

How Real



is God?

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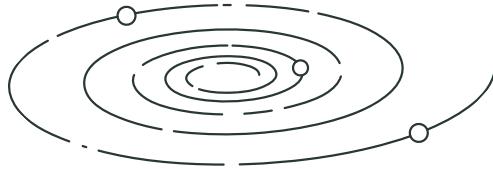
Personal encounters with God, Jesus, His angels, and followers.

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## INTRODUCTION

Most often, we decide reality by using our senses. We know things we see, touch, hear, smell, or taste are real.

But in other cases, say our body's DNA, we know it's there but we don't really use our senses to tell us that; we trust what science tells us.

Let's consider love. A powerful emotion that feels real because it manifests itself in actions and affections. Can the same be said for God?

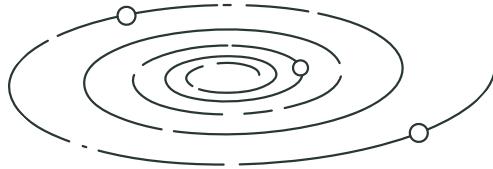
In this ebook, I will briefly touch on the aspects of science, history, and personal experience to help you answer the questions you may have as to the reality of God.

My reference material is a recently published book by Lee Strobel called *Is God Real?* Strobel is a former atheist and award-winning legal editor of *The Chicago Tribune*. He spent two years investigating the legitimacy of Christianity and has since authored over forty books that have sold fourteen million copies. Many are *New York Times* best-sellers.

My hope is not only to help you find answers, but that you also experience a deeper relationship with God.

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”

Romans 1:20



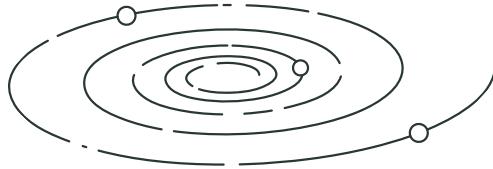
## EVIDENCE

Strobel spent a lot of time interviewing highly qualified and award-winning scientists, discussing everything from the big bang theory to the discovery of our DNA to the historical accuracy of the Holy Bible. (If you are interested in more of the technical points on each subject, I recommend reading the book. You can find a link to Amazon under Resource Links.)

Kenneth Richard Samples, MA, presents the best summation with his C-L-E-A-R evidence for God:

"The C is for cosmos—we have a fine-tuned universe that had a beginning, and this points toward a creator," he said. "The L is for life—the Christian story has uncanny insights into our lives, our challenges, our longings, and our neediness. The E is for ethics—we live in an ethical world. There are universal moral laws and commands. Where do they come from? Evolution can't account for that. The A is for abstractions. These are invisible ideas. We can't have science without mathematics. We can't have philosophy without logic. Again, where do these come from? And the R is for religion—we all seem to be oriented toward religion, and Christianity provides a strong case that Jesus is the God we need."(1)

(1) Strobel, Lee. *Is God Real?: Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life* (p. 173). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.



One point I found especially interesting was the validity of *The Holy Bible*. Whether or not you believe the Bible is indeed the inspired Word of God has no impact on its historical significance. There are more than 5,000 Greek and other source documents, from that time period, that support and validate the Bible. Researchers from all disciplines consider the Bible as one of the most accurate and reliable historical documents.

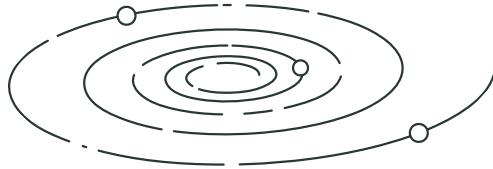
“Heaven is a fairy story for people who are afraid of the dark”. Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, exclusive interview with The Guardian.(2)

“Atheism is a fairy story for those who are afraid of the light.” Oxford mathematician John Lennox, address at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in London, England, June 25, 2013. (3)

(2,3) Strobel, Lee. *Is God Real?: Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life* (p. 183). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

**[Jesus said] “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”**

**Matthew 7:7-8**



## QUESTIONS

According to Strobel's research, the two biggest faith-blocking questions are *why there is suffering in the world?* and *why is God so hard to find?* He interviews philosopher Peter John Kreeft, PhD, for answers.

As to suffering, Kreeft begins by saying, "The universe is a soul-making machine, and part of that process is learning, maturing, and growing through difficult and challenging and painful experiences."(4)

God created us, not as robots, but with free will. The challenge with free will is we can choose between good and evil, love and hate. The question should be, to what extent does selfishness cause pain and suffering in our world?

Kreeft continues, "On my door there's a cartoon of two turtles. One says, 'Sometimes I'd like to ask why he allows poverty, famine, and injustice when he could do something about it.' The other turtle says, 'I'm afraid God might ask me the same question.' Those who have Jesus' heart toward hurting people need to live out their faith by alleviating suffering where they can, by making a difference, by embodying his love in practical ways."(5)

(4) Strobel, Lee. *Is God Real?: Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life* (p. 149). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

(5) Ibid, (pp. 157-158).



When I consider the hiddenness of God, I immediately think of Jesus. How hidden is a God who comes to live with us in human form, is completely innocent, yet is tortured and dies hanging on a cross as an intercessor for us, breaks open the gates of hell and rises up from the dead to keep us from experiencing death and enabling us to enter heaven to live forever?

But to know Jesus, it is up to us to accept Him. Once we do, He promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Kenneth Richard Samples, MA, says “When a follower of Jesus passes from this world, they enter into an eternal existence where there’s intimacy with God on a breathtaking level.”(6)

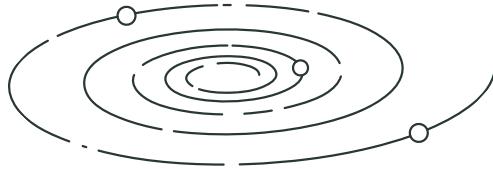
Strobel writes, “How strong is the evidence? Sir Lionel Luckhoo, once identified by the Guinness Book of Records as the most successful defense attorney in the world, spent years investigating the resurrection and reached this verdict: “I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.”(7)

(6) Strobel, Lee. *Is God Real?: Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life* (p. 181). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

(7) Ibid, (p. 191).

**“Don’t forget to show hospitality  
to strangers, for some who have  
done this have entertained angels  
without realizing it!”**

**Hebrews 13:2**

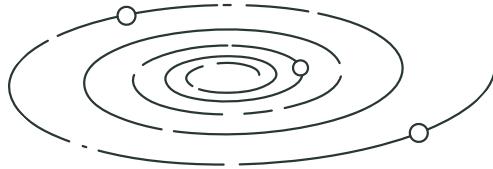


## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I enjoy watching police procedurals and mystery programs on TV. One thing they have in common in solving crimes: there is no such thing as coincidence. I believe this also applies to experiencing God.

Many might label my personal experiences as coincidences, but I don't believe that. I have had too many to not know they are proof of a loving God. And those experiences extend to my family and friends as well. Maybe someday I will write a book about those experiences. But for now, here are a few other examples for you.

From shock rocker Alice Cooper to a construction worker addicted to pornography, the stories of God's healing power from addictions and mental anguish abound. Like Louis Zamperini. His story of Olympian to WWII hero isn't only amazing because he survived drifting at sea in a small raft for 47 days, or that he survived starvation and torture in a Japanese prison camp, but because only God could heal his brokenness when he returned home. Turning to alcohol to dim his nightmares, he was losing the war in his mind. Then one night in 1949, his wife invites him to attend a Billy Graham crusade. As he commits his life to Christ, the nightmares and need for alcohol are gone. (To learn more of his story you can read the book or see the movie *Unbroken*.)

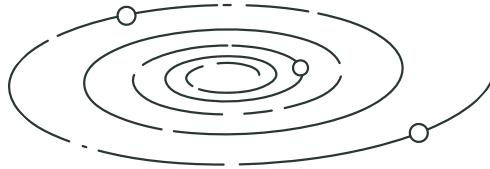


Consider encounters with angels, or as I like to call them, God's field agents. This excerpt is from my *Regular Girl Devos* post *Angels in Khakis*:

Two friends shared stories of encounters with angels. The first involved a man, a road trip, and a truck on the verge of a breakdown. Pulled to the side of the road, he wanted desperately to get home. Resting his head on the steering wheel, he looked up to see a young man sitting in the passenger seat. But how? There was not another car on the roadway.

The young man said he thought he knew how to fix the truck and fiddled with some things under the hood. Before the husband could thank him, the young man disappeared as fast as he had appeared. Rather shocked but thankful, the husband continued his trip with no problems.

The second encounter involved a woman who was driving on the highway during a rainstorm. The wet road caused her car to hydroplane. She ended up on the opposite side of the highway, pointing toward oncoming traffic. Stunned, unhurt, and wondering what to do next, a young man knocked on her window and asked if she needed help.



The young man told her the way was clear and pointed to an off-ramp. She didn't see any other cars. The young man said he was working nearby and saw her spin out. She thanked him for his help and pulled off the highway to safety. Gathering her composure, she saw neither the young man nor a potential work site.

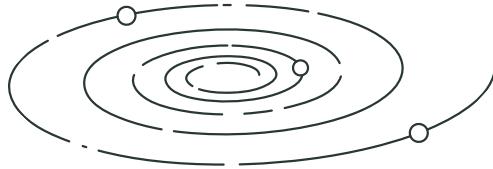
Each friend described the angels as very polite, soft-spoken, average looking young men wearing button-down shirts and khaki pants!

Many times, our experiences happen through the love and care of Godly people. Erisa Mutabazi, *HOPE International's* regional director of Africa savings group programs, explains: "I would ask God to manifest Himself to me in visible ways. God brought me an 'angel' in the form of my high school physics teacher, who provided desperately needed direction and guidance. He spoke hope into my life, creating a sense of clarity and purpose that led to where I am today: helping other families pool their resources to fight poverty."

There is so much more to the reality of God than we may imagine. Be open to seeing God at work in your life, answering prayers in unique ways. How will you experience God? Small coincidences? Life-changing miracles? Angels in khakis? Caring mentors? God only knows!

**[Jesus said] “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”**

**Revelation 3:20**



## CONCLUSION

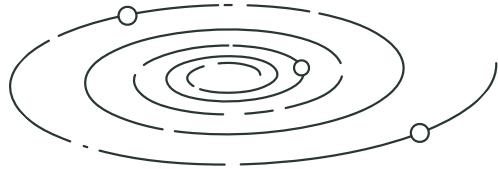
Faith is defined as a complete trust or confidence in someone or something. I hope the evidence offered here has helped to remove any question marks you may have in your mind that would hinder your complete faith in our eternally loving God.

Billy Graham said, “Don’t let the burdens and hardships of this life distract or discourage you, but keep your eyes firmly fixed on what God has promised at the end of our journey: heaven itself.”

I think St. Paul summarized it best in Ephesians 3:14-19:

“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

If you would like to learn more about committing to Jesus, you can *Walk the Roman Road* on my *How to Know God* page found under Resource Links.



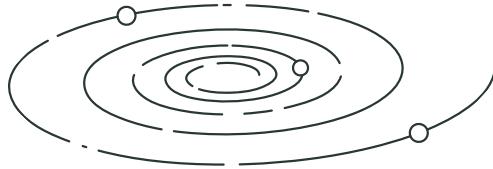
My prayer for you is Zephaniah 3:17:

“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

Please share your thoughts, concerns, questions, or personal experiences via my contact under Resource Links. I would love to hear from you!

**“Now all glory to God,  
who is able,  
through his mighty power  
at work within us,  
to accomplish infinitely more  
than we might ask or think.”**

**Ephesians 3:21**



## ABOUT RGD & RESOURCE LINKS

Hi, I'm Dana, just a regular girl. I was trying my best to work through a lifetime of mistakes when I met God. Full of grace and mercy, God revealed my true identity. He says my value is not in what I do, or don't do, but in who I am: His beloved child.

You are His beloved child, too! I believe, by talking to God through prayer, you can find strength to face life's challenging messes and comfort and hope in everyday victories.

I also offer God-based solutions for self-care, particularly mental health. We survivalists are not alone, but we often feel lonely in our battles. If we feel overwhelmed, we can be confident God is with us when we need professional help because God's grace uses people to help us!

Thanks for reading and I encourage you to nurture your connection with God. One day at a time, we learn to live out our true identity mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

Resource Links:

[Is God Real?](#) by Lee Strobel\*

\*This is an affiliate link, at no cost to you.

[Billy Graham](#)

[Hope International](#)

[Walk the Roman Road/How to Know God](#)

[Contact Dana](#)

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