

BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

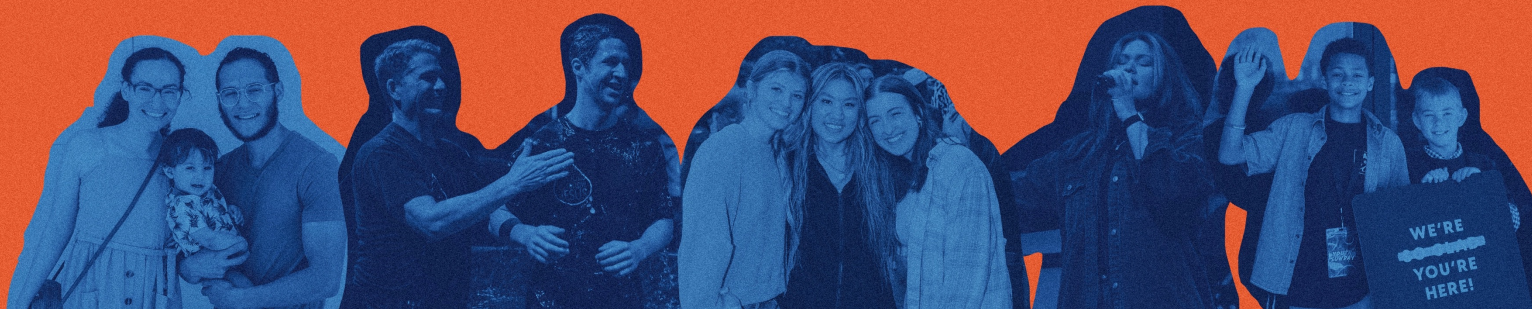
KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

# DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class  
sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15  
middle school yth room



THEY'RE STRONGER  
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM

# Scripture Commands Us to Defend the Faith

1 Peter 3:15- “but in your hearts honor 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (ESV)

*Apologia* (Greek)- “to defend.”





NORM GEISLER

*Legacy Initiative*

**“If we defend the gospel with our minds, but betray the gospel with our lives, the greatest intellectual defense of the gospel will fall to the ground!”**

NCIM



# NGIM

**Mission:** To mentor leaders who seamlessly integrate a classical apologetic approach with evangelism and discipleship to cultivate Christ-first generations.

**Vision:** To be a catalyst for a global movement of applied apologetics to change the culture for Christ.



## Our Convictions at NGIM About Teaching This New Trifecta

- 1. We are more effective when our words match how we actually live fueled by our desire to fulfill God's mandate for our lives.**
- 2. We are more intellectually effective in our use of apologetics when we practice a classical model using a 12 Points approach.**
- 3. We are more individually effective in witnessing when we practice an apologetic/evangelistic approach that is more conversational, more indirect, and builds a bridge to the spiritual from the point of their interest, not our own.**

## Summarizing what I learned in my journey in discipleship

Without a comprehensive approach to teaching an apologetic approach that blends not only evangelism but also *the missing key of discipleship*, several things may happen:

1. Our words will not match the testimony of our lives and that alone will be a cause for our witness to fall on deaf ears.
2. Our disciples will not be motivated to use the tools we teach them because they won't have the right heart for God.
3. We will not use these tools correctly because we will not have the right posture and perspective in our walk with Christ which comes from a foundation of *understanding our own spiritual poverty*.

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



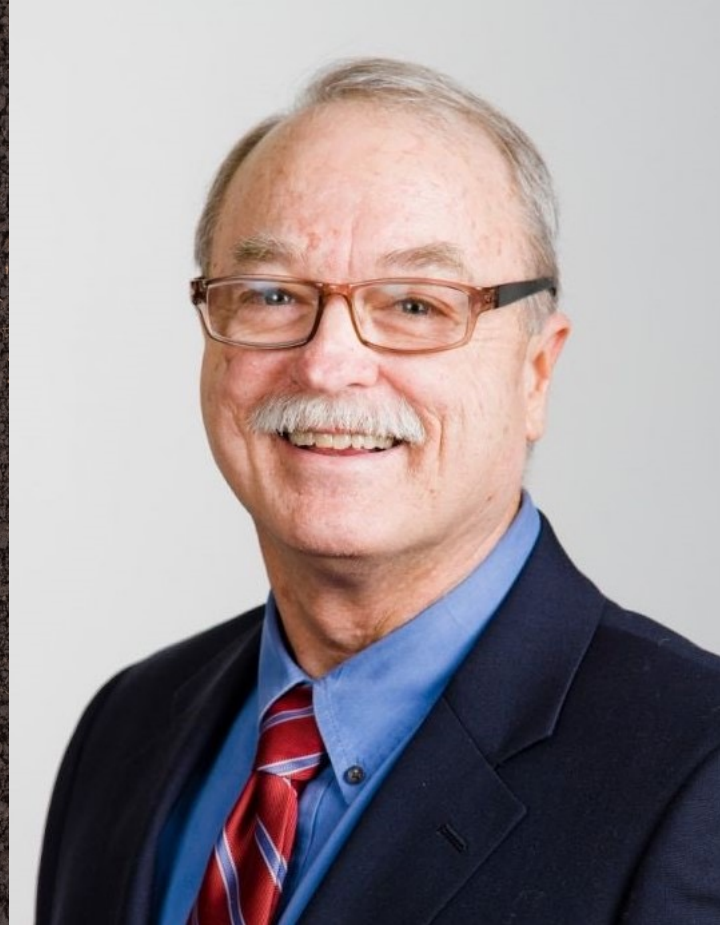
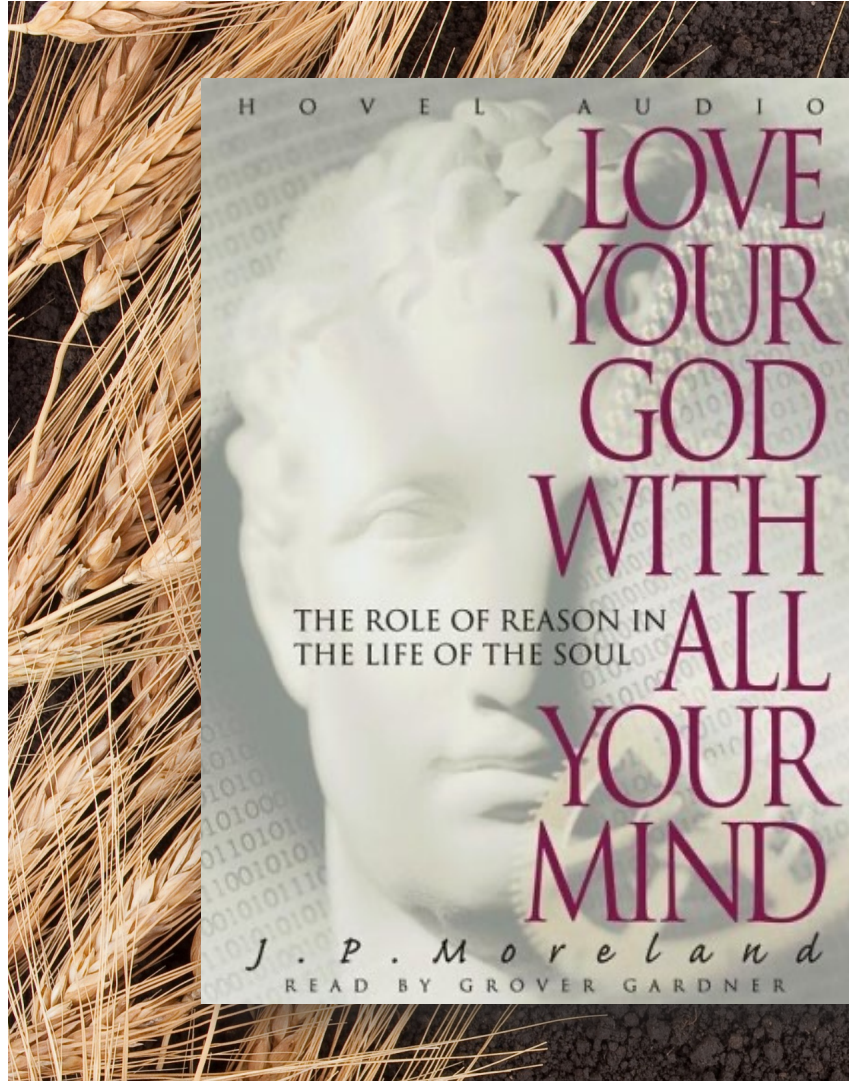
NORM GEISLER:

**NOT QUALIFIED**



**Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey:**

- 1. That faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**
- 2. That there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. We have more common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**



Dr. J. P. Moreland



**“How is it possible  
for a person to be  
an active member of  
an evangelical church  
for twenty or thirty  
years and still know  
next to nothing  
about the history  
and theology of  
the Christian religion,  
J.P. Moreland, “Love Your God  
With All Your Mind,” p.188**



**...the methods  
and tools required  
for serious Bible study,  
and the skills  
and information  
necessary to preach  
and defend Christianity  
in a post-Christian,  
neopagan culture?”**

J.P. Moreland, “Love Your God  
With All Your Mind,” p.188

## Our World Has Changed And We Are In Trouble

***“As we approach the twenty-first century, It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to recognize that our entire culture is in trouble. We are staring down the barrel of a loaded gun and we can no longer afford to act like it is loaded with blanks.”***

**J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, p.21**

# A World View Shift



“...a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one.”

- J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*,  
p.21

**Week 1 – Building an Unshakable Foundation (Part 1)**

**Week 2 - Building an Unshakable Foundation (Part 2)**

**Week 3 - C.E. (The Role of Hearing and Illuminating)**

**Week 4 - C.E. (The Role of Uncovering)**

**Week 5 - C.E. (The Role of Building and Five Planks)**

**Week 6 - Integrating Apologetics, Evangelism, and  
Discipleship**

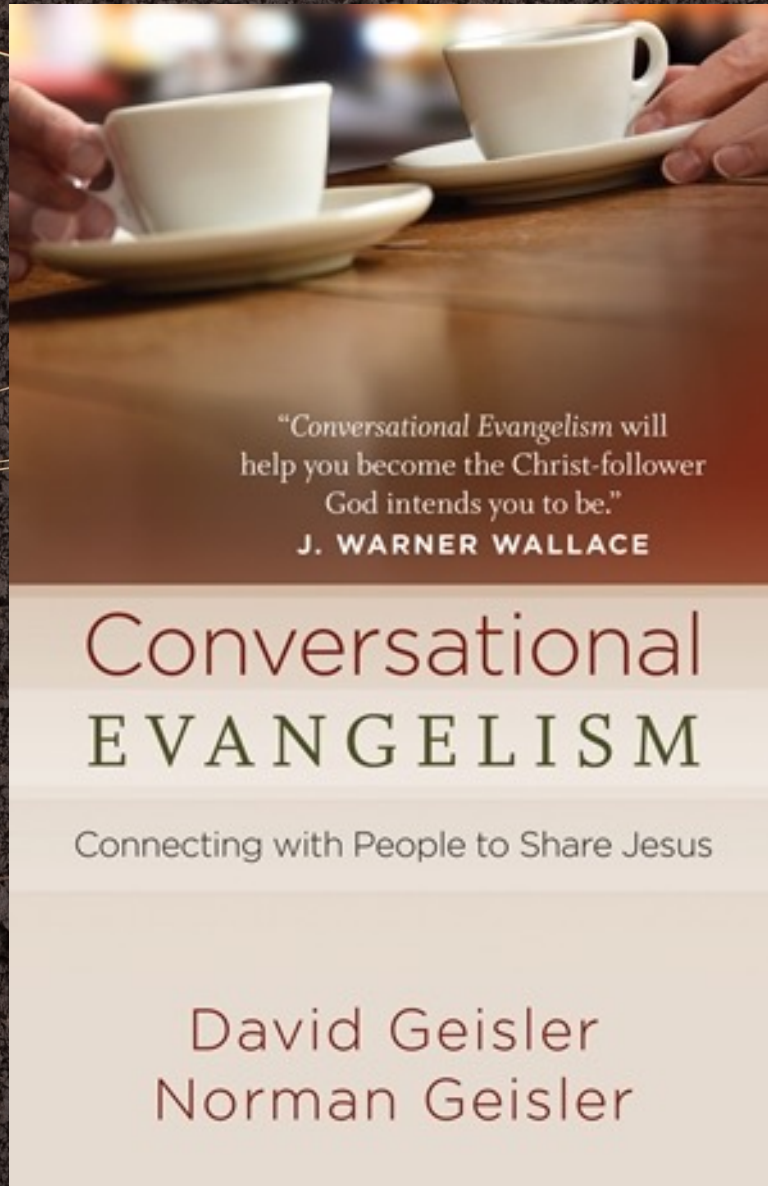
**“I am convinced that if Christians knew how to integrate faith, reason, apologetics, evangelism, discipleship, and develop a sensitivity to the work of the Holy Spirit, then more Christian could build stronger foundations for their faith and have a greater understanding as to how to reach the lost around them.”**





- **The devil's strategy is to distort our thinking like he did with Eve in the garden.**





**Things Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey:**

**1. That faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**

# A Misunderstanding of Faith's Relationship to Reason

“Faith is now understood as a blind act of will, a decision to believe something that is either independent of reason or that is a simple choice to believe while ignoring the paltry lack of evidence for what is believed.”

J.P. Moreland, *Love God...* p. 25



# The Consequences



“...if what we believe is off center and yet so pervasive that it is seldom even brought to conscious discussion, much less debated, then this explains why our impact on the world is so paltry compared to our numbers.”

“I can not overemphasize the fact that this modern understanding of Christianity is neither Biblical nor consistent with the bulk of church history.”

J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, p.25.



**“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”**

**1 Cor. 15:14**





# Things To Know About Our Faith



**“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”**

**1 Cor. 15:14**

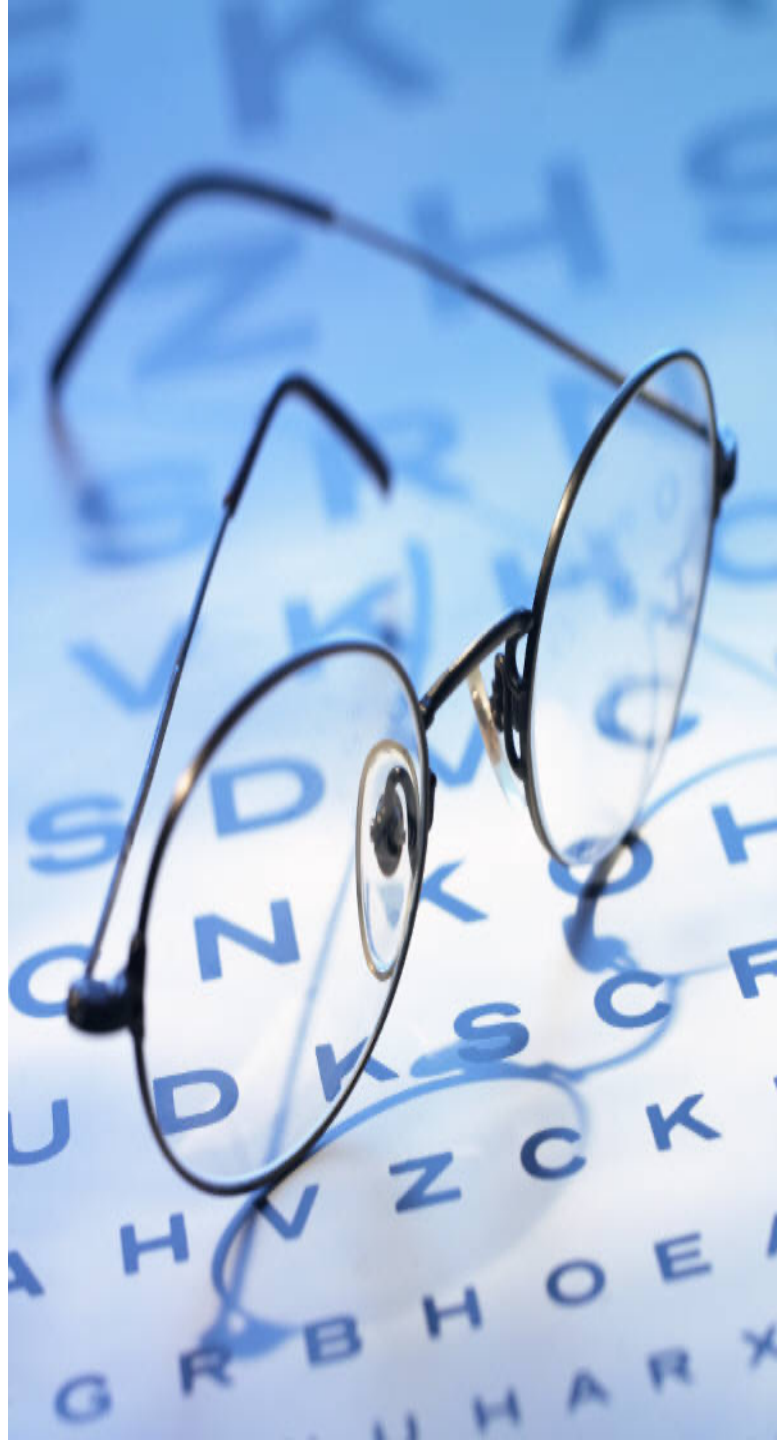
# Christianity is Based on a Historical Event



“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

1. *Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*



## **2. Our Faith is Not a Blind Faith.**

- The Bible does not teach blind faith.

Example: I Kings 18:21, 36 – 39  
Elijah at Mount Carmel

Verse 39: "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said "the Lord, He is God." (ESV)

### 3. It is a Faith With Reason.



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all of your mind and with all of your strength.”

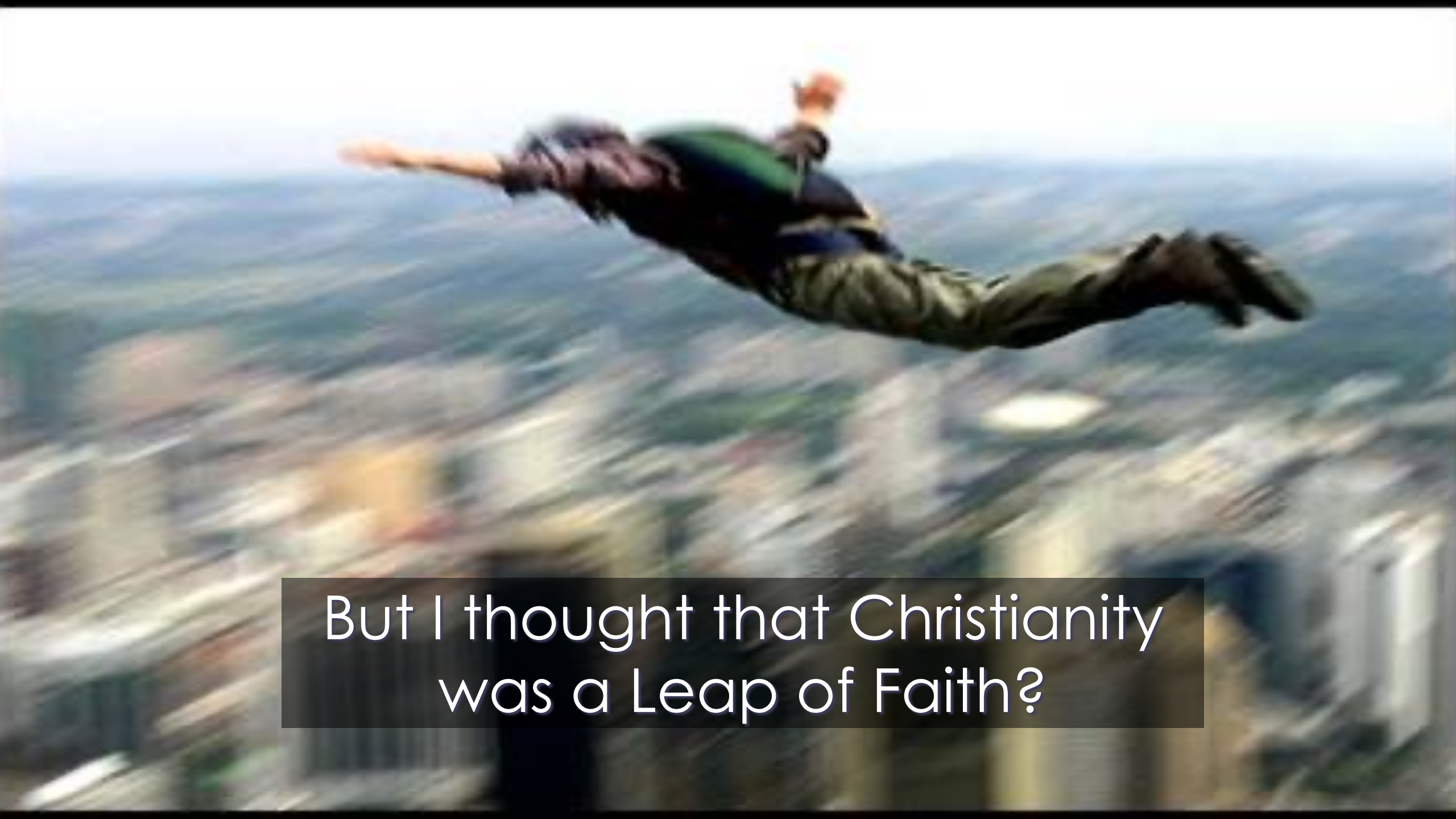
Mark 12:30

## 4. It is a Faith That is Supported by Evidence.



“That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen** with our eyes, which we have looked at and **our hands have touched**-this **we proclaim** concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”

I John 1: 1-2



But I thought that Christianity  
was a Leap of Faith?

## No, not a Leap but a Step of Faith!

“Yes it is a step of faith. But it is a step of faith into the light—the light of sufficient evidence. But it is certainly not a leap of faith into darkness! Consider the following illustration:

*Conversational Evangelism, p. 161*

# Elevator Illustration



A person wants to ascend to the top of a building. He pushes the button and two elevator doors open. The interior of the first is so totally dark that you cannot even see the floor clearly, and no one gets off it. The second is well lit, and a large man emerges from it. Which is the safer elevator? Which one provides you with the best evidence that it can get you to the top floor safely? True, it still takes a step of faith to get into the second one. But it is a step of faith in the light of good evidence. The other is a leap of faith in the dark. Christianity is like the second elevator.”



# What is Biblical Faith?

“Trusting in what I have good reason to believe is true, even if the evidence is not exhaustive or fully evident.”

Dr. David Geisler

# What St. Augustine said about Faith?



The mysteries and secrets of the kingdom of God first seek out believing men, that they may make them understand. For faith is understanding's step, and understanding is faith's reward." (emphasis added)

Sermons on New Testament Lessons 126.1,3.

**How do you know that your experience of Christ when you accepted Christ was “The Truth” and not just your truth?**



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We know that the Holy Spirit assures us as followers of Christ that we have a relationship with God.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

Romans 8:16 ESV

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We know the Holy Spirit's role is to convicts the world of sin.

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me:

Jn. 16:8-9

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We know that God has inscribed a desire for eternity in our hearts.

“...also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”

Ecl. 3:11

**Can I have a real  
personal  
encounter with  
Christ and yet  
Jesus never actually  
be raised from  
the dead?**



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

1 Cor. 15:17 ESV



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- **Remember** if Christ really didn't rise from the dead, then we are "still in our sins" (1 Cor. 15:17).

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 5. Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to an objective truth. (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 15:17; Rom. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 15:3-6).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



6. The bible makes an important distinction between “belief that” and “belief in.”

James 2:19 says that the Demons “believe that” God does exist but do not “believe in” Him.

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**When I married my wife...**

# What Part Does Reason Play in Someone Coming to Faith in Christ?



Apologetics bears on the Question of  
“Belief That” not “Belief In.”

Apologetics metaphorically can make the horse  
come to the water, but only the Spirit of God can  
help it to drink! (See John 6:65).

# Implications of This Truth



- You can't use apologetics to argue someone into the kingdom!

“He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Luke 16:31 ESV

# Implications of This Truth



**\* You shouldn't give up using apologetics in your witness to others!**

Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

Acts 14:1 ESV

# Implications of This Truth



- \* **When you witness to someone you should make sure they understand that they have to make two decisions concerning Jesus.**





**7. Our Faith goes deeper than knowing things about God! (Phil. 3:10)**

# The Role That Evidence Can Play!

"Let's say you're going to the office to see if your boss is in. You see his car in the parking lot. You ask the secretary if he's in, and she says, 'Yes, I just spoke with him.'

You see light from under his office door. You listen and hear his voice on the telephone. On the basis of all this evidence, you have good grounds for concluding that your boss is in his office."

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*, p.85



## The Role (continued)

“But you could do something quite different. You could go to the door and knock on it and meet the boss face to face. At that point, the evidence of the car in the parking lot, the secretary’s testimony, the light under the door, the voice on the telephone—all of that would still be valid, but it would take a secondary role, because now you’ve met the boss face to face.”

And in the same way, when we’ve met God, so to speak, face-to-face, all of the arguments and evidence for his existence—though still perfectly valid—take a secondary role.”

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*, p.85



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 8. In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God's truth goes beyond reason but never against reason (2 Cor. 1:18; Titus 1:9 ESV).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**“As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been  
Yes and No.”**

**2 Cor. 1:18 ESV**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”**

**Titus 1:9 ESV**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

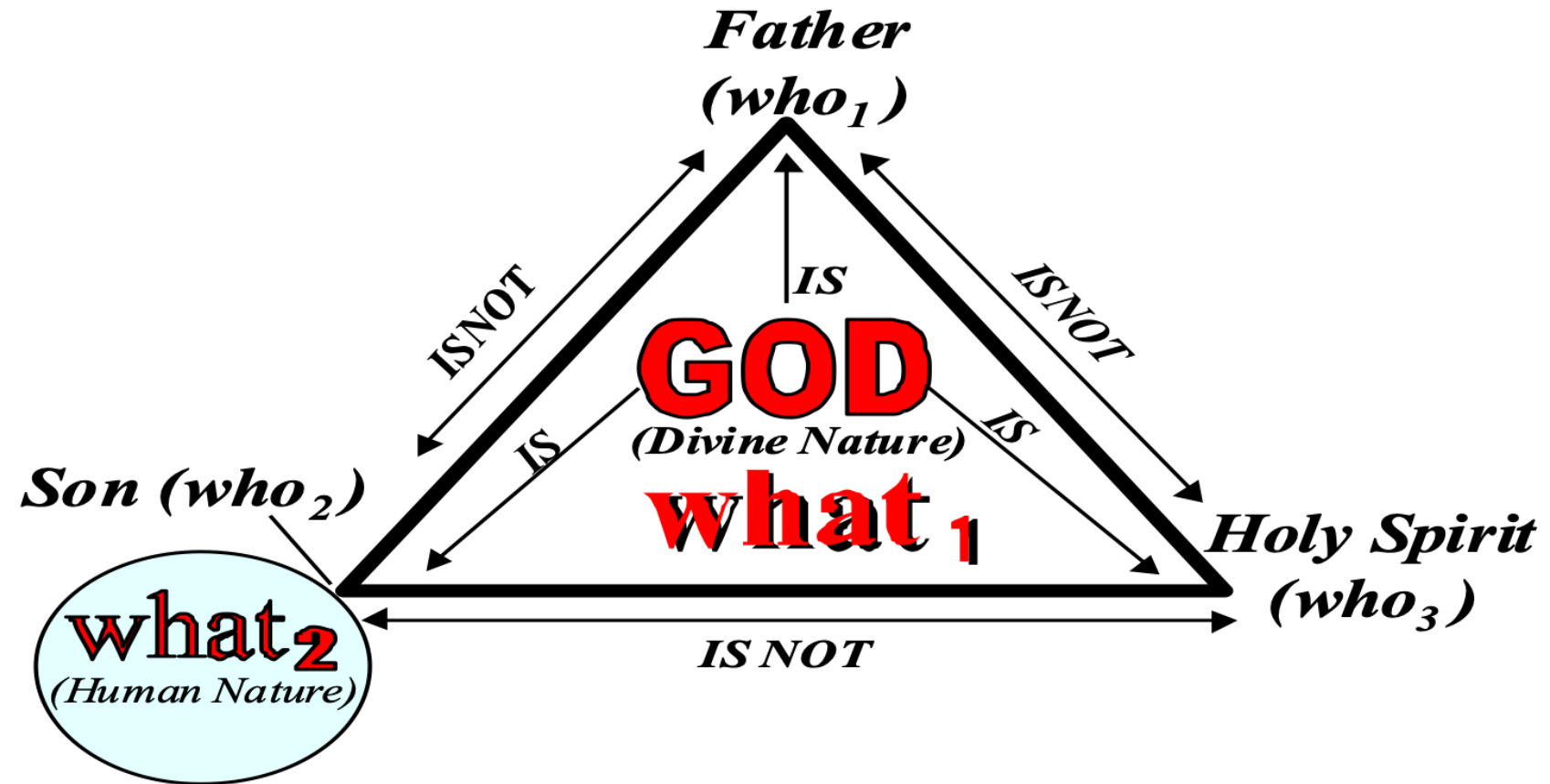


**9. God's truth can be a mystery (1 Corinthians 2:6-8).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



## The God of The Bible - One What & Three Whos





## 10. It is a reasonable faith!



- **As God's finite creation, it is reasonable to trust God for what I don't know because of what He's revealed to me that I do know (Rom. 1:17-20; Heb. 11:1; Rev. 21:4 ESV).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**"How could I be happy in heaven if my sister wasn't there?"**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



I can trust God for what I don't know because of what He's revealed to me that I do know.

NORM GEISLER



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**I can trust the bible to tell me the truth  
because Jesus said I can trust the bible.**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 1. It is divinely authoritative (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).**
- 2. It is imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18).**
- 3. It is infallible (Jn. 10:35).**
- 4. It is inerrant (without error) (Mt. 22:29).**
- 5. It is historically reliable (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 24:37-38).**
- 6. It is scientifically accurate (Mt. 19:4-5).**
- 7. It has ultimate supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**I can truth Jesus because he claimed to be God and proved it by doing three things.**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**There are many things about my faith I can't fully understand.**

**Example:**

**“Why must my sin (apart from Christ) cause me to be separated from God for all eternity?”**

# Things To Know About Our Faith

1. *Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*
2. *Our faith is not a blind faith.*
3. *It is a faith with reason.*
4. *It is a faith that is supported by evidence.*
5. *Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to an objective truth.*
6. *The bible makes an important distinction between “belief that” and “belief in.”*
7. *Our faith goes deeper than knowing things about God!*
8. *In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God’s truth goes beyond reason but never against reason (2 Cor. 1:18; Titus 1:9 ESV).*
9. *God’s truth can be a mystery.*
10. *I can trust God for what I don’t know because of what He’s revealed to me that I do know.*





BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

# DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class  
sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15  
middle school yth room

