

# David Hamstra :: God Series

## Reason and Faith

Reason and Faith are not incompatible.

Philosophy class and classmates frustration with attack on Christianity.

Biblically reason played a large part of Paul's ministry.

Acts 17:2

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

Acts 17:17

So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 18:4

Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:19

They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Acts 26:25

"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable.

Paul communicated with others and shared the gospel with non-believers using reason. It is important for us to be able to reason with others.

When we encourage people to believe in God. To trust in Jesus we are asking them to combine reason and faith.

Reason alone is not enough. Faith is vital!

Hebrews 4:2

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Faith is not counting our lucky stars and blindly putting our eggs into one basket. Faith is not taking a pill without question or doubts.

Reason and Faith are not exclusive of each other. Reason can bring people to a place of faith.

Soviet cosmonaut went to space and upon his return said that he looked for God and couldn't find him. Therefore God does not exist.

C.S. Lewis responded to this statement by saying this was like Hamlet going into the attic of his castle looking for Shakespeare. If God exists, he wouldn't be another object in the universe that could be put in a lab and analyzed with empirical methods.

He relates to us the way a playwright relates to the characters in his play. We might be able to know quite a lot about the playwright, but only to the degree the author chooses to put information about himself in the play. In no case could we "prove" God's existence as if he were an object wholly within our universe like oxygen and hydrogen or an island in the Pacific.

C.S. Lewis gives another metaphor for knowing the truth about God when he writes that he believes in God "as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." Would you look directly at the sun in order to learn about it? You couldn't do it. Your eyes would burn and it would ruin your capacity to take it in. A better way to learn is to look at the world it shows you, to recognize how it sustains everything you see and enables you to see it.

The ultimate evidence for the existence of God is Jesus Christ himself. If there is a God, we characters in his play have to hope that he put information about himself in the play. But Christians believe he did more than give us information. He wrote himself into the play as the main character in history, when Jesus was born in a manger and rose from the dead. He is the one with whom we have to do.

Story of a Jewish Atheist friend that heard a simple message and gave his life to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:17-31

17For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

26Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29so that no one may boast before him. 30It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

The key and focus must come to Jesus.