

SESSION 3: IS THERE EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?

Introduction:

In Session 1 we examined the nature of faith and concluded that it is possible for everyone to have faith. But it is the object of our faith that matters. The key question is, "Faith in what or in whom?"

A recent survey shows that 92% of all Americans believe in God (Gallop poll) which is down from 96% in 1944. But can the Christian show that the God of the Bible truly is the *only* God - the One everyone must believe in, and follow? (Exodus 20:1-5)

Let's look at eight arguments for the existence of the God of the Bible.

Here they are:

1. The Search for Something More
2. Cause and Effect
3. Order and Design
4. Meaning and Purpose
5. The Moral Argument
6. Love and Emotion
7. Jesus Christ
8. Changed Lives

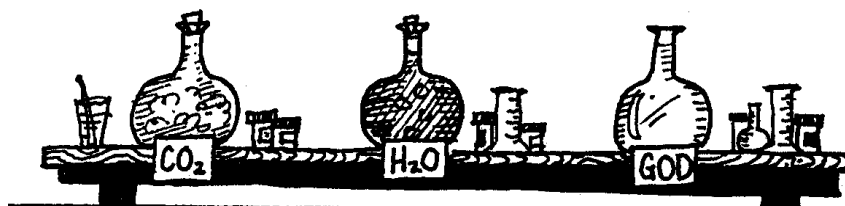


In this session we'll cover the first four arguments. After the next session, be ready to pick the three that you think are the best arguments for the existence of God.

Before we begin...

There is not a question more important in all of life than this:

Is there a God?



It was A. W. Tozer who said, "What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us." If this is true, then the belief in God is the starting point. We must be clear from the start that it is impossible to prove God scientifically - God cannot be put in a test tube to be revealed through scientific method.

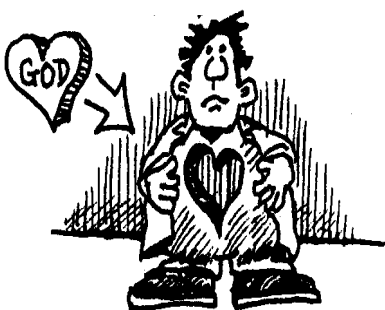
about it:

In order for something to be proved by science it must be repeatable. History, by its very nature, is non-repeatable. You can't prove a lot of things scientifically: How the world began; whether or not George Washington ever lived; what you did yesterday... But there is a lot of evidence that points directly to the existence of God.

1. The Search for Something More

We all possess an i **innate need** for God. Blaise Pascal, the great 17th century mathematician, described this as the "God shaped vacuum" in every person.

Do you believe that every person has an empty place that they are seeking to fill? What evidence do you have to support your view?



Romans 1:18-22 (see vs. 19). God has placed within us a sense that He exists. The Bible also says God "*set eternity in the hearts of Men.*" (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

2. The Law of Cause and Effect

Defined: No effect can be produced without a cause. Every effect must have a cause.

We, as humans, and the universe itself are effects that must have a cause. We eventually come to the "**Uncaused Cause**": God.



Think about it: The fact that you even exist is an argument for the existence of God!

- Could a computer suddenly come into being without an intelligent designer?
- Could a monkey in a print shop set Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in type?
- Could an eye that sees in 3-D and color happen by accident?
- Could the universe or the human body come into being without a Supreme Creator?

3. Order and Design

Looking at the universe we see that there is design. Simply consider plain water. Water has a high specific heat. This means that chemical reactions in the human body are kept rather stable. If water had a low specific heat, we would “boil over” with the least amount of activity.



The ocean is the world’s thermostat. The ocean keeps the earth warm in the winter and cool in the summer!



Did you know ...if the earth were much smaller an atmosphere would be impossible. If larger, the atmosphere would contain free hydrogen (like Jupiter and Saturn)...the distance from the sun is perfect for life on earth. The smallest change would make it too hot or too cold!

4. Meaning and Purpose

Apart from order outside ourselves, we all long for order within. Men and women through the ages have asked the question “Why am I here?”

“What is life for? To die? To kill myself at once? No, I am afraid. To wait for death till it comes? I fear that even more. Then I must live. But what for? To die? And I could not escape that circle.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

“Life is just a dirty trick, a short journey from nothingness to nothingness.” ~ Ernest Hemingway

*“Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!” Ecclesiastes 1:2 ~ King Solomon
(at the beginning of his search for meaning)*

Our desire to live full and meaningful lives comes from God, who made us for a purpose.

For Discussion and Application

1. Of the four arguments for the existence presented thus far, which one do you think is the best? Discuss why.
2. What other evidences/examples of order and design can you think of that reveal the existence of God?
3. Based on this session, what do you know is true about every person that you will encounter today?

Pray for opportunities to share God’s love with others today—remembering that every person you know is searching.