

Why We Believe In God

Hebrews 11:6

Introduction

1. Hebrews 11:6 Man must believe that God is, and must believe His Word.
2. 1 Peter 3:15 Our hope is built on faith in God and in His word.

I. BLESSING FOR BELIEVING IN GOD

1. 1John 5:4 I want to believe in God for faith gives overcoming power.
 - A. Man without faith is like a car without an engine.
 - B. Man without faith is like a ship without a rudder.
2. All should want the peace that faith can give.
 - A. Isa. 26:3
 - B. Romans 5:1, 2
 - C. 1Peter 1:7, 8
 - D. Phil. 4:4-9
3. The negative of faith is atheism.
 - A. This leaves man hopeless, weak, and to walk after the flesh. Psalms 14:1.
 - B. What man upon become an atheists begins to reform his life, stop drinking, etc. Psa. 119:11; Acts 3:26.
4. All to gain, and nothing to lose, in being a Christian rather than an atheist.
 - A. Best for this life. Only hope for eternity.
 - B. If I were proved to be wrong and the atheist right I would be just as safe he, with nothing to lose over him.
 - C. He has all to lose and nothing to gain if I were proved to be right. Psa. 14:1.

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II. FAITH IS REASONABLE WHILE ATHEISM IS FOOLISH

1. Psalm 14:1 One would have to possess universal knowledge before he would be capable of affirming that there is no God.
 - A. If there is only one thing he does not know, that one thing may be that there is a God. Genesis 1:1.

2. For every effect or result there must be an adequate cause.
 - A. All admit the universe did not create itself. Man did not create himself, nor the universe.
 - B. Genesis 2:7; Gen. 1:1
3. Hebrews 3:4 "Every house is built by some man; but he that built all things is God."
 - A. No house ever came into existence as a result of accident and chance.
 - 1) The blind forces of nature, guided by no intelligence, never produced a house; for instance, a cyclone never did.
 - 2) The house preaches its builder.
 - B. Man and the universe are so elaborately designed that they preach a creator.
 - 1) Gen. 1:1, 26, 27;
 - 2) Gen. 2:7;
 - 3) Acts 17:26
 - C. It has been calculated that you could throw the letters of the alphabet into the air 500 million, million, million times – and they would never come down in alphabetical order.
 - D. If you found your name growing in a seed-bed in a garden, what would be your reaction? Probably your first question would be, "Who planted it?"
 - 1) Right away you have denied that it was a matter of accident or chance.
 - 2) You know there must have been intelligence behind the planting of the seeds.
4. Matter and accident did not design and create the universe, nor man, nor his brain, heart, nerves, blood vessels, lungs, eyes, ears, etc., with his digestive system and reproductive system.
 - A. This magnificent universe just could not have been a matter of chance.
 - B. Suppose you put ten pennies, marked from one to ten into your pocket. Now try to take them out in sequence after a good shuffle.
 - 1) One in ten odds you pick #1 out first.
 - 2) Try again, shuffle all of them, one in 100 you'll pick #1 and #2 in succession.
 - 3) Odd of drawing #1 - #3 in succession is 1 in 1000, and so on.
 - 4) To continue this way and pick all ten in succession is unbelievable odds.
 - 5) Your chance of drawing them all, from #1 to #10 in succession, would

ream the unbelievable figure of 1 chance in 10 billion.

- C. By the same reasoning, so many exacting conditions are necessary for life on the earth that they could not possibly exist in proper relationship by chance.
 - 1) The earth rotates on its axis one thousand miles an hour. If it turned at one hundred miles an hour our days and nights would be ten times as long as now, and the hot sun would burn up our vegetation each long day while the long night would freeze any surviving sprout.
 - 2) Again, the sun reportedly has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is just far enough away so that this "eternal fire" warms us just enough and not too much! If the sun gave off only one half its present radiation, we would freeze, and if it have half as much more, we would roast.
 - 3) The slant or tilt of the earth at an angle of 23° gives us our seasons; if it had not been tilted, vapors from the ocean would move north and south piling up for us continents of ice.
 - 4) If our moon was, say, only 50 thousand miles away instead of its actual distance, our tides would be so enormous that twice each day all continents would be submerged; even the mountains would soon be eroded away.
 - 5) If the crust of the earth had been only ten feet thicker, there would be no oxygen, without which animal life would die.
 - 6) Had the ocean been a few feet deeper, carbon dioxide and oxygen would have been absorbed and no vegetable life could exist.
 - 7) Or if our atmosphere had been much thinner some of the meteors, now burned in space by the millions every day, would be striking all parts of the earth, setting fires everywhere.

Because of these and a host of other examples, there is not one chance in billions that life on our planet is an accident.

- 8) Many years ago a specie of cactus was planted in Australia as a protective fence. Having no insect enemies in Australia the cactus soon began a prodigious growth; the alarming abundance persisted until the plants covered an area as long and as wide as England, crowding inhabitants out of the towns and villages, and destroying their farms.

Seeking a defense the entomologists scoured the world, finally they turned up an insect which lived exclusively on this specie of cactus and ate nothing else. It would breed freely, too, and it had no enemies in Australia. So today the cactus pest has retreated, and with it all but a small protective residue of the insects enough to hold the cactus in check.

Such checks and balances have been universally provided by the Creator.

- 9) Why have not fast-growing insects dominated the earth? Imagine meeting a hornet as big as a lion? They don't grow that big because they don't have lungs as man possesses. They breath through tubes. But when insects grow large their tubes do not grow in ration to the increasing size of their body, hence, there never has been an insect of great size. This limitation on growth has held them all in check.

We are forced to realize that only infinite wisdom could have foreseen and prepared such a marvelously balanced world.

- 10) To study the wisdom found in the animal world I believe reveals an almighty and wise God.

The young salmon spends years at sea, then comes back to his own river, and travels up the very side of the river into which flows the tributary where he was born. What brings him back so precisely?

If you transfer him to another tributary he will know at once that he is off his course and he will fight his way down and back to the main stream and then turn against the current to finish his destiny accurately.

- 11) Even more difficult to solve is the mystery of eels. These amazing creatures migrate at maturity from all ponds and rivers everywhere, those from Europe across thousands of miles of ocean— all bound from the same abysmal deeps near Bermuda. There they breed and die.

The little one, with no apparent means of knowing anything except that they are in a wilderness of water, nevertheless start back and find their way not only to the very shore from which their parents came from, but thence to the rivers and lakes or little ponds— so that each body of water is always populated with eels.

No American eel has every been caught in Europe, no European eel in American waters. Nature has even delayed the maturity of the European eel by a year or more to make up for its longer journey.

Where does the directing impulse originate?

- 12) One last reason that we will look at for believing that there is a God, is man's power to reason.

No other animal has ever left a record of its abilities to count to ten, or even to understand the written meaning of ten.

Where instinct is like a single note of a flute, a beautiful but limited sound,

the human brain contains all the notes of all the instruments in the orchestra.

No need to spend too much time on this point, thanks to human reason we can contemplate the possibility that we are what we are only because we have received a spark of God's likeness, "And God said, let us make man in our own likeness."

5. Psalms 90:1-3.

God is just as everlasting back the way we have come as he is in the future. Romans 16:26.

- A. Something always has been. If there had ever been a time when there was nothing, there never could have been anything in existence. Something never comes from nothing.
- B. The eternally - existent creative intelligence back of all things is God.
- C. Everything around us proclaims God.

1) Psalms 19:1

6. True no one in the flesh can see God, nor comprehend Him.

- A. God is a spirit - John 4:24.
- B. An ant could not comprehend a giant locomotive, etc.
- C. We can't see electricity, or gravity, yet we believe in their existence.
- D. WHY NOT BELIEVE IN GOD?

CONCLUSION:

1. If there is a God then surely he could do all that the Bible says of him.
 - A. And with such a book about God, no other book can compare, if God has written a book it could be none other than this one.
2. What does God have to say in this book?
 - A. That he has a power to save man from death eternal.
 - B. That man must believe and accept him as their God.
 - C. Repent from going against God and follow Him.
 - D. Man must show or prove his faith by obeying Him in baptism to be born into His family of believers.
3. Will you let God add you to those being saved? (Acts 2:47). If you are without this saving relationship with God, come to Him now!