

How can I know there is a God?

In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. (1 Peter 3:15)

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

The following outline is derived from "How Can I Know There is a God?" by Martin De Haan. The full text is available at <http://www.rbc.org/ds/q0101/>.

The Four Revelations of God

1. God revealed through creation
 - a) The beauty and complexity of the universe suggest a designer
 - b) Example: Job 38. Job understands the power of God through observing the natural world
 - c) Psalm 19:1-4: "The heavens declare the glory of God ..."
 - d) Irreducible complexity = Intelligent design
 - e) The universe must have had a beginning. Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."
2. God revealed through conscience
 - a) Every culture has an innate sense of a God, however distorted. Acts 17:22: "So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. '"
 - b) Men everywhere have similar standards of right and wrong. Romans 2:15: "They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them."
 - c) See Romans 1:18-32.
3. God revealed through communication
 - a) God reveals himself in a personal way through his word: Through the Bible we can know not just that there *is* a God, but *who* he is, the history of his dealings with man, and his plan for salvation.
 - b) The Bible claims to be the infallible word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - c) Evidence for the unique character of the Bible:
 - Unified themes spanning centuries of authorship
 - Confirmed prophecy regarding the Messiah
 - Not discredited by science or archeology
 - Miraculous preservation of accurate texts
4. God revealed through Christ
 - a) God not only wants us to know about him. He wants a relationship with us. Jesus is the basis of that relationship.
 - b) Jesus provides the visible testimony and validation of all we know about God. John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the father." 1 John 5:20: "And we know the son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his son Jesus Christ.. He is the true God and eternal life."

If you seek God he will prove Himself to you. Now, who will you prove yourself to God?