

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!



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FAITH

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WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE IN GOD?

Belief is the base where the whole of humanity stands upon. Belief is the breath of every human being though he is unaware of it. Humanity believes many materialistic things in the world which they never see with their eyes, never hear with their ears. But when it comes to spiritual matters like God, man spontaneously questions God's existence.

'How do we believe in God who is invisible?' Such question is often pondered by some people. In reality we believe in many scientists' discoveries which we only heard but never saw in reality. But when it comes to God, people ask for proofs. We do not see air but we feel it. Similarly we might not see God with the naked eyes but we feel him at heart. Just because one is unable to see air or God, can he deny their existence?

The Sun, Stars, Moon, Earth, Water, Sky and the nature's wonders which cannot be created by Man are all proofs of God's existence. We can feel God when we are with the nature. Man might have created so many things on the earth but who created that man? God created man and his mysterious brain which helped man in his discovery.

Most people believe with heart. But for those who want to find the reason to believe through logic, French philosopher, Blaise Pascal offered a wager in 1660. Pascal pondered whether or not he should believe in God. The lack of proof forced him into a cost-benefit assessment:

— no belief and no God — well all is fine;

— chose to believe and there is no God — wasted investments (e.g. prayers, candles etc);

— chose to believe and God exists— you are saved; but

— no belief and there is a God —you are damned for all eternity!;

Based on this Pascal said 'of course I believe!'

In the last few decades a tantalizingly great number of exceedingly rare coincidences, vital for the existence of a minimally stable universe and without which no form of life could exist anywhere, have been discovered. It is called «fine-tuning» of the physical constants of the universe which has barely any other explanation except that the Universe is God's creation.



Creation of life is another sign of God's presence. Obstacles to the formation of life on primitive earth would have been extremely challenging. Even a simple protein molecule is so rich in information that the entire history of the universe wouldn't give you the time you would need to generate that molecule by chance. Run the odds of these things falling into place on their own and you find out that the probabilities in forming a rather short functional protein at random would be one chance in a hundred trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion. That is a ten with one-hundred and twenty-five zeros after it. And that would only be one protein molecule, a fairly simple cell would need between three-hundred and five-hundred protein molecules. When you look at those odds and evidence, you can see why, since the 1960's, scientist have abandoned the idea that chance played any significant role in the origin of DNA or proteins.

There is something about nature that is much more striking and inexplicable than its design. The theory that there is a God who made the world accounts for the scientific evidence we see better than the theory that there is no God!

Human being is able to achieve the impossible by his intelligence, knowledge and skill. This doesn't mean he is greater than God because that great human being is also helpless in some aspects. Is that be-

ing aware that there is an invisible thread which helps in the functioning of all parts? Is he breathing every breath by his will? Can he die at any moment he wants or can he live for more years when the hour of death approaches him? Is man making any effort to make his heart beat in a regular manner? Who is the guiding principle behind all these? It is God who resides in the heart of man.

God is the source of faith in the Orthodox Church. Orthodoxy believes that God has revealed Himself to us, most especially in the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom we know as the Son of God. This Revelation of God, His love, and His purpose, are constantly made manifest and contemporary in the life of the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Orthodox Faith does not begin with humankind's religious speculations, nor with the so-called «proofs» for the existence of God, nor with a human quest for the Divine. The origin of the Orthodox Christian Faith is the Self-disclosure of God. Each day the Church's Morning Prayer affirms and reminds us of this by declaring: «God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us.» While the inner Being of God always remains unknown and unapproachable, God has manifested Himself to us; and the Church has experienced Him as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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