

Faith And Its Relationship To God's Existence

The charge is often heard that Christians believe in God without any proof – have no evidence for God's existence, but merely accept the words of a persuasive, “slick-tongued” preacher. Norman Lear was often quoted as saying faith is “believing *things that no one in their right mind would believe.*” Marxists have said religion is the “*opiate of the people,*” just a *drug* to make us feel good. Atheists are bold in similar charges, and we must be at least as bold in defending our faith in God and in His way, as it is revealed in His book, the Bible.

The usual way we obtain knowledge is by using the primary sources (seeing, touching, hearing, etc.), and by testimony, evidence from others. No one can weigh, measure, see or taste God. So, if there is to be evidence, it will not come merely by our use of testimony from man.

Some have given up, concluding that we must merely “act as though” we know God exists, while others claim to take the “leap of faith.” In doing that we ignore significant evidence of His existence and His love and His great care for us.

Yes, we can and we must defend our faith, and in Hebrews 11:1 we read:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

A faith that is not worth our diligent defense is not worth having in the first place. If Jesus was willing to *die* for it, surely we can *stand* up for it, learn it and benefit from its wisdom and power.

Note the terms the apostle Peter was inspired to include in his comments in 1 Peter 3:15:

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

The key words are “**ready**” (prepared, seeking an opportunity); “**answer**” (*apologia*; defense, response); and “**reason**” (logos; logic; use of one's mental faculties). Not only *can* we defend our faith, but we must defend our faith. The term “argument” or “contest” may come to our mind here, but this is not a contest to determine who “wins a prize”. This is using genuine terms that accurately describe the issue, then to find if correct reasoning and thought have taken place in our quest for truth on this subject.

God's existence does not depend upon who wins the discussion, and God will continue to exist even if *we* decide He does *not* exist. Our eternal destiny will be determined by what we do with the Bible, God's revelation to man.

We Can Know That God Exists

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the Bible's “faith chapter”, and there we read that faith is based upon – and supplies – substance, that which “stands under”. It is the foundation and the supply of all the evidence man ever needs.

Man has organized several ways, or arguments, that lead us to know God exists and cares about man. The Cosmological Argument states, “for every effect there must be a sufficient cause.”

The Teleological Argument states that design demands a designer – and no other designer is more capable than Jehovah, the God of the Bible. Yes, there are other reasons for belief in God, but in these we can stand toe to toe with anyone who is honest with the evidence.

There is no reason for any of us to be intimidated about engaging in debate or discussion with unbelievers on this subject. The facts and the proofs of God's existence are on every street, in every yard or playground, and in our ability to call to the surface of discussion the facts we see every day. The One who created this earth and the stars and planets is still in control. The debate between our brother Thomas Warren and Antony G. N. Flew resulted in Flew's confession that God *does* exist!

What we need today is for believers to live honorably, and challenge atheism.