

# Core Beliefs

## God Exists



Striving to prove the existence of God through empirical evidence is like trying to prove love or to show gravity. We only know they exist by seeing their effects. The Bible says something similar about God’s Spirit. *“You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.”* **John 3:8 (The Message)**

Scripture claims that God existed before the scientific method—even before science so it stands to reason that a being not bound by the tangible could not be fully explained by the tangible.

It is important that we begin with examining what the Christian faith and Scriptures claim, for if they made no claim of a higher being, any search for evidence would be meaningless. From the very first verse in the Bible, God is assumed. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* **Genesis 1:1 (NIV)** Although we are still left with many questions, one thing is understood—the Bible claims that God preexisted us and created all we see. Here are some other passages that paint a portrait of this God of creation.

**Isaiah 40:28 (NIV)** *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

**Malachi 3:6 (NIV)** *I the LORD do not change. So, you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.*

**2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)** *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

**Psalms 11:7 (NIV)** *For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.*

The Bible announces that an all-powerful, righteous and loving God created the universe and humanity as his most prized creation. But many need more proof than the claims of Scripture. So, scholars turn to science and philosophy to test the reasonableness of God’s existence. And the evidence is compelling.

### The Starting Point

Science has shown that the universe is expanding. Many point to its origin as a “big bang” moment, but they offer no compelling explanation for what caused those original gasses to suddenly explode, creating our universe. Since it had a starting point, then the most likely conclusion is that something personal, from outside our universe, whose power is unmatched and whose existence is not dependent upon the material world caused the universe to come into existence. That is a basic definition of God.

## The Hand of a Designer

It's hard to look at the double helix of DNA or photos of our the far stretches of our universe and not be in awe. They are beautiful and complex and they present a world that is precisely designed to function in ways we often take for granted. Science is the study of the complexity of our world. The tilt of planet earth, its distance from the sun, the precise level of our planet's gravity, the intricate complexity of the human body or the chemistry that sustains life, all point to a universe and a creation that was finely tuned for existence. Some might argue it came about by chance, but the probability of that occurring is astonishingly small. It's overwhelmingly more likely that a universe would not support life. The much more probable reason for the fine tuning of our world and creation is that it was the result of intentional design. If that is so, we must acknowledge the existence of a personal designer.

## Objective Moral Values

If there is no personal supernatural cause to the universe, then moral values are relative. Whether one person chooses his/her own moral values, or a society accepts a set of moral expectations, no authority exists to say with certainty that any choice or action is objectively moral or immoral. History has shown that moral relativism leads to dangerous outcomes. We look back and say "that action was evil" or those people sought the greater good." When we claim that some things are truly good or evil, we assume that morality exists beyond the relative perspective of humanity and finds its mooring in an eternal being who created us and established uncompromising standards of good and evil.

## The Testimony of Changed Lives

Although this argument is much less scientific, the cumulative weight of the testimony of people whose lives have been changed because they accepted and served the God of Scripture is something that must be acknowledged. There are stories of outliers— people who betray their calling, shame their creator and abuse their privileges. But the vast majority of those stories tell of people who overcame hardships, defeated powerful addictions, set up hospitals, fed the hungry, educated the underprivileged, opposed despots and gave their own lives for the sake of others in desperate need. In spite of the historical shortcomings of some of its adherents, Christianity has been an overwhelming force for good in our world, and those who acknowledge God have willingly sacrificed their wealth, their health and their lives for the betterment of humanity. Jesus says, *"By their fruit you will know them."* (Matthew 7:20). The testimony of changed lives that change the world, out of a devotion to a creator God, makes a strong argument for his existence.

If you reject the existence of God, we do not expect this single article to change your mind, but we do hope that the arguments we've outlined will cause you to ask more questions and explore the possibility that behind the tangible world exists a powerful being that started it all and has a great plan for your life.