



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
PRESENTS

# I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

## Part 2

Featuring

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## Summary from part 1

75% of church kids in their 20s walk away from the church

Why? Intellectual skepticism: they're not getting their questions answered

Does truth exist?

Apply the truth statement to itself: the Road Runner tactic

Does God exist?

Beginning: Cosmological Argument  
Design: Teleological Argument  
Morality: Moral Argument

## I. Are miracles possible?

Only theistic religions can be true

“Worldview”: an explanation for why the world is the way that it is

The true worldview has to explain...

1. Origin of the universe from nothing
2. Design of the universe
3. Origin of the four natural forces
4. Origin of reason and laws of logic
5. Origin of the laws of mathematics
6. Origin of the laws of causality
7. Origin of objective morality and human rights
8. Origin and design of life
9. Origin and design of new life forms
10. Origin of intelligence
11. Origin of personality
12. Origin of love and beauty

<i>The possibilities in a theistic universe</i>	
<i>Could be true</i>	<i>Cannot be true</i>
Judaism	Hinduism
Christianity	Buddhism
Islam	New Age
	Secular humanism
	Mormonism
	Polytheism

Which theism is true?

Miracles can help

The greatest miracle in the Bible is the first verse

*In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.  
—Genesis 1:1*

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Why don't people believe in miracles?

Richard Lewantin: We can't allow a divine foot in the door

God can authenticate someone with a miracle

## **II. Is the New Testament true?**

Do we have an accurate copy of original New Testament documents?

- Earlier manuscripts and more of them
  
- More accurately copied manuscripts
  
- More abundantly supported manuscripts

You can reconstruct the New Testament from the early Church Fathers

Do the New Testament documents tell the truth? Five E's

### **Expected testimony**

We expect there to be a God

The Old Testament teaches that the Messiah would come

- Messiah born of a woman: Genesis 3:15
- Messiah from the line of David: Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15
- Messiah born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:32
- Messiah both God and man: Isaiah 9:6
- Messiah would visit the Temple: Malachi 3:1
- Messiah would be cut off: Daniel 9:24
- Messiah would rise from the dead: Isaiah 53

### Early testimony

Historical evidence for the deaths of Paul and James and the book of Corinthians between 30 AD and 70 AD

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, a creed that goes back to the Resurrection

Luke and Mark written early

Paul's undisputed works written before he died in 65 AD

Most if not all of the New Testament written prior to 70 AD

The destruction of the Temple is not mentioned in the New Testament

### Eyewitness testimony

"We are witnesses..." , Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, John

"Historical crosshairs": Luke 3

Acts has 84 eyewitness details confirmed through other writings or archaeology

59 eyewitness details in the gospel of John

More than 30 historical figures confirmed from secular sources

Jesus mentioned by 10 non-Christian sources

The ossuary of Caiaphas discovered in 1990

### Embarrassing testimony

The principle of embarrassment: If there's something embarrassing to the author in the text, the text is probably true

The New Testament is full of embarrassing details

- The disciples failed to understand Jesus
- They were uncaring
- They didn't give Jesus a proper burial
- They're rebuked
- Peter's wrong about a theological issue
- Problems in the early Church
- The New Testament writers are cowards
- The disciples are doubters
- Embarrassing details about Jesus himself

### Excruciating testimony

Transformation of the disciples' beliefs

Resurrection would have to be an impact event

The disciples had every motive to deny the Resurrection—but they didn't

### **III. Who is Jesus?**

C.S. Lewis: the “Lord, liar, or lunatic” theory

Jesus claimed and proved to be God by:

- Fulfilling prophecy
- Living a sinless life and performing miraculous deeds
- Predicting and accomplishing His resurrection from the dead

If Jesus is God, then anything He teaches is true

### **IV. What about the kids?**

“The Crash Course in Truth So You Don't Crash In College”: to get the facts to the kids

### **V. The Bible is true. So what?**

Why did Jesus come?

Everybody sins: the only way to be reconciled to God is if He pays the price

We draw an arbitrary line between us and the really bad people

But *all* have fallen short

Jesus pays the price

Have you received the gift of Jesus' life?

What's the evidence that you have?

## Resources

### *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*

by Frank Turek and Norman Geisler  
[www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

### **“Stand to Reason”**

[www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

### **“Impact Apologetics”**

[www.impactapologetics.com](http://www.impactapologetics.com)

### **“Lee Strobel”**

[www.leestrobel.com](http://www.leestrobel.com)

### **“EQUIP.com”**

[www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org)

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