

Proof of the Existence of God

By Dr. David A. DeWitt

- *Isn't the existence of God a matter of faith rather than proof?*
- *Is there one easy-to-remember proof for the existence of God?*
- *Is there a reasonable proof for God's existence?*

If God Exists as a Person, Why Can't We See Him?

For reasons which He has not told us, God has chosen to remain unseen. The Apostle John said, *No one has seen God at any time* (John 1:18). So we must conclude that there has never been an actual appearance of God the Father. But John finishes that verse by saying, *the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained* [or “declared”] *Him*. In the context, John is referring to Jesus Christ (verse 14). So we can assume that the appearances of God in the Old Testament were the appearances of Jesus Christ (Genesis 18:1-2, 13-14, 22, 33; 22:15-18; Exodus 3:2-6; Joshua 5:13-15; Judges 6:11-24; Zechariah 1:12-13). His presence declared or explained God, just as it did during His physical life—because He is God. So we will not be able to prove the existence of God as we can prove the existence of people or objects we can see. Of course we do believe in things we cannot see—like electricity and emotions (love, fear, hate, etc.). For that matter, we should not believe everything we do see—like sleight-of-hand, tricks, optical illusions, UFOs, etc. Belief should require evidence.

Do We Know that God Exists by Faith?

Since God cannot be seen, how can we know He exists? Many have suggested we know God exists by faith. If that were so, we could also know the god of Mohammed exists and the god of Buddha exists and all the gods of the idols of all times exist. But that's absurd since they all conflict with the character of the God of the Bible. Faithism is not the way to prove God exists.

Jesus gave us a better way. He said, *God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth* (John 4:24). God must be worshipped in spirit because He is a spiritual being, but Jesus coupled spiritual worship not with faith but with **truth**. Faith is crucial to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We must place our faith **in God** but faith is not the way to know **that God** exists.

*In order to place our faith **in** God, we must first know **that** there is a God in Whom to place our faith.*

Faith cannot create God.

“Proof” and the Existence of God

The first definition of “proof” in the dictionary is “evidence that compels acceptance by the mind of a truth or fact” [Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam Webster, 1990, page 942]. So to **prove** the existence of God, we must offer **evidence** that compels the mind to accept the truth about God. Notice that proof does not require everyone to believe it. That would be impossible, since most belief is based on experience which compels our emotions to accept our feelings rather than evidence which compels our minds to accept the truth. But Jesus said the worship of God requires truth (John 4:24).

A Brief Statement of God's Existence

A personal moral God is the only sufficient cause of the universe we observe.

In other words,

- (1) Everything has a cause which is at least as complex as itself.
 - (2) The universe is something which contains personal moral beings.
 - (3) Therefore, the cause of our universe must be (at least) a personal moral creator.
- Therefore, God exists.

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Here is a reasonable flow of evidence that compels our minds to accept the truth that God indeed exists:

- (1) *Everything we observe has a cause which is at least as complex as itself.* Show me a bird nest, and I'll show you a bird more complex than the nest. Show me a computer, and I'll show you a man more complex than the computer. Even in procreation parents are as complex as their offspring
- (2) *By observation, the universe exists.*
- (3) *A universe with moral personalities exists.* Our universe has real creatures which have personality (animals and humans) and spirituality, morality, thoughts of purpose and destiny, and creativity (humans).
- (4) *Therefore, an—at least—personal moral Creator exists.* Because the Creator must be at least personal and moral. We can, therefore, call the Creator **He**, rather than **It**. ("She" would be inappropriate because it does not best designate headship.)
- (5) *The personal moral Creator must be infinite.* If He were finite, He would have to be either self-caused or uncaused. Being self-caused is impossible, since one would have to preexist oneself. Being uncaused is contrary to all observations of anything finite. So if He were finite, He would also require a cause, and His cause would require a cause, and so on, until one uncaused infinite cause could be known.
- (6) *The personal moral infinite Creator must be eternal* because eternity is a subcategory of infinity. Eternity is merely infinity applied to time.
- (7) *The personal moral infinite eternal Creator is unchanging* because anything He would change into He would already be. He couldn't improve because He is already infinite. He couldn't deteriorate because that would limit His infinity.
- (8) *The personal moral infinite eternal unchanging Creator is perfect* because an imperfection would require change.
- (9) *Therefore, a personal, moral, infinite, eternal, unchanging, perfect Creator exists.*
- (10) *Such a Being is worthy to be called God.*

Therefore, **God exists.**

As Paul wrote, *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* (Romans 1:20).

Questions and Answers

Q: *Isn't the existence of God a matter of faith rather than proof?*

A: No. Obedience to God is by faith, but first we must determine that there is a God (and which God) to obey. That's done by logically examining the evidence for the truth.

Q: *Is there one easy-to-remember proof for the existence of God?*

A: Yes. Cause and effect. The universe is an effect which requires a cause, which can only be a personal God.

Q: *Is there a reasonable proof for God's existence?*

A: Cause and effect leads us to determine the existence of a Being worthy to be called God.