

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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How Can I Know God Exists?

Can we be sure God exists without seeing Him? If so, how?

Modern society is filled with skepticism instead of trust (sometimes for good reason), and as a result, many people doubt the certainty of everything, even the existence of God. This is growing with the popularity and publicity of some atheists, some of whom are starting a cable TV channel!

Some skeptics become cynical and suspicious, but others dig hard for answers and require evidence before belief—these can learn the certainty of God’s existence. How?

Order in the physical world (day/night, seasons, and other cycles) makes us sure *someone* had a plan since accidents, chaos, and disorder

never produce order, much less ongoing, uninterrupted order. Man could not build or order the earth or heavens, so we can be sure that a non-human being set them in order. Herein is certainty that God exists (knowing which god is the true God is a separate, worthy issue).

The Bible similarly reasons with us: “...every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God” (Hebrews 3:4). Using facts, evidence, and reason, the world and the Word can persuade us of the certainty of God’s existence. Send us your questions or comments.

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Author & Editor: David Halbrook

“Who Do Men Say That I Am?”

In Matthew 16:13, Jesus asked His disciples “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”. All the answers they gave revealed that many people had false ideas about Jesus. The same problem exists today:

“We cannot know anything about Jesus because we cannot trust the Bible,” some say, despite the fact that the Bible’s credibility is established by fulfilled prophecies historically known to have been written before Jesus’ birth (Isaiah 7:14; 11:1; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:1, 18; 2:1; 1 Peter 1:16, 19).

“Jesus was a created spirit being, just as angels...” (http://watchtower.org/e/ti/article_05.htm; “Jehovah’s Witnesses”). How could Jesus be created since “by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth” (Colossians 1:16)?

“Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers” (www.lds.org/ensign/1986/06/i-have-a-question?lang=eng; Mormon Church). How can Jesus be the offspring of the Heavenly Father when the Father called Jesus “God” and “LORD” (Hebrews 1:8, 10)?

Open your Bible to learn about Jesus. For help in that study, read “Who Is Jesus?” at our website.

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”

A question Jesus asked long ago, needs an answer from you!

In the previous article we noticed some false things that many people say about Jesus. One of the most important questions for you to answer is---what do you say about Jesus?

“I don’t care who He is.” You should—He created all. You will—He is the final Judge (Col. 1:16; Acts 17:31).

“He is one, of many ways, to find God.” Jesus claimed to be the only way to God. He is God (John 14:6; 1:1).

“I know He is Lord, but I will not give up. . .” (divorce, porn, alcohol, etc). Jesus says this makes you a foolish man who will be destroyed (Matt. 7:26-27; 5:28, 32; Eph. 5:18).

“I know He built His church, but I don’t like religion.” Jesus’ church and pure religion are from God (Matthew 16:18; John 4:23-24; James 1:27). Following Jesus means rejecting false religion and practicing true religion. This includes joining with other Christians who follow Jesus by pure worship and pure daily living (Acts 9:26-28; 11:26). Read in the Bible about *the churches of Christ* (Rom. 16:16) and compare that with what you see in churches today.

Jesus is equally concerned with, and will judge you on, what you say of and do with Him (Jn. 12:48)

*Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

Unexpressed Thanks, Love, & Faith

How would you react if your child believed that, as long as he was inwardly thankful, outward expressions of gratitude were unnecessary? It is wise that past American leaders chose a day of “Thanks Giving” wherein citizens would *express* thanks, not content with inward thankfulness alone. It is tragic that many people do not express thanks to God—a problem with dire consequences (Romans 1:21-22). Do you see that true “thanks” must be “given” (expressed)?

Isn’t love like that? God’s love is always expressed, not a mere state of mind (1 John 4:9). He expects this of you also-- *If you love Me, keep My commandments* (John 14:15).

Faith, like thanks and love, that is only in the mind is dead. The walls of Jericho fell by faith but would have stood if Israel had faith alone (Hebrews 11:30). The paralyzed man would have remained paralyzed unless his faith motivated him to find Jesus (Matthew 9:1-8). By faith alone, you are spiritually dead until you obey from the heart Jesus’ doctrine—the gospel (Jam. 2:20-26; Rom. 6:17; 10:16; Mk. 16:16).

Learn God’s way to express thanks, love, and faith. May we help you learn?

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. How does the order of the universe help us know God exists?
2. In Matthew 16:14-15, who did many people think Jesus was? What do people think today?
3. How do we know that Jesus pays attention to what we say about Him?
4. When thanks, love, or faith is only in our heart, is God pleased?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!