

## Faith In God

Text : **Heb. 11: 1-16**

**S#1.**

**S#2.**

### **A. Do you believe in God ? If so, you may soon be in the minority.**

1. This nation is in a spiritual crisis. Belief in God is declining at an alarming rate.
2. There has been a steady decline in believers over the past 40 years.
3. Institutions of higher learning assault and belittle religion.

### **B. Statistical analysis of polls reveal an alarming trend toward godlessness.**

1. Only 74% of Americans now claim some level of belief in God.

**Of the 74% :**

**S#3.**

- a. 19% say they are very religious
- b. 40% say they are somewhat religious
- c. 23% say they are not at all religious
2. Of the 74% many do not believe in the basic beliefs of Christianity / monotheism.
  - a. Only 72% of the 74% believe in the miracles of the bible
  - b. Only 64% believe that the soul survives the body after death. ( *afterlife* )
3. Belief in the bible as the word of God is fading on a parallel course.
  - a. 28% believe the bible is inspired and accept it as the literal word of God.
  - b. 50% believe the bible is inspired, but do not accept it as the words of God.
  - c. 20% believe it is Fables, Legends, Myths, history, etc.

### **C. Of those who claim to believe in God :**

1. Only 36% believe in the Genesis account of creation.
2. 47% believe in Darwinian evolution.
3. 42% believe in ghosts
4. 24% believe in reincarnation
5. 29% believe in astrology ( *shades of ancient paganism* )
6. 24% believe in witches

**S#4.**

### **D. We assume members of the church of Christ all believe in God, but not true.**

1. Approximately 6% say they do **not** believe in God.
2. 37% of the believers in the church do not believe that God is a being with whom one can have a relationship ... **They believe he's just a nebulous force.**

So I ask again, “Do you believe in God ?”

S#5.

“Why do you believe in God ?”

“When did you start believing in God ?”

“Can you convince others that they should believe ?”

## I. Man’s eternal destiny depends upon his having faith in God.

S#6.

### A. Ancient cultures – Men have always believed in an afterlife.

S#7.

1. The first Chinese bankrupted his kingdom preparing for his afterlife.
2. The Egyptians embalmed their bodies and built pyramids for afterlife.
3. Greek and Roman mythology is filled with stories of the afterlife ... river sticks, etc.

### B. Christians – We believe that there is an afterlife that is controlled by God.

S#8.

1. We believe that at death we will all give an accounting for the life we have lived.

**Heb. 9: 27** – And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

S#9.

2. We believe God keeps a record of all man’s activities and holds him accountable.

**Rom. 2: 5-6** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who will render to each person according to his deeds:

S#10.

3. God’s even remembers unwholesome words said in jest. ( **All time is now.** )

S#11.

**Matt. 12: 36** – But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

### C. Thus, everyone must win the approval of God or face His eternal wrath.

S#12.

1. Many who deny God do so because they do not want to acknowledge accountability.

- a. If there is a God, He is a higher power than man.
- b. If there is a higher power, that power can make demands of man.
- c. If a higher power makes demands, He can require man to submit to His demands.

2. Since God is that higher power, man must seek the approval of God.

3. Man can only win the approval of God by having faith in God.

S#13.

- a. **Heb. 11: 6** – And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- b. “Faith” includes believing that God exists, but involves much more.

**II. The bible does not seek to prove that God exists.****S#14.****A. The bible starts with the assumption of God.****S#15.**

1. **Gen. 1: 1** – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. Nowhere in the bible is there an attempt to prove that God exists.

**B. Man is held accountable because God's existence is so obvious.****S#16.**

1. **Rom. 1: 20** – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
2. Thus, in scripture, those who deny God are looked down upon.  
**Psa. 41: 1** – ... The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." ...

**S#18.****S#19.****C. Those who do believe in God must be able to communicate their faith to others.**

1. Faith is communicated by words, not genes. ( *No one is born with faith.* ) **S#20.**  
**Rom. 10: 17** – So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
2. How can we teach the existence of God when it is not taught by the scriptures ?

**S#21.****D. God is a spirit ... How do we teach people to believe in what they cannot see?**

1. We believe in many things we cannot see.
  - a. Air, the wind
  - b. Electricity
2. We know they exist by the results of their existence. ( *wind damage, electric shock* )

**S#22.****III. God cannot be proven by the scientific method; He must be accepted by faith, but there are many convincing proofs.****A. Cosmological argument : There is a creation, thus there is a creator.****S#23.**

1. First law of thermodynamics : You can't get something from nothing.
2. The unprovable "Big Bang Theory" cannot account for the origin of matter. **S#24.**

*It used to be that science couldn't answer the question about the origin of the universe or of the Big Bang, but that didn't mean we should make up an answer (such as a god) and say that it was the cause. Within the last few decades scientists have discovered some good answers.*

*Quantum mechanics shows that "nothing," as a philosophical concept, does not exist. There are always quantized particle fields with random fluctuations. Quantum mechanics also shows that events can occur with no cause.*

- Lawrence Krauss, physicist

3. If a book exists there is of necessity an author, manufacturer of paper, printer, etc.

S#25.

**B. Teleological argument for God : Design necessitates designer ( *car illustration* )**

1. **Psa. 19: 1** – **The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.** S#26.
2. Astronomers estimate : **100** Billion galaxies; **300** Billion stars in Milky Way  
All of these move in exact precision. ( *Some say these exploded into existence* )
3. How foolish would we think someone who claimed a car just happened .. explosion?
4. Charles Darwin on the human eye :  
*“To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I confess, absurd in the highest degree...The difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination, should not be considered subversive of the theory.”*

**C. The existence of life argument for God. Life can only come from life.** S#27.

1. According to the laws of science, biogenesis is impossible. ( *Life just happened* )

\* **Theory** : A “Primordial soup” of chemicals fostered spontaneous generation of life.

2. Man cannot create life or even make one small cell live. S#28.
3. God is the source of life. ( **Gen. 2: 7** ... **breathed into his nostril the breath of life** )
  - a. **Psa. 36: 9** – **For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.**
  - b. **John 10: 17–18** **For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. ...** S#29.

S#30.

**D. Anthropological argument for God : Man’s universally instinctive characteristics**

1. Universally, man has an inborn sense of a higher power ... **of God.** S#31.
  - a. Ethnodoxology : In every era and culture man has been a worshipping creature.
  - b. Men worship many different things, but know there is some higher power.
  - c. **Rom. 1: 19** – **because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**
2. Universally, man is born with a moral sense of right and wrong.
  - a. Certain core values are universally believed, i.e., murder is wrong, respect parents
  - b. **Rom. 1: 14–15** **For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,** S#32.

3. Universally, man has a conscience. **S#33.**

- a. Man's conscience creates a personal standard of conduct which guides his actions.
- b. When man breaks his moral code he feels guilt.

**S#34.**

**E. The holy scriptures are an argument for God : They are obviously inspired.**

- 1. Written over a period of 1500 yrs. in a variety of different countries, cultures.
- 2. It was written by at least 40 different men who spoke three or four languages.
- 3. In spite of that it is both historically and scientifically accurate.
  - a. Speaks of the "circle of the earth" ( Isa. 40: 22 ) when men thought it to be flat.
  - b. It speaks of the "paths of the sea" ( Psa. 8: 8 ) led Commodore Muary to currents
  - c. Speaks of evaporation and condensation ( rain ) 1600 B.C. ( Job 36: 27-28)

## **CONCLUSION :**

( *loser's debate tactic* )

**S#35.**

**S#36.**

**A. We understand Satan to be vocal and aggressive because his arguments are weak**

- 1. Many of the things they advocate require more faith than belief in God; e.g., : **S#37.**
  - a. The entire universe happens as a result of an explosion of super-matter.
  - b. Life was created by electrical charges hitting chemical dissolved in water.
- 2. They postulate unproven assumptions and assert them as facts.
  - a. By definition the word "theory" is something that is **not** proven.
  - b. They begin formulating theories from a position of bias ... God could not be so ...
- 3. Their theories often violate scientific principles to which they supposedly adhere.
  - a. Something cannot come from nothing.
  - b. Life cannot come from non-life.

**B. God is and life has no meaning or purpose without Him.**

**S#38.**

- 1. What is the purpose of life if this is all there is ?
  - a. If not, once one has procreated he is a burden on society ... *needlessly consuming*
  - b. If there is no afterlife, population should be controlled as a commodity.
- 2. If man has no eternal soul life has little value ... **thus ... abortion and euthanasia.**

**C. Heb. 11: 6 ... God IS and He rewards those who diligently seek Him.**

**S#39.**

## **INVITATION :**

**Are you seeking God ?**

**Lesson Text :****Heb. 11: 1-16**

**1** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For by it the men of old gained approval.

**3** By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

**4** By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. **5** By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. **7** By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

**8** By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **10** for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11** By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as *many descendants* AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

**13** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **15** And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/new-harris-poll-on-religion-in-america-2013-12>