

## How We Can Try To Convince Atheists God Is Real

'The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good' (Psalm 14:1).

'The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt and have done abominable iniquity. There is no one who does good' (Psalm 53:1).

The fool in this context does not mean someone who lacks intelligence, it means they are foolish for disregarding God. Some people claim to be atheists or agnostics. Non-believers are foolish because they refuse to see God's hand in the design of creation. They have no faith or trust in the Lord but want proof of everything. For this reason, God regards all non-believers, agnostics and atheists as fools, evil and spiritually adulterous. Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign ('proof') (Matthew 12:39). "Unless you see signs and wonders (or 'proof'), you will in no way believe" (John 4:48).

Some Christians may know an agnostic or atheist and if we have a family member who claims to follow one of these spiritually lost paths, it helps if we can understand what belief system they are embracing. They need to hear the Gospel too, so to help Christians understand the atheist's and agnostic's warped way of thinking, or more correctly, their justification of their sin of unbelief, we will look at their inane philosophies. The agnostic philosophy is strange – very weird, very silly, very foolish to the point of stupidity. Try if you will, to comprehend these following six statements taken from a website regarding agnostics ... (1) They believe mankind can neither prove nor disprove the existence of God. (2) They do not sit halfway between belief and disbelief but are absolute. (3) Agnostics know God exists but do not believe He exists! (4) They accept only the knowledge of the existence of God, not the belief in Him. (5) A person can believe in God but can still be agnostic because they cannot prove God exists, even though one can believe He does. (6) Agnosticism is a belief in the existence of knowledge. These philosophies do not make sense. It stands to reason, if we had no knowledge, then we would have nothing. Even newborn infants have knowledge. They know when they are hungry. They know when they need burping. They know how to cry for attention. For adults to claim they believe in the existence of knowledge is a foolish statement. Of course there is knowledge. Knowledge is everywhere! We all know that. Agnostics truly are fools. Sensible people can only shake their heads and wonder at the asinine philosophy of agnostics. The Lord said, "Consider, you senseless among the people. You fools. When will you be wise?" (Psalm 94:8). In modern terms we might say, "Wake up to yourselves, you fools!" The Bible says, 'Do not rebel against the Lord' (Numbers 14:9).

Atheists claim not to believe in God. One philosophy of the atheist is, 'The truth is out there, just not in the Bible'. They believe the Bible is inaccurate because it was written thousands of years ago by many authors who were orally handing down traditions and any truth in the scriptures must be questioned. That thinking is wrong in every way. Firstly, there has only ever been One Author of the Bible – God. 'Every Scripture is God-breathed' (2 Timothy 3:16). God is the only Author of His Word but He used several Jewish men over several centuries to record His oracles. Secondly, God told every one of His writers exactly what to write down and they were told to make copies. 'God said, "Write this for a memorial in a book"' (Exodus 17:14). 'God said, "Write down these words ... "' (Exodus 34:27). 'He will write a copy of this law in a book ... it will be with him and he will read it all the days of his life so he may learn to fear his God, to keep all the Words of this Law and these statutes, and do them' (Deuteronomy 17:18 & 19). There are many other verses that tell us God told the prophets what to write. Thirdly, archaeology has confirmed the truth and accuracy of the Bible many times. Atheists are way off the mark in their philosophy but that is because of their rebellion. The Lord said, "If we receive the witnessing of men (and women), the witness of God is greater, for this is God's testimony. He has testified concerning His Son. They who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in themselves. They who do not believe God, has made Him to be a liar because they have not believed in the testimony God has given to us concerning His Son. The testimony is this: God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. They who have the Son have eternal life. They who do not have God's Son do not have eternal life' (1 John 5:9 to 12). Those fools who say there is no God will spend eternity without God unless they repent of their unbelief.

It is a challenge to Christians when we meet someone who claims to be an atheist and asks us to 'prove' God's existence. We can say to them, we only need to look at the vastness of space, the beauty of creation and the evidence God exists by the intricate design of every living thing. Where there is design there must be a designer. Where there is creation there must be a Creator. The Lord has put a knowledge of Himself into His creation. Some biologists and scientists who began their careers as non-believers have found such astonishing evidence of creation within their scope of work, it has been enough to reveal God to them and

many have turned to Him as a result. When we think of His creative power, His vast variance in creation and the intricate details in every living thing, we cannot deny a High Power has created everything, and He holds everything in place. 'That which is known of God is revealed in creation for God revealed it to mankind. The invisible things of God since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that were made, even His everlasting power and divinity, so people are without excuse because knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither did they give thanks but became vain in their reasoning and their senseless heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools' (Romans 1:19 to 22). Nobody has an excuse for not being able to notice the existence of God through what He has created around us. We can think about how the human body is intricately woven together, how leaves on trees prevent being saturated by heavy rain, how deep sea fish create their own lights, a delicate spider's web that is strong enough to capture a small bird. Those things and thousands of others could not possibly have been a result of chance, so they should be enough to prove the existence of our Creator.

Ask the atheist or agnostic these questions: Of all the knowledge in the world, do they know 100% of everything? Can the atheist quote in chronological order, the seventeen emperors of the 16th Ming dynasty? Did they even know there were seventeen emperors? Can they name all the British monarchs from the 10th century AD until now? Can they list the names of their spouses and children? Of the 1,500 spoken languages in the world today, does the atheist know them all? What are the abbreviations of all the metals like copper, gold, silver, tin etc? How many books have they read that were printed over the past 100 years? Nobody could possibly know even 50% of all the knowledge in just these few questions. Even the most brilliant person would not know even 5% of all there is to know. That means we do not know 95% of all knowledge. Is it possible then, God exists in the 95% of the knowledge the atheist or agnostic does not have? Even the strongest atheist would have to admit that is a reasonable question. No atheist could possibly know with 100% surely, God does not exist. They can only believe He does not exist. He would then exist within the knowledge they do not have.

The atheist or agnostic can only believe in two alternatives. (1) There is no God and they are on earth by evolutionary chance. There is no eternal purpose for their lives and all the battles and obstacles they have overcome is pointless. They are nothing more than an advanced animal and when they die they will go into the grave and there is nothing afterwards but oblivion. They have no hope and no future. That is their first choice. Or (2) there is another alternative. There is a Creator God Who exists and Who created all things, including mankind. God formed man out of dust and mankind is the only being whereby God breathed His Spirit of Life into Adam and he became a living soul. God watches over mankind. He has an eternal purpose for every person who has ever lived and we can exist with Him for all eternity. If we reject God, we have no eternity with Him but if we accept God and obey His commands, then we have a wonderful future with Him. Not only is He with us on earth, He will be our God through all eternity where we can experience abundant life. Of the two choices, what will the atheist or agnostic choose? Any sensible person would choose the latter. Only a fool would choose the former. There is no amount of evidence to prove God does not exist but there is evidence all through creation that proves the existence of our Creator.

Pascal once said, "If God does not exist and we do not believe in Him, we have not lost anything. If God does exist and we do not believe in Him, we have lost everything. It is better to hope on His existence than to take the risk of losing everything."

Karl Marx was an evil man but even he acknowledged God. "Man acts better if he believes God is there. If God did not exist, mankind would create Him."

Augustine said, "There is a God shaped vacuum in every soul. No heart can find rest until they find rest in God."

Deep within the human being there is a hunger for God that only God can satisfy. Two fundamental principles of biology are, life begets life and like begets like. The non-believer believes an absurdity. They believe life came from mineral, which is impossible. They said if we give things enough time, the impossible becomes possible. Non-living things cannot produce life. It takes more faith to believe the impossible and the foolishness of evolution than it does to believe in God. They believe dead mineral produces life and blobs produce intricate mammals. We are more than just carbon-based life forms. In reality, mutations such as mules and finny's are sterile and cannot continue to produce life. Evolution is not sensible science. Mutations are destructive not productive. When society dismisses God, morality breaks down. Alcoholism, suicide, abortions, wasted youth, violence, divorce resulting in emotionally disturbed children all thrive in an atheistic society.

One of the best evidences we have regarding the power of God, is how dramatically He changes lives. Just because we cannot quantify God, does not mean He does not exist. For example, we can say we really love God, but that cannot be measured scientifically. It can only be proven by the amount of time we spend in His presence. The more we love Him the more time we spend with Him. The more we love Him the more respect we have for Him, but that is not quantitative scientific evidence because we cannot put love in a test tube and measure it. Trying to quantify God cannot be done that way. We cannot measure what is infinite.

Most atheists claim to disbelieve in God but in reality, many are disappointed with life's difficult experiences and blame God. That in itself tells them they are not true atheists, because they cannot blame Someone Who does not exist. Millions of people have suffered crushing blows in their lives making them doubt God exists, but deep in their hearts they know God really is there. Many others have been let down by people who claim to be Christian, but we must put that behind us. People will always let us down because people are just human. Why are the disappointments in life so, well, disappointing? Because we all want good things in life and when good things elude us, humans find the disappointment hard to cope with. We need to accept, the disappointments and trials in life are there to make our character grow. The non-believer has to overcome difficulties in life just as the Christian does. If a person repents and turns to God, God is able to use the difficulties the person has overcome to further His eternal plans and purposes, so life's challenges are not wasted. 'Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery trial that has come on you to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you. Because you are partakers of Jesus' sufferings, rejoice. At the revelation of His glory you will rejoice with exceeding joy' (1 Peter 4:12 & 13).

We all have the knowledge and desire for eternity in our hearts. That is why many non-believers have fancy funerals even for the most wicked of people, believing they are sending them off to eternity with God. Wicked people will not get into heaven no matter how grand their funeral service is. There is always a tiny part of the non-believer who longs to reach out to God's hand but rebellion stops them. They do not want God to be in control of their lives. God has planted eternity in the hearts of every human and that tells us to reach out to an eternal life with God. 'He has made everything beautiful in its time and He has put eternity in their hearts' (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

If we cannot reach an atheist or agnostic with our words, we can pray for them and ask the Lord to draw the person to Himself. 'No one can come to Me (Jesus) unless the Father who sent Me draws him' (John 6:44). The fact is, God loves all mankind with an everlasting love. 'Yes, I (the Lord) have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you to Me' (Jeremiah 31:3). Jesus died to save all of us and make us whole again. 'May the God of peace Himself, sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Sadly, not everyone wants to be saved. He can heal the deep wounds of disappointment in the broken hearted. 'He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds' (Psalm 147:3). For the Lord to do these things for us, we need to open the spiritual door to Him and invite Him into our lives. 'Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to them and will dine with them and they with Me' (Revelation 3:20). Sometimes the most ardent non-believers come to know Jesus and He miraculously changes their lives. We must not give up on the agnostics and atheists in this world, because Jesus died for them too. They need Him even if they refuse to acknowledge that. We need to pray and trust the Lord to save them and He will change their minds and give them a new, pure heart. How does He do it? 'I will give them a new (spiritual) heart and I will put a new spirit within them. I will remove their stony heart (of rebellion) and will give them a heart of flesh' (Ezekiel 11:19). Keep sharing the Gospel with others. 'All things are possible with God' (Matthew 19:26). 'Nothing is impossible to those who believe' (Mark 9:23).

Amen and God bless you.

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