

# TIMELESS TRUTH FOR TOUGH QUESTIONS

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS



## **Timeless Truth for Tough Questions (Bible Study)**

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## INTRODUCTION

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# TIMELESS TRUTH FOR TOUGH QUESTIONS

**T**hroughout history, people have prided themselves on intellect. At times, logic and reasoning seem at odds with faith and belief. But you can be an intellectual and believe in God. Sometimes people think that having doubts or asking questions is a sign of unbelief. But if you have questions, you can find the answers you are looking for in the Bible so that you can stand firm in your faith and help others know God too.

God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. Just like God Himself, the Word of God is vast and deep. Through the Bible, God has revealed Himself because He wants you to know Him. It is trustworthy and able to answer all of your questions. As you look to Scripture for the answers to hard questions, you will discover truths that have stood the test of time. God wants you to know the truth so you can believe. He wants you to think deeply about your faith.

God reveals Himself through the Scriptures: perfect, plain, sure, and pure. Through the Holy Spirit and through the Word, God invites you to bring your tough questions to Him. You can come to Him because He desires a personal relationship with each of His followers. We hope this study will lead you closer to your loving Heavenly Father as you see His heart toward you. When you take the time to study God's Word, you can strengthen your faith so that you can live as an exclamation point rather than as a question mark!

### **WANT MORE?**

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code on page 114 at the end of this study.



**Unbelief never comes out of  
the head. Unbelief always  
comes out of the heart.**

ADRIAN ROGERS

## WEEK 1

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# DO YOU HAVE TO SET ASIDE THINKING AND LOGIC TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

### ■ INTRODUCTION

Can an intelligent person believe in God? God has spoken. If a person does not believe in God it is because of moral difficulties.

The American Atheist Association, when led by Madeline Murray O'Hair, published a leaflet with the title "An Invitation to the Intellectual Elite." Apparently, there are some things you must believe in order to be part of the intellectual elite, such as: Humankind's future is in its own hands. Success in life depends upon human effort. Humankind is responsible for what it does. There are no sins. The way to be happy is to make yourself and others happy. These statements and others like it have become part of our modern culture. However, this is what the Bible says:

**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good (Psalm 14:1).**

You can be an intellectual and believe in God. As matter of fact, your intellect has very little to do with belief. As we take a closer look at Psalm 19, we will see that God has spoken in three mighty ways, and God will speak to you in these same ways.

### ■ PRAY OVER IT

*Dear God, Sometimes I feel like the world around me doesn't think that an intelligent person can believe in God. But You have made Yourself known in the world. I want to know You and to help others know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## DAY 1

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# THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S GLORY IN THE SKIES

### ■ PONDER IT

You can know beyond the shadow of any doubt that God exists, that He loves you, and that you can have a personal, vital relationship with Him and still call yourself an intellectual. In Psalm 19, we find three ways that God speaks to us.

First, **there is the declaration in the skies.** The skies themselves tell you that God exists. The heavens above reveal several things about Him.

*The heavens tell us about God's glory.* Think how vast His mighty Universe is.

**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork (Psalm 19:1).**

If you get away to a remote area, away from all the light and noise, and look up at the stars, you will be filled with a great sense of awe. This is the awe David must have had as a shepherd boy when he looked up and saw those heavens.

*The heavens speak of the greatness of God.* “The firmament” is the word “rāqîa” in Hebrew which means “the vault of heaven.” Everything was created by God, and He made it out of nothing. What great, incredible power is seen in the creation of this Universe!

**Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world (Psalm 19:2-4a).**

If you believe in the big bang theory, then you believe everything came out of nothing. But the natural law is that nothing comes out of nothing. This is the great stumbling block for atheists. If they don't believe in a self-existing God, they have to believe in a self-existing

Universe. They have to believe that nothing times nobody equals everything. When you look at it that way, it's intellectually contradictory to not believe in God. The Bible never argues the fact of God; it just presents God. (See Genesis 1:1.)

The immensity of creation shows the greatness of God. The eloquent and gifted preacher S.M. Lockridge said, "God stepped from behind the curtain of nowhere, stood upon the platform of nothing, and spoke a world into existence." Man can't create anything. All Man can do is rearrange what God has already created. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Traveling at that rate of speed, it would take 13.8 billion years for light to reach the edge of our known Universe.

There's also the intricacy of God's creation that speaks to His glory. The smallest living organism and basic unit of life is the cell. There are trillions of them in your body. Linus Pauling, an American theoretical physical chemist and two-time Nobel Prize winner, concluded that "just one living cell in the human body is more complex than New York City." We are so incredibly complicated.

*The heavens declare God's goodness.* The Universe has a fixed order. Day follows night, and night follows day. There is beauty, order, and harmony.

**In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat (Psalm 19:4b-6).**

God is a glorious God, a great God, and a good god. The light and the warmth of the sun speak of the light and warmth of God's grace. To look up into the stars is something. To see the sun rise is really something. It all points to God.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What amazes you the most about God's creation?
- How does God speak to you through creation? What do you learn about Him from what you observe?



## DAY 2

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# THE VIRTUES OF THE BIBLE

### ■ PONDER IT

The heavens declare the glory of God, and we also have the **revelation of the Scriptures**. God's Word is written in the heavens, and God's Word is also written in the Bible. You can know about the fact of God by studying the heavens, but you can never know the heart and mind of God by looking at the stars. You need more than that kind of natural revelation. You have to have the Word of God to explain to you this God you see in all of nature. The Psalmist speaks not only of the declaration of the skies, but also extols the revelation of the Scriptures in its virtue and values.

In Psalm 19, we see **the virtue of the Scriptures**. *God's Word is perfect.*

**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7).**

The only way you can be saved is by the perfect Word of God. The Word of God converts the soul. The entrance of His Word into your heart gives light. The Bible speaks of the inerrancy of the Scriptures. (See 2 Timothy 3:16.) Every sentence, every syllable, every jot, every pen stroke were put there by the purpose of God. It is absolutely perfect, and Jesus said the Scriptures cannot be broken. (See John 10:35.)

*God's Word is plain.* An ordinary person can go to God's Word and receive food for the soul. The Word of God is clear and plain. This is what Isaiah said about the Scriptures:

**A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray (Isaiah 35:8).**

*God's Word is sure.* If you want to be a true intellectual, get in the Word of God because it will give you a firm place on which to stand. You have a foundation.

**At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes" (Matthew 11:25).**

*God's Word is pure.* The Bible will never lead you astray down the wrong path. We ought to delight in the Word of God and delight in God's way. What a joy there is in knowing God's Word! God's way is not difficult or burdensome. His way is a way of joy. There is no mixture of evil or error in God's Word.

**For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11).**

**The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:8).**

God reveals Himself through the Scriptures: perfect, plain, sure, and pure. His Word won't lead you astray.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- What do you love about God's Word?
- How do you know you can trust God's Word?

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You have to see not only what God has wrought, but you have to see also what God has taught.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 3

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# THE VALUE OF THE SCRIPTURES

### ■ PONDER IT

The Scriptures are the incorruptible Word of God. There are more than 6,000 promises in the Bible, and not one has ever been broken.

**“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments” (Deuteronomy 7:9).**

There are no seeds of corruption in God’s Word. It’s been several millennia since David wrote these Psalms, and we’re holding them in our hands today. God’s Word will last.

**The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether (Psalm 19:9).**

Once you recognize the virtues of Scripture, then you can understand **the value of the Scriptures**. A person cannot truly love God without loving the Word of God.

*God’s Word is precious.* To a true believer, nothing is more precious than the Word of God.

**More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb (Psalm 19:10).**

*God’s Word is protective.* Protection is better than cure. If you bathe your soul in its truth and walk in its light, the Word of God keeps you from many hurts and keeps you from harming others.

**Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward (Psalm 19:11).**

*God's Word is profitable.* If you want to be rewarded and wise, take in the Word of God and live by it. We are fools if we don't saturate ourselves with the Word of God.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How has the Word of God benefitted you?
- How do you treat things that are valuable to you? Do you treat God's Word the same way?

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A person cannot truly love God  
without loving the Word of God.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 4

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# THE ILLUMINATION OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH CONVICTION

### ■ PONDER IT

God declares Himself in the skies and reveals Himself through the Scriptures. He also shows Himself through **the illumination of the Spirit**. When you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, He takes what you see objectively in nature and in the Word of God and then subjectively and spiritually interprets it, so you can know God.

**Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression (Psalm 19:12-13).**

This is the illumination of the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit takes what we see in nature and what we see in the Bible and applies it to our hearts. When you let the illumination of the Spirit apply to your heart what you see in the heavens and what you read in God's Word, you're going to see something very wonderful and beautiful.

Through God's revelation in nature and in Scripture, we experience **the conviction of the Spirit**. You can't see your own errors because you can't see the truth about yourself. Only the Holy Spirit of God can help you understand. Before we can know God, we have to be cleansed from our sin. This is what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit:

**“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me” (John 16:7-9).**

There are secret faults in your heart and in your life that you are not aware of. Some people live on top of actual fault lines, cracks in the Earth's crust. If a scientist had not revealed it, they would not have even known about it. You can't see them from the surface, and you don't know those cracks are there until they are revealed. If you're lucky, the seismologist will reveal the fault line before an actual earthquake reveals it. Many people have secret faults that lead to moral earthquakes. They don't know the faults are there because the Holy Spirit has not revealed them. David invited God to search his heart:

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24).**

Not everyone asks God to reveal sin. Some people suddenly collapse under the weight of sin from an undetected weakness, an unexpected temptation, or an unprotected life. Along comes a temptation they've never faced, and they give into temptation because they have a secret fault. They have not asked God to reveal that fault and cleanse them. Without the conviction of the Holy Spirit, we have undetected weaknesses. God reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit's loving conviction. He shows us what we cannot see ourselves, what can hurt or even destroy us.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How do you discern the voice of the Holy Spirit? Where do you feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your life right now?
- What is a fault the Holy Spirit has revealed to you? Was it something you had trouble seeing or believing about yourself?

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Your old, carnal, dirty heart is not going to expose your old, carnal, dirty heart.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 5

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# THE ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH CLEANSING, CONTROL AND COMMUNION

### ■ PONDER IT

You have God's Word in the skies, and God's Word in the Scriptures, but unless you have the Holy Spirit speaking to you, you could still fall. After you ask God to help you see your faults, you move from the conviction of the Spirit to **the cleansing of the Spirit**. God's Holy Spirit will do subterranean surgery on you. There is no cleansing apart from the blood of Jesus Christ.

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).**

In order to know God, you must experience the conviction of the Spirit, the cleansing of the Spirit, and then you surrender to **the control of the Spirit**.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).**

The hidden faults can lead us unknowingly into sin, but there are times when we sin with our eyes wide open. We don't have the strength to say no. When that happens, we must pray and ask God to keep us from sin and from letting sin control us. The control of the Spirit is linked to our confession.

**He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy (Proverb 28:13).**

Every morning when you wake up, ask God to cleanse you from any secret faults, to do subterranean surgery on you, to cleanse you from every sin, and to keep you from presumptuous sin. When there is the conviction of the spirit, the cleansing of the spirit, and the control of the spirit, then you will know God.

Finally, we can know God through **the communion of the Spirit**. David knew God as his strength and Redeemer because he walked with Him and had fellowship with Him. David said:

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night (Psalm 1:1-2).**

God has put His Word in the skies. God has put His Word in the Bible, and then God has sent His Holy Spirit to convict you, cleanse you, control you, and to have communion with you.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How have you experienced the cleansing of the Holy Spirit? What role does confession play in your life?
- How have you surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit in your life? What has the Holy Spirit enabled you to do that you could not do on your own?
- How do you experience communion with God in your life? What role does weekly worship play in your fellowship with God?

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Your spiritual life will never  
rise above your prayer life.

ADRIAN ROGERS



## DAY 6

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# THE REVELATION OF GOD

### ■ PRACTICE IT

We don't come to God because of intellect, but because He first loved us and revealed Himself to us. This is a story Pastor Rogers told about how Dr. Nikolai Alexandrenko became a Christian:

Nikolai Alexandrenko was a Russian paratrooper fighting in World War II. While in Germany, he was wounded and surrendered to the Germans. In a prison camp in Munich, he lived for days on grass soup. He had been taught all his life that there was no God and that an intellectual could not believe in God. He followed the atheistic teaching of Karl Marx, learned from Darwin and Nietzsche.

When the war was over, he stayed in Munich in a displaced persons camp for a long time. He had no food and was cold, lonely, and bitter. One night in an abandoned barracks, he was trying to start a fire and picked up a scrap of paper—a Gospel tract. It was smudged; he found only two verses on it, Matthew 11:28 and Revelation 3:20. He realized this was about God and wondered if God existed. When he saw the heavens, he asked himself, “Who made all of this?” He had God’s Word in two Scriptures and wondered, “Could God be knocking at my heart’s door?”

Then he prayed, “God, if you exist, speak to my heart that this is Your Word.” He said a warm feeling came over him, and God whispered to his innermost being. “My child, I’m here. I’ve been here all the time. I am knocking at your heart’s door.” Nikolai Alexandrenko began to cry. He said, “I didn’t cry when my mama died. I didn’t cry when I was wounded. I didn’t cry when I ate grass soup, but I began to weep.”

There was God’s Word in the skies, God’s Word in his hand, and now God’s Word in his heart. The same God who spoke to him is speaking to you right now. If you want the relationship He offers, you can pray something like this:

*Dear God, I need You and want you. I'm a sinner. I want my sins forgiven; I want fellowship with You. I want to go to Heaven when I die. Jesus, I believe You're the Son of God. I believe You paid my sin debt with Your blood on the cross. I believe God raised You from the dead. Come into my heart, forgive my sin, and save me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

■ **PROCLAIM IT**

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would like to provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please go to **lwf.org/discover-jesus**, scroll down the page, and click on I BELIEVE.

Spend some time this week in God's creation thinking about Him. Spend time in God's Word and memorize a meaningful passage. Spend time listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit; commit to obey and follow Him.

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If a man does not believe in  
God, it is not because he has  
intellectual difficulties; it is because  
he has moral difficulties.

ADRIAN ROGERS