



REASONING FOR HOPE: How Do I Know God Really Exists?

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Imagine you are called to the witness stand in a courtroom.

The case is serious – the future of someone's life depends on your testimony.

As you sit there, the judge leans forward and asks, **"Can you explain what you know? Can you give a reason for what you believe?"**

In that moment, it's not enough to say, *"Well, I just feel like it's true,"* or, *"It's what my parents believed."*

You need **clear, solid, confident answers** – because someone's future could hang in the balance.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Today we're launching a series where we're stepping into the courtroom – not to argue, but to lovingly and clearly share the case for our faith in Jesus Christ.

In a word, it's called Apologetics—
defending or explaining your faith through reasoned explanations.

Apologetics isn't about winning arguments – it's about winning hearts.

For the next few weeks, we're going to look at several questions that really get to the heart of why you either do believe or don't believe in God, Jesus Christ, God's character, and the believability of the Bible.

Why is it important?

- Culture says truth is relative
- Morality seems to be based on societal or individual norms
- World tells you that purpose is found in self-fulfillment, success, and happiness
- Every belief system or religion says they are the way to God
- Existential questions like:
 - How did we get here?
 - Why do I exist?
 - Where are we going when it's all over?

If you've ever had these questions, you're in the right place.

Today we're addressing one of the most fundamental questions a human being can ask: **"How do I know God really exists?"**

This is not just a theoretical or philosophical question – it's a deeply personal one that influences how we see everything: life, death, suffering, purpose, and destiny.

Foundational Truth:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (NLT)

Either **God exists** or **He doesn't**.

Everything else is secondary.

- If **God exists**, then life has **purpose, meaning, and order**.
- If **God doesn't exist**, then there is no ultimate **purpose, meaning, or order** – just random chance.

Today, I want us to look at three "lenses" through which we can clearly see the evidence for God's existence.

Three Lenses to See God

1. The Telescopic Lens - Order of the Universe

The universe is vast beyond imagination – galaxies, stars, planets all following precise laws.

"By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen."

Hebrews 11:3 (NLT)

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship."

Psalms 19:1 (NLT)

Fine-Tuning of the Universe

Scientists have discovered that **the universe is "fine-tuned"** – meaning many fundamental constants and forces must be exactly right, or life could not exist.

- **Gravity** – if the gravitational force were just slightly stronger or weaker by **1 part in 10^{60}** , life would be impossible.
- **Cosmological Constant** (which controls the expansion of the universe) – must be accurate to about **1 part in 10^{120}** .
- **Strong Nuclear Force** (holding atoms together) – if it were off by even **0.5%**, no life, no planets, no chemistry.

If you were to change any of these values – even slightly – the universe would either collapse on itself or fly apart and never form stars, planets, or life.

What Are the Statistical Odds?

Leading scientists estimate:

- The odds of the constants of the universe being just right by **pure random chance** are somewhere between **1 in 10^{120}** to **1 in 10^{500}** – depending on how many factors you include.

The odds of our universe existing just by random chance are so small, it would be like flipping a coin... and getting heads **10 quintillion times in a row.**

"Believing the universe 'just happened' without a Creator is like believing that a tornado hit a Home Depot and built a fully functioning skyscraper... with plumbing, elevators, and a Starbucks inside."

The more we study the cosmos – the more we see evidence of a Designer.

2. The Crystalline (Eye) Lens - Order of the World

Next, let's zoom into our own world.

From the mountains to the oceans, the laws of physics, the ecosystems, and the balance of nature – everything shouts design.

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

Romans 1:20 (NLT)

Creation itself is a witness!

Every breathtaking sunset, every delicate flower, every intricate ecosystem points back to a creative and powerful God.

3. The Microscopic Lens - Order of the Human Body

Now, let's zoom in even further – into us.

The complexity of the human body is staggering: DNA, cells, organs, senses, emotions, thoughts – all working together in harmony.

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb."

Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it."

Psalm 139:13-14

The Human Body's Complexity is Mind-Blowing

- The human body has about **37.2 trillion** cells.
- Each cell is like a miniature city – with factories (ribosomes), power plants (mitochondria), security gates (cell membranes), highways (microtubules), and a central library of information (DNA).
- DNA is insanely complex: **3 billion base pairs** organized in perfect sequence to instruct your body how to function.

Statistical Odds for Life by Chance

The odds of forming just one functional protein molecule by random chance (a basic building block of life) is estimated around **1 in 10¹⁶⁴**.

- **The odds of assembling the simplest possible living cell by chance** have been estimated at **1 in 10^{40,000}** – by Dr. Harold Morowitz, a Yale physicist.

(There are "only" about **10⁸⁰ atoms** in the known universe!)

- **Probability experts generally say** that any event with odds worse than **1 in 10⁵⁰** is considered mathematically *impossible* under the laws of probability.

Meaning:

→ Just getting *one simple living cell* by accident is like winning the lottery **every day for a billion years**.

→ And the human body is not just one cell – it's trillions of cells, organs, systems, all interdependent and incredibly fine-tuned.

It would be easier for a tornado to build a jet out of a junkyard – and then have that jet fly to the moon – than for the human body to exist by accident."

Major Problems with Macro-Evolution

Many people say, "Well, maybe evolution explains everything."

But there are serious problems with that claim:

- **Origin of Life:** Evolution doesn't explain how life *began* – it only speculates how life *changed*.
- **Fossil Record:** There are missing transitional fossils that evolutionists predicted would be everywhere.
- **Complexity:** Some biological systems are irreducibly complex – they had to be complete from the start or they wouldn't function.
- **Cambrian Explosion:** Fossils from the Cambrian period show a sudden appearance of complex life forms – not gradual evolution.
- **No Observed Macro-Evolution:** Micro-evolution (small changes within species) happens, but macro-evolution (species becoming entirely new species) has never been observed.

"For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth... Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."

Colossians 1:16-17 (NLT)

God holds the universe – and us – together, even in suffering.

Everyone Lives by Faith

At the end of the day, everyone is living by faith in something.

You either put your faith in:

- An unproven scientific theory, offering no meaning or purpose. **OR**
- A Creator who designed you with intentionality, meaning, and purpose.

Conclusion: Hope Has a Reason

We don't have a blind faith.

We have **reasonable faith** built on:

- **the Word of God**
- **the world He made**
- **the wonder of His design.**

When people ask you, "How do you know God exists?"

"Because I see His fingerprints in the universe, in the earth, and in my very soul."

Peter urges us - *always be ready to share this hope – with gentleness, love, and respect.*