Heb. 11:10). A “builder” is a “technician or craftsman” and a “maker” means “framer”. Truly, the complexities of human life are impossible and nonsensical without an all-powerful, all-intelligent Creator! Human existence could not just happen at random. Voices without god and gods without voices cannot explain to thinking people how it could be that human beings have evolved from lower life forms. If we are evolved creatures, why do we not still see humans evolving into some other life form?

3. Life has not, cannot, and will not come from non-living matter. *“God, who made the world and everything in it ... gives to all life, breath, and all things”* (Acts 17:24-25). Nothing material has been brought to life without adding some living components to it. Science shows that life must be added to the material earth from an outside source for anything living to exist. Spontaneous generation of life from non-living sources does not occur. It takes life to make life! God’s own breath animated a lump of clay making it a man, a living being (Gen. 2:7).

4. There is no consistent moral standard for humans without God. Those who *“do not like to retain God in their knowledge”* (Rom. 1:28) are also known for their lack of moral character. They are *“disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful [and] deserving of death”* (vv. 30-32). The death they deserve is a spiritual death because *“God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting”* (v. 28). The death they have experienced results in separation from God.

In the list of sins committed by those who love themselves rather than God, Paul included *“disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving [and] unforgiving”* (2 Tim. 3:2-3). Humans without God experience a huge void in their lives which, in time, results in poor morality and even debauchery. Without God in their knowledge, people cannot consistently follow what is good. Voices with no god and gods without voices cannot explain this phenomenon to a thinking person. Wherever the word of God is revered, respected, accepted and applied, society thrives and shows respect for fellow human beings created in God’s image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27).

God’s word, the Bible, is a very deep study of life on Earth. *“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”* (I Cor. 1:20). If we will open our minds to the truths of Scripture, we will indeed conclude, *“there is no other God but one”* (I Cor. 8:4).

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