



MANY CONVINCING PROOFS

DAVE LEVSON

All scriptures are derived from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Young people, my heart goes out to each one of you in love.

Your friends or even your own reasoning may tell you, “There is no God!” Some say, “There are many gods.” Some question whether the Bible is just another storybook and not reliable. Further, how can someone die and then come back to life, as is claimed of Jesus in the Bible? Or you might presume that all religions have equally valid proofs or that Satan and the Holy Spirit are not real entities.

Please consider what I am writing: there are many convincing proofs for the God of the Bible.

Why is it important to have proof of God’s existence?

1. Surveys have shown that in recent times, many young people across all Christian churches have fallen away from their belief in God and Jesus and are not living a Christ-like life. These young people often don’t believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God, believe all faiths teach equally valid truths, don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead, and do not believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit are real entities.

The surveys found that the reasons young people (those in school, university, and careers) stopped believing in God and Jesus—though varied—mostly hinged on rationalizing that the Bible was just another story like Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. They also questioned how a dead person could come back to life.

Other reasons included being offended by another believer or having a disagreement with a doctrine. Sadly, one consequence of some young Christians falling away has been a loss of distinction between professing Christians and non-Christians in basic conduct, such as lying, stealing, or cheating (e.g., on tests).

I referred to the following books for my information: *The Last Christian Generation* by Josh McDowell and David H. Bellis and *So the Next Generation Will Know* by Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace.

2. Knowing there is proof of God’s existence can help us when Satan tries to use every trick possible to take us away from God. The enemy wants to blind us to God’s love, truth, grace, righteousness, forgiveness of sin as we forgive others, His goodness, wisdom, and everything else that God is. The enemy will try to lure us into any sin, whether small or big, when we rely on our own natural reasoning, opinions, fleshly desires, or worldly attitudes. This is often called worldliness. What we need is godliness. We need to trust Him. We need voluntary obedience and the reasoning that comes from God.
3. Knowing that God exists can help you realize that the use of recreational drugs, alcohol, smoking, premarital sex, and pornography will harm you physically, mentally, and spiritually. Without God, one may even come to the point of considering suicide. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “*What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*” 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NIV), “*It is God’s will that you be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.*” If anyone has done wrong, they should repent and ask God’s forgiveness and make changes with the **help of the Holy Spirit**.

Leaders of the young people and, in fact, all leaders must be good examples; this is critical. I am so very, very thankful to God that we have been taught these things in the church, a place where every young person needs to be.

4. Knowing God exists helps in everything. In this world that we live

in, judges others, criticizes others, and is always trying to persuade others to adopt worldly opinions. There is one important way to tell the difference between right and wrong, which includes knowing the qualities we should have and the ones we shouldn't and to know how to think, speak and what to do. We learn to discern between right and wrong by the guidance of the **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit helps us with every possible work and life situation. This is very important. We should be very thankful for the Holy Spirit. The older I get, the more I see how the Holy Spirit helps and how we need Him more and more.

5. Knowing God exists helps us to **examine ourselves**. **Psalm 26:2**, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." **1 Corinthians 11:28**, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."
6. Knowing God exists is wonderful, but whenever doubts come, think of the many convincing proofs that can help you restore your faith.

What follows are some of the convincing proofs

Witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 1:3

"To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by **many infallible proofs**, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." The NIV version of the Bible says, "**many convincing proofs**." Read Acts chapters 1 and 2 to get the context of the number of people involved.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

"And he was seen of **Cephas, then of the twelve**. After that he was seen of **above 500 brethren at once**; of whom the greater part remain until this present, but some are fallen asleep (have died). After that he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

I find it absolutely amazing that Luke, in Acts 1:3, explains about these convincing proofs and then this is verified by Paul as he explains in 1 Corinthians 15:6 about the 500 plus people who saw Jesus again after His resurrection. This should help us see the reality that Jesus did rise from the dead and that God exists.

1 Corinthians 15:1

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

Paul teaches that a person can die and be resurrected because of Jesus. He teaches that this is the **crux of the matter**. Many young people do not understand how a person who is truly dead can come back to life. Paul fully explains this, so please read all the rest of chapter 15.

Isaiah 46:9

When you are convinced that God exists and that He inspired the Bible, then know what God says about Himself in Isaiah 46:9, "**Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.**" Based on this, we know there is only one God and not hundreds as in some religions.

God's Crime Scene by J. Warner Wallace

I taught forensic science in middle school. Forensics includes investigating a crime, such as solving who committed a murder. I brought a detective into my class to explain how these cases are solved. She gave an example of one of many methods—how even a tiny fragment of a person's clothing found on a wall can help identify the criminal.

J. Warner Wallace is one of the best cold-case detectives in the U.S.A. A cold-case detective investigates crimes where the perpetrator has not been found for many years, and the case has gone cold. For example, in our area near the Canadian city of Calgary, a murderer was recently identified after 47 years!

J. Warner Wallace was an atheist, as was his father. However, his mother died when he was young, and his father remarried a Mormon woman with six children. They tried to convince him of their faith, but he decided to read the Bible for himself. He examined the death of Jesus as a crime scene and the record of Jesus' resurrection. He was about to change his mind completely.

J. Warner Wallace analyzed the evidence in all four Gospels (Matthew,

Mark, Luke, and John). He also studied the lives of Paul and others, as well as historical records documenting Jesus' death. As an expert in cross-examining suspects, he applied his detective skills to the case of Jesus' resurrection. When he concluded that Jesus did rise from the dead, he became a Christian.

J. Warner Wallace explains his detective work in a clear, step-by-step manner. Of all the facts he discovered, he highlights one in particular that proves Jesus rose from the dead. John 19:34, "*But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*" The reference to "water" puzzled him at first, but as a detective with extensive experience examining dead bodies, he recognized this as medical confirmation of death. He concluded that, while others may have good reasons for believing in Jesus, he accepts it as true based on his understanding of the facts as described by eyewitnesses. This evidence proves Jesus was dead when placed in the tomb, and the testimony of over 500 eyewitnesses to His being alive days later provides compelling proof of His resurrection.

Convincing evidence from my own heart and life

When I read the Scriptures as a young boy about 11 years old, I felt Jesus has to be true because of His great wisdom. When people tried to trap Him so that He could be in big trouble if He took one side or another, He had a perfectly wise answer. For example, in Luke 20:22 (NIV), Jesus was asked "*Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?*" Since many Jews hated the Romans but the Romans made the law, depending on how Jesus answered, He could be hated and be in trouble with either the Jewish leaders or the Romans. He answered, after being shown a coin of Caesar's, in verse 25, "*Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.*"

When I see any part of God's creation, I know God is real. I sense His role in how with specific and incredible detail He has designed creation from the microscopic to the stars. Man studies many aspects of the creation and has only begun to understand how incredible it is. Romans 1:20 speaks of the creation as proof of God's existence. "*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so they are without excuse.*"

John 15:13-14 states, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you."

To me it is incredible that someone would die for me. For me, this is convincing proof. When I try to think honestly, if I would die for someone else, I might die for someone I love very much or who is close to me, or possibly some very good person; but I would find it hard to die for someone who is evil. However, Jesus, incredibly, died for everyone who has lived or ever will live. Jesus died for my sins and for the sins of each person in the world.

Our response should be to love Jesus and serve Him and love others because of all he has done for us. A summary would be Luke 10:27, "...*love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*" To top it off, he offers us everlasting life. John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

I heard of two mountain climbers at the top of a mountain who ended up in a situation where after the next step they knew only one would live. One person gave up his life for the other. Paul in Romans 5:7-8, explains this. "*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" We need to trust and believe in this loving God who gave us His Son to die for our sins and who can forgive our sins in this life and who gives us hope for the life to come.

It is okay to talk to God about our sinful condition. Isaiah 1:18, "*Come now, and let us reason together; saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*"

Other Proofs

1. There are over 300 scriptures from the Old Testament prophesying about Jesus that were fulfilled in the New Testament. (Refer to *All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer

and *New Testament Fulfilment of Old Testament Prophecies* by Abram Abraham). These include prophecies of His pre-existence, His having a forerunner, about his lineage, birth, character (as a judge, prophet, priest, king and more), His ministry, dual nature, His entrance to the temple, entrance to Jerusalem, His death, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation.

- An outstanding fact distinguishing Christ from all others is that He is the one man in the history of the world of whom explicit details of His birth, life, death, and resurrection were given centuries beforehand!
- An incredible mathematical probability occurs that can build our faith. (Reference is *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh and Sean McDowell, 2017). If only eight prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament (born in Bethlehem; preceded by a messenger (John, the Baptist); entered Jerusalem on a donkey; betrayed by a friend; hands and feet pierced; betrayed by 30 pieces of silver with the money thrown into the house of God and used to buy a potter's field; silent before his accusers; He would die accounted among criminals) are examined, that probability of being wrong would be the fraction with a numerator of 1 over a denominator of 10 to the power of 17, which is 1 with 17 zeros after! **Only an**

omniscient (all knowing) God could inspire the writing of these prophecies!

- If only 48 of the over 300 prophecies were chosen, the probability of it being wrong would be 1 over 10 to the power of 157, which is 1 with 157 zeroes after! **Only God could inspire the writing of these prophecies!**

Conclusion

I have only provided a small portion of the evidence for the existence of God, His love for us, the death and resurrection of His Son to purchase our redemption and to provide hope for the future. Taking time to be alone and quiet, reading the Bible and praying, is very valuable to get to know who God really is.

Lord, I pray that all young people everywhere will know that you, God, are real, that You are the only true God, that they will know that the Bible is true and reliable. I pray that they will know that Jesus did die and came alive again, forgiving our sins if we turn to Him with all of our heart, asking forgiveness, and that they purpose to walk in His ways. May each person know that Jesus wants a loving, close relationship with each one of us, wants us to have His truth, and wants us to live a life like Jesus. May the truths of the Bible and the Holy Spirit lead each of us. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen. †

GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

STEVEN LEVSON

Like the words on page 39 in the *Songs We Love* songbook:

“God will take care of you,
Thru ev’ry day,
O’er all the way;
He will take care of you.
God will take care of you” — Civilla D. Martin

These words have been impressed on my heart for years. Growing up, I don’t remember singing this song, but much later in my life, this song has become very real to me.

My family and I moved from Toronto to London, Ontario, so I could start a new job. We enjoyed Toronto, but we were ready for the next phase in our lives. We had two young kids, and we bought a house in our new city.

My work in London started off well but was a little bumpy as I transitioned to assist on a new project. After five months in my new job, I was “let go” unexpectedly. This shocked me.

Thankfully, this news was tempered by the words the Lord spoke to me that day. As I sat on our couch in the living room, He said, “I will take care of you.” That was almost 15 years ago now, and God has certainly taken care of my family and me!

Just recently, I was reminded of this promise that God made to us and how He has been faithful in fulfilling it. I know that this promise is for all of God’s people.

There are many scriptures that confirm His promise to take care of us. I will share some of them below. Instead of adding my commentary, I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will minister to you as you read them. I recommend reading each passage slowly and then reflecting on it before proceeding to the next passage of scripture. I have learned that I often get much more out of scriptures when I take more time to read and think about them.

Psalm 121:1-8:

*“I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
The LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.
The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
From this time forth, and even forevermore.”*

Psalm 91:1-6:

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High

*Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.'
Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.
He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday."*

Psalm 23:1, 4 & 6:
*"The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever."*

Philippians 4:19:
"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 13:5:
"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Isaiah 41:10:
"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 43:1-2:
*"But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel:
'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.'"*

1 Peter 5:6-7:
"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Psalm 27:5:
*"For in the time of trouble
He shall hide me in His pavilion;
In the secret place of His tabernacle
He shall hide me;
He shall set me high upon a rock."*

Romans 8:35, 37-39:
"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As you can read in the scriptures above, God deeply cares for and loves His people. We need not be afraid or worried because He is watching over us, watching out for us, and looking after us. He never sleeps but constantly keeps His eye on us and provides for our needs.

I have recognized in my own heart that when I am afraid or worried, it is because I am not fully trusting God. I have also realized that it is far better to let God take care of me than to try to take care of myself. His resources are so vast and limitless. His love is so unconditional and generous. His understanding of what we need and when we need it is so accurate.

We are His sheep, and He is our Shepherd. Let us allow Him to take care of us as we trust and obey Him. Let us follow His leading, as He is our provider and protector.

May you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God WILL take care of YOU today and every day, over ALL the way that you walk. ✚

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