

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



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

Movie Study Guide

Becoming Available
to the God Who Qualifies

NGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

“The *Not Qualified* Movie Study Guide is the perfect companion to the movie chronicling the life and ministry of Norm Geisler, but more importantly, it is a unique resource that will equip believers to step out in faith and become the Christian case makers God intends them to be. I highly recommend these six sessions based on the movie. They will help you grow in your confidence to share the truth of Jesus with a skeptical world.”

- J. Warner Wallace, Dateline featured Cold-Case Detective, Author, Speaker, Senior Fellow at the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, and Adjunct Professor of Apologetics at Talbot School of Theology (Biola University) and Southern Evangelical Seminary

“The insights and clear thinking that Norm Geisler offered the body of Christ are now available to everyone in an accessible, clear, and practical film and study guide. The documentary gives us a glimpse of what it looks like when one person faithfully chooses to offer their life in obedience to Christ, and the wonderful study guide gives a practical pathway for every Christian to do the same. The ministry of Norm Geisler was a crucial component of strengthening my faith and I pray it will be the same for you!”

- Alisa Childers, singer, songwriter, apologist, author, and host of The Alisa Childers Podcast

“This study guide is an amazing work, very well laid out, clear and concise, and will be very helpful to anyone who wants to be used by the Lord yet may not think they are qualified.”

- Dr. Joseph Holden, author, professor, co-founder and president of Veritas International University

Not Qualified:
Becoming Available to the God Who Qualifies

By David Geisler and Rachel M. Payne

Designed by Rachel M. Payne

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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P.O Box 642 Forest, VA 24551

www.ngim.org

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This is the Study Guide for the movie Norm Geisler: Not Qualified. It is designed for a small group or class for your church, ministry, or school to be used to clarify, discuss, and apply the concepts introduced in the movie. Visit normgeislerthemovie.com to learn more.

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Please do not remove these qualification and expectations from this document.

This Study Guide is still a work in progress as we see how churches, ministries, and schools use it over time. We will post updated versions of this document as we update them from time to time. Check for updates at movie@ngim.org

Foreword

My father, Norm Geisler, was born into poverty, and was virtually illiterate throughout high school. Yet the God of the *possible* did more than help him learn to read the Bible: He made him into a scholar who passed on what he learned to an entire generation of Christian leaders. God empowered him to leave a lifetime of resources for Christians to help further equip them to equip others. By leaving these resources, Norm Geisler left a path for Christians today and for the next generation to come.

At NGIM, our prayer for you is that the issues raised in this Study Guide will propel you to study deeper, using some of the resources that Norm Geisler left all of us. But in your efforts to get better equipped, don't forget that even Norm understood that *God cares most of all about our relationship with Him and that we know Him more deeply*. It's those deeper changes that God made in Norm Geisler's life that allowed him to have a greater impact. His love for God was demonstrated in his service to others, and that love fueled his desire to find and share the answers to questions about the Christian faith. He modeled the kind of servant leadership that led him to put others first, to help them succeed, and to lead them to Christ.

I am truly thankful for what my father taught so many people. He gave us the tools to understand ourselves better by understanding God better, so that we can better share His love with our struggling friends. Even as a young Christian, every time I had a question or concern, my father would have an answer for me! So let me ask you, "*What if you could give that kind of gift to those in your circle of influence?*" I pray this kind of gift becomes a reality for you too.

His Servant,

David Geisler, President, NGIM

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Thanks also to Don Deal, Patty Tunnicliffe, David Ingrassia, Al Valdes, Chris Haun, Jake Byrd, Walton Yuan, and Faith Thompson for their helpful suggestions in editing the earlier version of this manuscript.

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1

Intro - Not Qualified:

I Don't Think I Have the Right Stuff



Who may God be calling me to be, that I feel I am not qualified to become?

When Norm found God, he found a new way of living. But God had prepared Norm before he was born to **become** the kind of person He wanted him to be.

What's in your DNA?

Is there anything God has placed in you that He may want to fulfill in your lifetime?

At the time when Norm came to believe in Christ, Christianity had been ingrained in the cultural perspective of the Western world for centuries. It was so ingrained, that the church didn't feel the need to provide evidence from outside the Bible

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-10

to show that Christianity was true. Many even felt that to request such evidence was wrong.

But Norm quickly learned that many do need evidence from science, history, and reason to show that the Bible is true. The questions Norm heard from others were questions he shared, and he set out to find the answers about his **faith** at exactly the time God had planned.

Now you have the opportunity to follow Norm's journey, and to learn what he learned about God, the world, and yourself. What Norm learned profoundly affected his life. *How do the questions that you wrestle with impact to some degree your spiritual journey?*

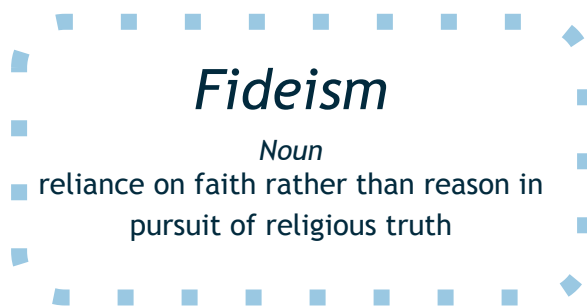
Discussion Guide

“I heard the gospel, but I never accepted it. I just kept rejecting it. And I rejected it so much it was like an explosion building up inside of me.”

Norm Geisler



JT BRIDGES - *“Human experience can't be understood by faith alone.”*



Which of these are a good basis for our understanding of Christianity:

- all you need to do is believe.
- reason and evidence can play an important role in confronting the lost.

What is a good way to understand how all of us and the world exist:

- a story you make up.
- a story someone else tells you.
- a story based on physical and logical evidence.

KENT SUTER - *“What would a middle schooler need to know? Well, that is the age when doubt will creep in.”*

Have you ever felt that (mark all that apply):

- your faith has just been passed down to you from your parents.
- you want the Christian God to exist, but you aren't willing to pretend He exists.
- you can't figure out the answers yourself.
- if you don't have all the answers then you should not witness.

DAVID INGRASSIA - *“What is the role of reason, and what is the role of faith in knowing God?”*

What are some natural talents that God has given you that He could possibly use to work through your life?

What are some ways God may want to make an impact through you, that are bigger than what you feel you can do?

What does God's ability depend on?

What does your ability depend on?

GRACE - *"I couldn't see God. So, he just seemed like a social construct, the product of people's imaginations. I was no longer sure what I believed. I came to the conclusion that I couldn't know if the physical world existed. And since I couldn't know if the physical world existed, I certainly couldn't know if God existed."*

"Churches were not asking the tough questions in those days.

It was kind of "thus saith the Lord."

Here it is: believe it, receive it, and forget it."



Ed Hindson

Are there foundational truths that we can all know about reality?

What criticisms have caused you to struggle in your Christian faith?

What answers have you been given that have strengthened your faith that you have been able to pass on to someone who has had similar struggles?

What are some ways that others' views of Christianity have impacted your ability to be used by God?

NORM GEISLER - *“I’m either gonna have to get answers, or stop witnessing.”*

Why would hearing your testimony be helpful for someone who is considering putting their faith in Christ?

What else might be helpful for that person to hear?



*“God wants to reach the heart.
But He does not bypass the head on the way to the heart.”*

Memorize

Importance of Knowing The Attributes of God

*“Now God is the highest model,
and if God is the highest model,
then we’re going to become like
what we think of God...”*

*So what we think about Him
is of the highest importance
in our life.”*

*From the lecture The Importance of
Knowing the Attributes of God,
by Norman L. Geisler*

Verses to Know

- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)
- And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:14-19)
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Resource

- *Reasons For Belief: Easy-to-Understand Answers to 10 Essential Questions* by Norman L. Geisler and Patty Tunnicliffe

***Faith and reason
are connected.***

Prayer Focus

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

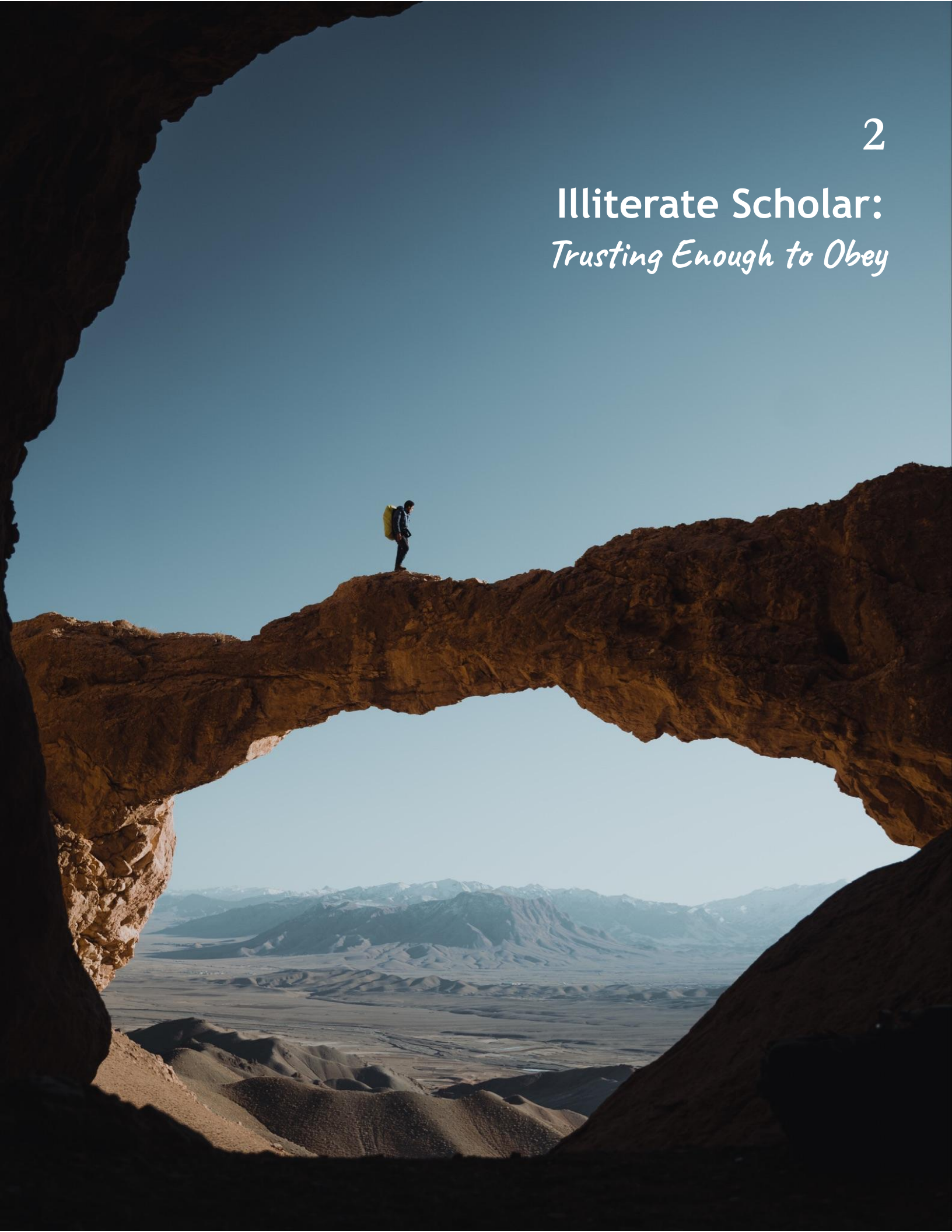
Read Isaiah 53. Ask God to help you to see your life through His perspective. Ask him to help you answer this question: If I thought I was made of the right stuff for God to work through me, I would trust Him to:

This Week

Ask three Christians, “What were your biggest barriers to believing in Christianity?” Then ask, “What events, thoughts or reasons played a part in helping you believe in Christ?”

2

Illiterate Scholar:
Trusting Enough to Obey



What do I need to learn that will help me to trust God to work through me?

.....

Norm was the first person in his family to get a college degree. He even got a doctorate at a time when that was very rare. Yet all the time he was studying, he could have thought of himself as *just a poor boy who could never learn to read*. So what was it that he believed about God that made him press on?

But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

Exodus 4:10-12

*What does your ability depend on?
Are there any beliefs that stop you
from being who God wants you to be?*

When Grace was unable to find answers to her questions, it changed the way she felt about herself. What would you think about your **faith**, if no evidence could be found? How would it affect the way you feel about yourself? A question to consider is this: *How can my heart accept what my mind rejects?*

God empowered Norm to discover and understand that *all truth is God’s truth*. He also found that God asks each of us this question: *Is anything impossible for Me?*

Discussion Guide



“One thing I want everyone to understand, and if you study Aquinas you’ll definitely get the answer to this: there are rational answers to questions. That you don’t have to give up your reason to become a Christian.”

Norm Geisler

“I see philosophy as winds and undercurrents that drive us, that we don't even really know that we're being driven by.”

- Christopher Haun

RON RHODES - *“It doesn't depend upon your own human abilities, your own human expertise. If you make yourself available to God, God can mold you into who He wants you to be.”*

God may be calling you to do things for Him, that you may feel unqualified to do. Which statements below do you wrestle believing and why?

- All things are possible with God.
- God only needs some raw material, and I'm good raw material.
- It's not my work, it's the work of the Holy Spirit.

FRANK TUREK - *“How do we even know God exists? How do you know that truth exists, that God exists, that miracles are possible, that the New Testament is even reliable and the Bible is reliable?”*

How is it that knowing certain things about our faith strengthens our confidence to trust God's word?

“Tell me why this is true. Not what you think is true.”



J. Warner Wallace

Analogy

Imagine there is an elevator in front of you.

The lights are off in the room, and it's dark.

You can't see what's in the elevator.

Getting in the darkened elevator would just be **blind** faith.

Reason is testing first to see if there is a floor.

Not because of a feeling, but I can explain and look and investigate and test and know that what I believe has grounding.

In the movie, it was pointed out that our culture began to question whether truth even existed. Even today, some still hold to a perspective that our thoughts, our attitudes, and/or our very existence is just a social construct and not real. How do you witness to someone who doesn't even believe truth exists?

Could truth exist outside of our own subjective experience? How can we know this?

CHRISTINA LEE - *“I was a cultural Christian, but I don't know that I understood different World Views and how that shapes people's understanding of God.”*

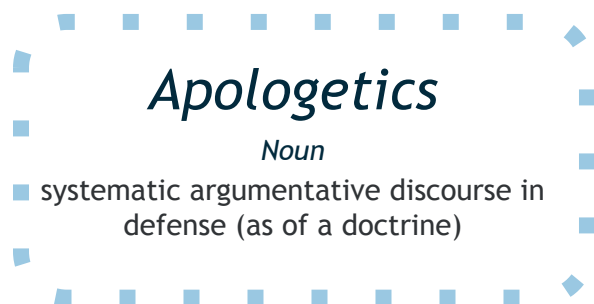
What do you think Christina meant when she said that she was a cultural Christian?

Why did Norm think that the answers to the questions he was wrestling with in witnessing were found in the area of philosophy?

A person's understanding of God affects and is affected by their view on the existence of which of these:

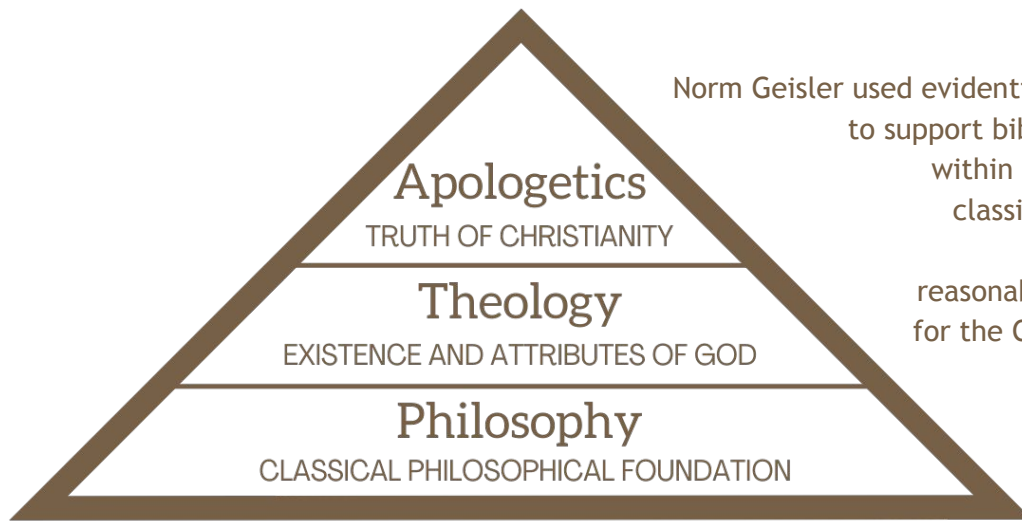
- plants.
- animals.
- people.
- all physical matter.
- good and evil.
- all of the above.

NORM GEISLER - *“If you long to know the mind of God, you must learn to use your own. That's apologetics.”*



Christian apologetics includes:

- overcoming objections to faith.
- an outlook of what it means to be a Christian.
- investigating, testing, and confirming the evidence for Christianity.
- rational answers to questions about the validity of Christianity.
- all of the above.



Norm Geisler used evidential apologetics to support biblical theology within the context of classical philosophy to build a reasonable foundation for the Christian faith.

NORM GEISLER'S INTELLECTUAL TRIFECTA



God's truth goes beyond reason, but not against reason.

Memorize

A World View Is:

“...An interpretive *framework* through which or by which one *makes sense* out of the data of life and the world... like a set of colored glasses.”

Worlds Apart: A Handbook on World Views
by Norman L. Geisler
and William D. Watkins

Philosophy, Theology, and Apologetics integrate to provide a reasonable foundation for the Christian faith.

Prayer Focus

If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

John 3:12

Read John 3. Ask God to help you notice what influences in your life may be distracting, pulling, or blocking you from trusting Him enough to allow Him to lead you in the ways He has prepared for you.

This Week

Ask three Christians, “How do you know that God exists?” Notice if their answer fits better with their *personal* experience with Christ alone (Rom. 8:16), or the *objective* evidence for Christianity (Rom. 1:18-21, Rom. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-6) or a mixture of both.

Verses to Know

- So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. *God is love*, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16)
- And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not *love*, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:2)
- Now the Lord said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that *I will show you*. (Genesis 12:1)

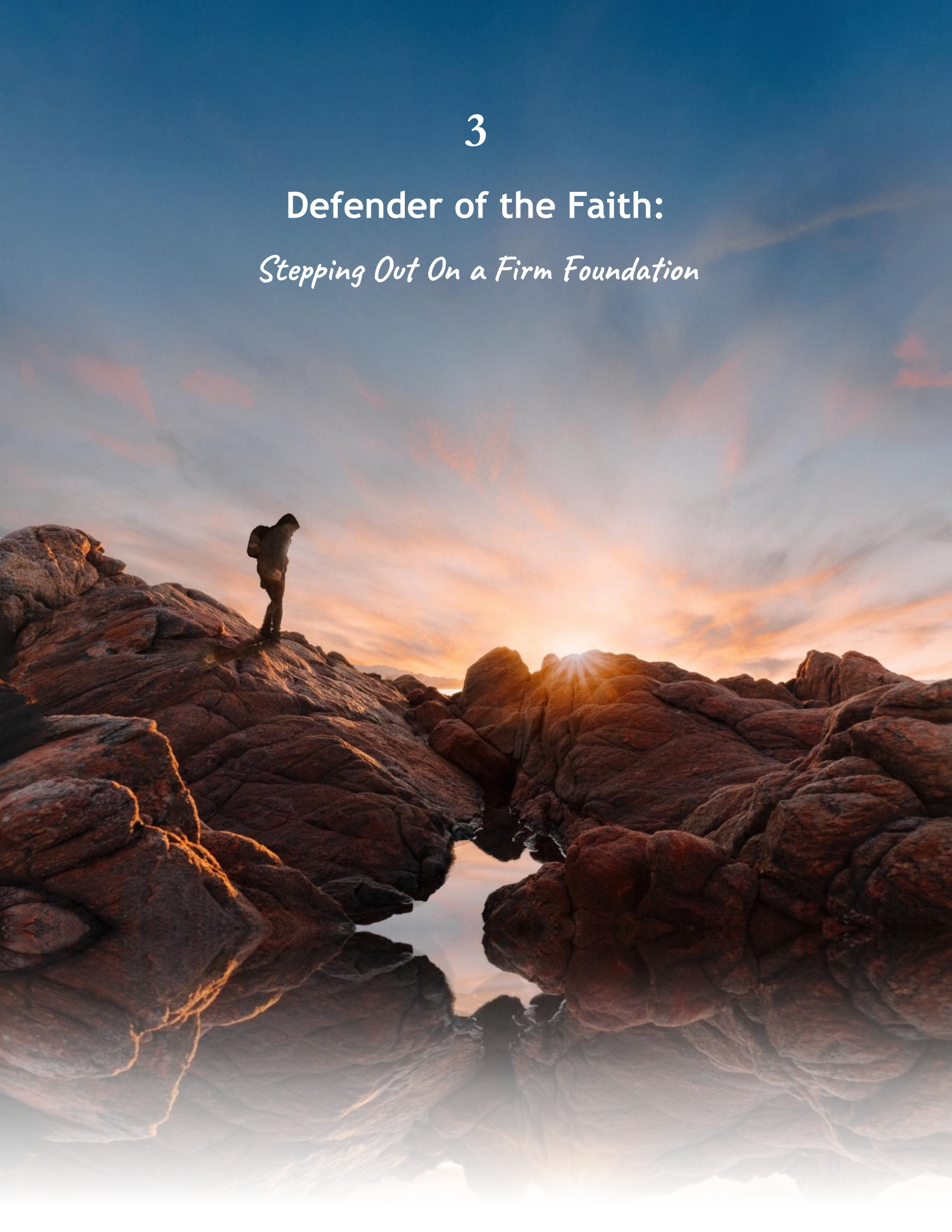
Resources

- *Worlds Apart: A Handbook on Worldviews* by Norman L. Geisler and William D. Watkins.
- *Introduction to Philosophy: A Christian Perspective* by Norman L. Geisler and Paul D. Feinberg.
- *A History of Western Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval* by Norman L. Geisler.

3

Defender of the Faith:

Stepping Out On a Firm Foundation



What has God done through the work of others that He can use to strengthen and build a stronger foundation in my faith?

Grace reasoned that if she could not know about anything about reality, then she could not know God. Because our culture struggled with knowing reality, some Christians waived in their view of truth and the Bible.

- What would keep God from communicating clearly and effectively to us?
- How is it possible that God could communicate His truth using imperfect people?
- Could the Bible be wrong only about science and history, but not about one of the essential doctrines of the Christian faith? How can we know which parts are true and which aren't?
- What do we rely on to support the belief that the Bible is the inspired word of God?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The most influential result of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy was the creation of the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy. This statement affirms the Bible's trustworthiness down to every single word of the original manuscripts.

**"The Bible, as written by its original authors in the original manuscripts, is completely free from error: doctrinally, historically, and scientifically, both in its entirety and down to every single word."
*The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy***

What does Jesus say about the Bible? How does placing your trust in what Jesus says about the Bible grow your faith? (*Matt. 4:4,7,10; Matt. 5:17-18; Jn. 10:35; Matt. 22:29; Jn. 17:17; Matt. 12:4; Matt. 24:37-38; Matt. 19:4-5; Matt. 15:3,6*)

Matthew 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

"How do we know what view is unorthodox, if we don't know the standard for Orthodoxy?"

Discussion Guide

*“He realized if you let inerrancy slip,
then you’ve let every single doctrine
in the scriptures slip,
intellectually.”*

Josh McDowell



NORM GEISLER - *“I’ve got a fundamental question to ask you, if the fundamental of the fundamentals isn’t fundamental, what’s fundamental? Fundamentally nothing.”*

Why is it important to know the root cause of your beliefs?

Matthew 7:24-27 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

“If we are perplexed by an apparent contradiction in scripture, it is not allowable to say, the author of this book is mistaken; but either the manuscript is faulty, or the translation is wrong, or you have misunderstood.”

Against Faustus by St. Augustine

What does this statement mean to you regarding your own beliefs?

RICHARD HOWE - *“Evangelicals back then were choking on the idea of inerrancy because their understanding of Truth had gotten so polluted. We had lost our anchoring to this classical thinking from Aristotle to Aquinas.”*

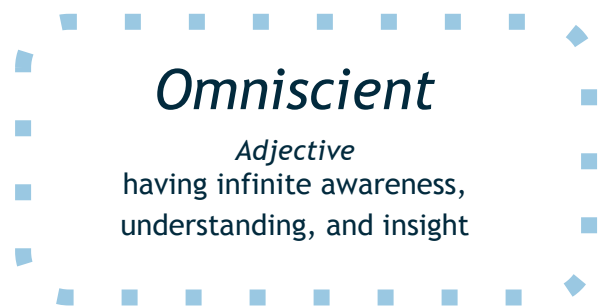
How can we seamlessly integrate our personal subjective encounter with Christ with the objective truth of the Christian Faith? (see Rom. 8:16, 1 Cor. 15:14, 17, 19)

NORM GEISLER - *“If you can’t trust the Bible on trivial matters, then you can’t trust it on essential matters either.”*

What’s the difference between God’s objective truth and our subjective personal truth? (Rom. 8:16, Rom. 1:18-20, Rom. 2: 14-15, 1 Cor. 15:3-6)

How many errors can an omniscient mind make:

- A few errors.
- none.
- all of the above.



NORM GEISLER - *“Just because it’s written by humans, doesn’t mean it errs. Jesus was human and he didn’t sin.”*

According to Norm, what physical evidence is there to prove that the Bible is true, as compared to other books written in ancient history:

- more recorded eyewitnesses.
- more archaeological confirmation.
- more early, accurately copied manuscripts.
- all of the above.

JOSH MCDOWELL - *“I think more seminaries today and people have commitment to Biblical inerrancy because of Norm than maybe any one other individual.”*

What do the three Chicago statements (I.C.B.I.) cover?

- Biblical inerrancy.
- Biblical interpretation (hermeneutics).
- Biblical application.
- all of the above.

God was able to use Norm's innate talents and skills of being bold, logical, and collaborative, to make an impact. What untapped innate abilities do you have that God could use in a greater way?

Which of these essential doctrines can be removed from Christianity and still leave intact a *faith that saves*:

- God's unity.
- God's tri-unity.
- Human depravity.
- Christ's virgin birth.
- Christ's sinlessness.
- Christ's deity.
- Christ's humanity.
- The necessity of God's grace.
- The necessity of faith.
- Christ's atoning death.
- Christ's bodily resurrection.
- Christ's bodily ascension.
- Christ's intercession.
- Christ's second coming.



"If God can do the big miracles, he can do the little miracles."

Memorize

Jesus' View of Scripture

Scripture is:

divinely authoritative, (*Matt. 4:4,7,10*)

imperishable, (*Matt. 5:17-18*)

infallible, (*Jn. 10:35*)

inerrant, (*Matt. 22:29, Jn. 17:17*)

historically reliable, (*Matt. 12:40;*
Matt. 24:37-38)

scientifically accurate, (*Matt. 19:4-5*)

and has ultimate supremacy. (*Matt. 15:3,6*)

12 Points That Show Christianity Is True
by Norman L. Geisler

Reason and history lead to the Bible being true.

Prayer Focus

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

2 Corinthians 1:18

Read 2 Corinthians 1. Can the Bible be truly God's word and have errors in the original writings? Can the Bible be true and not be true at the same time? Ask your pastor and one or more spiritual advisors for what answers they would give, or where they would point you to learn more.

This Week

Ask three Christians, "Do you believe that the Bible has errors?" If they say yes, ask them, "How do you decide which parts of the Bible are true?" If they say no, ask them, "What made you decide that it has no errors?"

Verses to Know

- Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)
- Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but *to fulfill* them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (Matthew 5:17-18)

Resources

- *Statements:*
defendinginerrancy.com/chicago-statements
library.dts.edu/Pages/TL/Special/ICBI.shtml
- *From God to Us* by Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix.
- *Big Book of Bible Difficulties* by Norman L. Geisler and Thomas A. Howe.
- *Unshakable Foundations: Contemporary Answers to Crucial Questions About the Christian Faith* by Norman L. Geisler and Peter Bocchino.
- normangeisler.com/are-there-any-errors-in-the-bible

A person with a backpack stands on a path in a forest, looking out over a body of water. The scene is framed by large trees, and the overall mood is contemplative and serene. The person is silhouetted against the bright background of the water and sky.

4

Bulldog for Truth:
How to Find the Right Path

If some people didn't think it was possible to know the truth about any reality, how could we share the truth about Jesus and have them connect with the message?

See to it that no one takes you captive
by philosophy and empty deceit, according
to human tradition, according to the elemental
spirits of this world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:8

One of the qualities God developed in Norm was to be observant of the world around him, and to be curious about what he observed. The more he learned about *what* others **thought**, the more he asked, “*Why do they think that?*” God gave him insight as he compared these ideas with what he could **reason** about **reality**. Then Norm shared that **reasoning** with others, not so that he could seem superior, but because he wanted them to **know God’s love**.

*What are your **beliefs** about philosophy that color your view of truth?*

The confusion that developed in the late 20th century about how we could know reality made many Christians wary of talking with others about their faith. The work Norm did in talking about the existence and nature of **truth** and **reality** modeled a way for Christians to find common ground with others, no matter their beliefs. And from that common ground, they could begin to *co-journey* toward God’s **love**.

That love is the **reason** why Jesus always welcomed questions. He often responded to questions with *more* questions. If their hearts were open, many times He allowed them to surface the **truth** for themselves (John 4:7-14). If their hearts were closed, like many religious leaders of His day, then He used a different approach. He came to earth to die a sacrificial death for everyone, including each person he talked with, because of his great love for them (Matt. 23:27-28).

In what ways are you encouraging others to freely ask questions?

Discussion Guide

*“If pain and sickness and death
and sin and hell are all an illusion,
where did the illusion come from?
Why does it seem so real?
And why is the illusion so universal?”*

Norm Geisler



How does it affect our witness for the truth of Christianity when:

- we refuse to answer unbeliever’s questions about our faith.
- we are passive when injustice or suffering happens around us.
- we are vengeful, rude, or fearful about the actions of others.
- we are gentle, humble, honest, and do what we say we believe.

JAY RICHARDS - *“A lot of evangelicals had really sort of surrendered the public square. Saying our faith is just about us and building communities, and we don’t have anything to do with the world.”*

ED HINDSON - *“It’s not enough to just say, I believe the Bible because it’s in the Bible. You need to go further, dig deeper, in order to make a difference in people’s lives.”*

What misconceptions and beliefs did some evangelicals have during the 60’s and 70’s that influenced them to surrender the public square?

What misconceptions have you noticed that others struggle with that keep them from growing deeper in their Christian faith?

“The country was willing to accept that because its worldview had changed.”

David Ingrassia

NORM GEISLER - *“My strategy was to be kind and sympathetic and yet to say, you know, my heart goes out for you, but your philosophy doesn't have an answer.”*

What did Norm share about God that comforted him?

- that God loves us.
- that the God that loves us has the power to fulfill the desires of that love.
- that God is not handcuffed by the laws he's made.
- that God is not tongue tied by His creation.
- all of the above.

What gave Norm confidence that God has a meaningful plan for our lives?

- the purpose that is manifest in life and birth.
- the very order of the heavens.
- that creation points to a creator.
- that design indicates a designer.
- all of the above.

ED HINDSON - *“...You're giving me the freedom to ask my questions, express my doubts, but seek an answer...”*

What kind of evidence outside of the Bible has strengthened your faith?

“He didn't just give reasons for the Bible, he gave reasons for reality.”



Frank Turek

Truth

Noun

- (1) the body of real things, events, and facts: ACTUALITY
- (2) the state of being the case: FACT
- (3) *often capitalized Truth*: a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality

What questions have you had about your faith that you wish someone had answered for you earlier?

THE 7 WORLDVIEWS

NO GODS

1. Atheism

ONE GOD

2. Theism
3. Deism
4. Finite Godism

MANY GODS

5. Pantheism
6. Panentheism
7. Polytheism



What are the logical options for the truth about Ultimate Reality:

- no gods.
- one god.
- many gods.
- all of the above.

Which of these statements are true?

- truth is what corresponds to the facts.
- truth can be known.
- what is true is true for everyone.
- what is true is absolutely true.
- all of the above.

Norm's conclusion that Christianity is true was built on:

- accepting the Bible as an inspired book.
- accepting a revelation from God.
- reason and evidence.
- all of the above.

Norm taught that it is true there is a theistic God because:

- every design has a designer.
- everything that begins has a beginner.
- every moral law has a moral law giver.
- all of the above.

THE CULTURAL SHIFT AWAY FROM A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

“That 30 year period, from 1960 to 1990 the Supreme Court ruled you cannot teach creation, Creator, or God-given moral absolutes in an American public school.”

Norm Geisler

- 1900's - Fundamentalism: church separated from culture
- 1925 - Scopes Trial I: evolution can be taught in public schools
- 1933 - Humanist Manifesto
- 1947 - Everson v. Board of Education: separation of church and state
- 1961 - Torcaso v. Watkins: atheism declared a religion
- 1962 - Engel v. Vitale: prayer banned in public schools
- 1963 - Abington School District v. Schempp: bible banned in public schools
- 1960's - Sexual revolution
- 1960's - Second wave feminism
- 1960's - Postmodernism
- 1973 - Roe v. Wade: abortion decriminalized
- 1980 - Stone v. Graham: 10 Commandments banned in public schools
- 1987 - Scopes Trial II: creationism cannot be taught in public schools
- 2003 - Lawrence v. Texas: sodomy laws banned
- 2015 - Obergefell v. Hodges: same-sex marriage legalized

Analogy

A theist and an atheist were walking together in the woods, and came upon a large translucent ball six feet in diameter. Both agreed that something must have caused it to be there.

The theist said to the atheist, "What if this ball were twenty feet tall, would it still need a cause?" Both agreed that it would still need a cause.

Then the theist asked, "What if we made the ball as big as the moon, would it still need a cause?" The atheist thought for a moment and then said, "Yes, if little balls need a cause, and bigger balls need a cause than even bigger balls need a cause too."

Then the theist said to the atheist, "What if we make that ball as big as the whole universe, would it still need a cause?" "No," replied the atheist, "the universe is just there."

The theist pointed out that this is not reasonable. For if little balls need a cause, and even bigger balls need a cause, then the biggest ball of all still needs a cause.

Rate these statements as True or False:

- T/F Our faith can only be as strong as the object in which it's placed.
- T/F You can't take Christ out of Christianity and still have Christianity.
- T/F You can't take the resurrection event away and still have Christianity.
- T/F If there's no one right answer about God, the world, and ourselves, there cannot be any hope.
- T/F If you believe in everything then you believe in nothing.
- T/F If you embrace everything you stand for nothing.
- T/F If all views are true, then nothing is true.



God is a being that cannot not exist.

Memorize

Sources of the Orthodox Faith

- 1 Bible
- 2 Testaments
- 3 Creeds (*Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian*)
- 4 Councils (*Nicaea, First Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon*)
- 5 Centuries (*AD 30 to AD 450*)

*One Volume Systematic Theology
by Norman L. Geisler*

Verses to Know

- Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.* The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, *think about these things.* What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—*practice these things,* and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9)
- Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for *it does not cease to bear fruit.* (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Resources

- *Conviction Without Compromise: Standing Strong in the Core Beliefs of the Christian Faith* by Norman L. Geisler and Ron Rhodes.
- *Conversational Evangelism: Connecting with People to Share Jesus* by David Geisler and Norman L. Geisler.
- *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences* by Norman L. Geisler and Ronald M. Brooks.
- *Legislating Morality: Is It Wise? Is It Legal? Is It Possible?* By Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek.
- normangeisler.com/category/postmodernism

**All truth is
God's truth.**

Prayer Focus

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:9-14

Read John 4:9-14. Jesus made her thirsty for the living water. How do we talk to our non-Christian friends about our faith so that they are thirsty to hear more?

This Week

Ask two *non-Christians* "What are your biggest barriers to believing that Christianity is true?"

5

Teacher:

I Can't Do It Alone



“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!”

-Norman L. Geisler, graduation speech at Veritas International University (VES)

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:35-40

As Grace and Norm learned, what you **think** about God can make the difference between life and death.

Jesus provides hope of transformation for not only the next life, but also of this life. (Rom.8:11)

In witnessing, how do you communicate your hope in Christ with the evidence for Christ?

“I’m sure Dr. Geisler noticed me, and knew I wasn’t supposed to be sitting in the class. But he is so kind, he said nothing...and my life depended on it.”

Grace

Jesus once answered a question from his parents with this question: Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house? (Luke 2:49) Jesus’ priorities were aligned with God’s will. His **thoughts** were centered on God’s **thoughts**, and his actions reflected those **thoughts**.

The more we **know** about who God is, the more we will realize how much our entire being is continuously dependent on God’s goodness. It is our **trust** in that goodness that allows us to freely follow His will for our lives. *We can know there is a reason for our hope.*

“Hold fast to the hope and the Bible.

Hope doesn’t mean I hope so, I think so. It means confident expectation.

You can be absolutely sure we have an anchor for our soul.”

Norm Geisler

“Nobody is without tragedy in their life. But God’s grace is sufficient.”

Norm Geisler

ED HINDSON - *“In all of the difficult times that Norm faced, his anchor was in the scripture, and knowing that truth helped get him through the tough times.”*

When Norm went through the most difficult part of his life, what had he learned that helped get him through it?

- It’s impossible for God to lie.
- we have an anchor for our soul.
- hold fast to hope in Jesus Christ.
- hold fast to the Bible.
- God will give you the strength.
- all of the above.

How did Norm define hope in Jesus Christ:

- I wish it to be so, I think it might be so.
- I can be absolutely sure, I have a confident expectation.

What did Norm learn that the Bible tells us about God:

- God is all good, so He has a good purpose for everything that happens.
- God is all powerful, so He can bring good out of evil.
- God is all knowing, so He knows where this thing is going.
- all of the above.

DAVID GEISLER - *“My father realized that there were not enough voices to engage the culture for Christ. So, he trained future leaders for over 50 years at several universities.”*

Jesus disciplined only a few. Who are you encouraging to grow deeper, especially during tough times?

How have those relationships impacted your own faith?

“A reasonable God who has made reasonable people can use reason to convince them of the truth.”

Norm Geisler

Norm Geisler once stated:

“A person should have no more influence than what God wants them to have.”

What does this statement tell you about how we should serve others?

*"I have come to the conviction
that one of the first models
I heard as a believer is true;
and it's brought back to me
with great force in the light
of my daughter's death:*

*Only one life
'Twill soon be passed;
Only what's done
For Christ will last."*

Norm Geisler

DORIAN COOVER-COX - *"The way he put it, every lie has to have enough truth in it to float."*

Discuss this **Geislerism**:

*"If you can believe the big miracles
(the universe out of nothing),
you can believe the little miracles."*

Grace's doubts led to her wanting to give up on life. If she couldn't know the truth about God, the world, and herself, life didn't seem to be worth living. What questions do you struggle with that affect your faith, your view of life, or your view of yourself?

*"This is why apologetics
is important.*

*It's so important
because it helps us
teach our children
to make
the most important
decisions in life."*

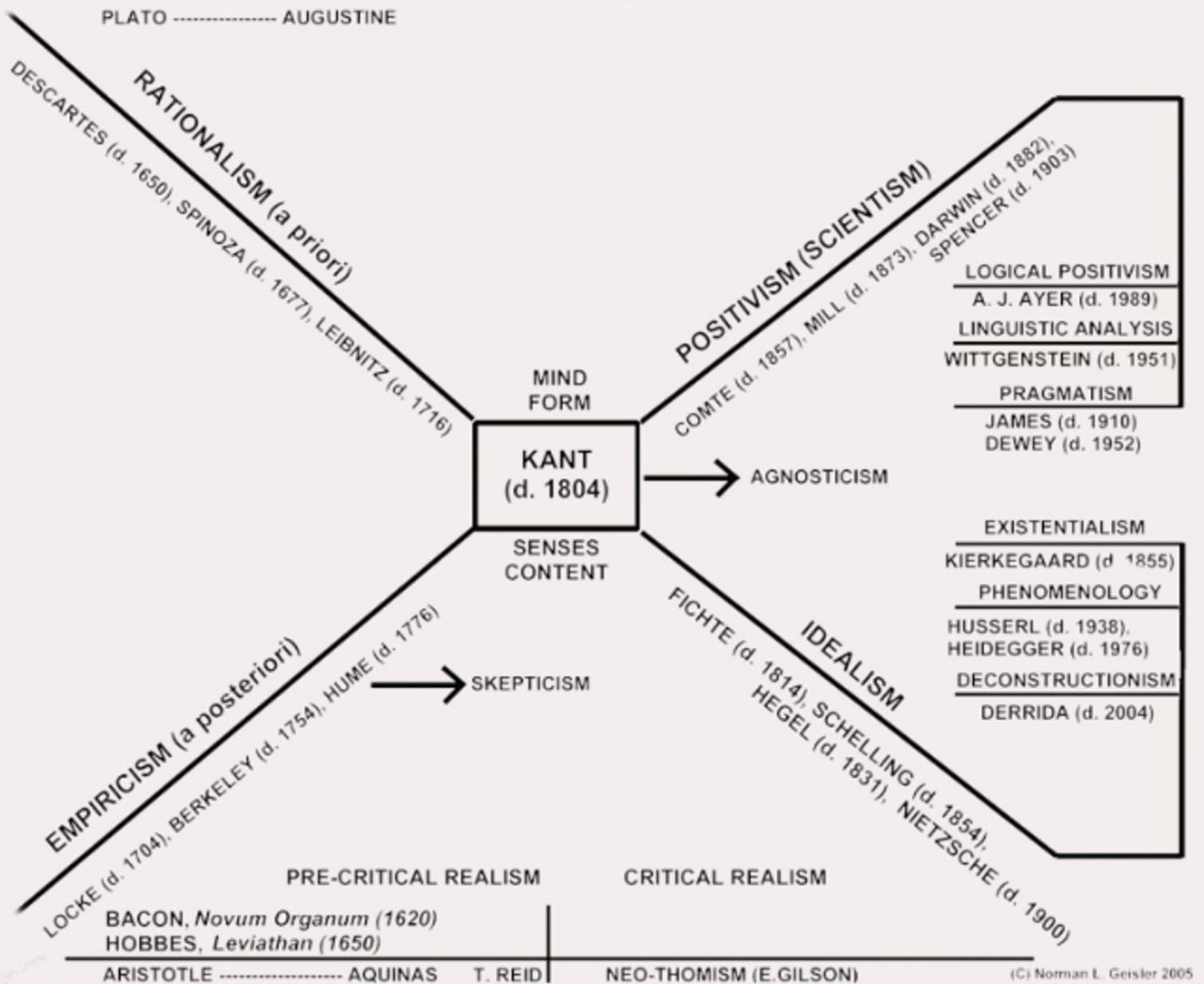


Christina Lee

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN THOUGHT

Immanuel Kant taught that we can only know appearances, but we cannot know reality.

Norm Geisler taught that it took almost 200 years for this idea to reach the general population.



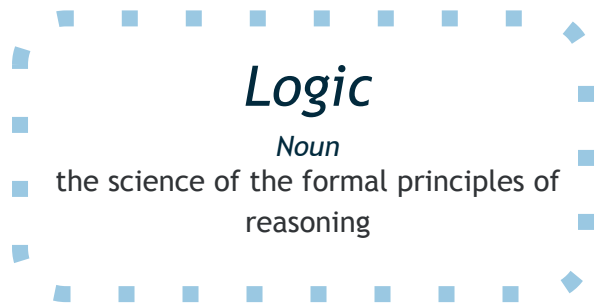
“He’s taken all of the arguments and he’s shown how they all stack together for one giant argument for the truth of the Christian faith.”



Brian Henson

*See free resources at normgeislerthemovie.com

Who may God be teaching you to become so that He can use you powerfully in the future, in ways you don’t yet realize?



Discuss this **Geislerism**:

“Faith is trust in what I have good reasons to believe is true.”



“The laws of logic apply to reality.”

Using the philosophical concept that the laws of logic apply to reality, Norm built a reasonable case for:

- the existence of God.
- miracles.
- The New Testament documents.
- the resurrection.
- that Jesus can be trusted.
- all of the above.

Memorize

The 12 Points That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. Opposites cannot both be true.
3. It is true that a theistic God exists.
4. Since God exists, miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. In the New Testament Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus proved to be God.
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Since Jesus is God, whatever He teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God and anything opposed to it is false.

12 Points That Show Christianity Is True
by Norman L. Geisler

Verses to Know

- I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do *nothing*. (John 15:5)
- Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for *it is God who works in you, both to will and to work* for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:5-13)
- For while we were still **weak**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his **love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

Resources

- *The 12 Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Norman L. Geisler
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist* by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek
- *If God, Why Evil? A New Way to Think About the Question* by Norman L. Geisler

There are 12 points that show Christianity is true, based on a wealth of academic content that supports them.

Prayer Focus

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

Matthew 13:23

Read Matthew 13. Ask God to help you to listen to who He is calling you to be. Ask Him to work *in* you, so that He can work *through* you.

This Week

Download the “Norm Geisler International Ministries” app in the Google Play or Apple store. Look through its resources on Conversational Evangelism, keeping the 12 Points in mind. Practice asking questions that help others “surface the truth for themselves,” using the 12 Points as a basis for assessing which point they are questioning in their journey towards putting their faith in Christ.

Mentor - Influencer:

There's More to Me Than What's on the Surface



What does God want me to make available to Him in my life?

Norm found that he did not have to be *qualified* for God to be able to work through him. He only had to be *available*. But even he was surprised at how much God was able to work through the life he could have felt was *not qualified*!

What are you holding onto in your life that you need to surrender to God's will?
Do you trust Him enough to take that first step?

God is already at work in everyone's lives around us. When we are available to Him to work through us, it will transform the way we live and the way we interact. We will want to find out how God is working in others' lives, and how we can

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with *the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15

co-journey with them toward God's love. As we journey, our priority must be to put Christ first in our lives, so we can **become** more like Him.

When we **know** who we are, *because we know who God is*, we can **know** it is God who *qualifies* us to **become** the kind of person He wants us to be. As Norm learned, "We cannot **know** ourselves truly, unless we **know** our God truly... The quest for ultimate satisfaction will never be fulfilled in anything less than the ultimate. That's why we need to **know** the true God."

What is God calling you to trust Him to work in and through your life today that you may have been reluctant to consider in the past?

Discussion Guide

STEPHEN CUTCCHINS - *“You see throughout the life of Norm Geisler, examples of him putting tools in the toolboxes of people who are trying to love people enough to answer their hard questions about Christianity.”*

What did Norm learn from the writings of Thomas Aquinas, that God enabled him to re-integrate into Protestant thought?

- how God has created our minds.
- how God has enabled us to know His creation.
- how God has created us to know Him.
- all of the above.

JOSEPH HOLDEN - *“I don't want to look at his legacy in terms of just material, you should look at his legacy in terms of people.”*

What did Norm learn about who we are as people and our relationship to God:

- we will become like what we think of God.
- we cannot know ourselves truly, unless we know our God truly.
- nothing in this world will be able to satisfy us because we have eternity in our hearts.
- all of the above.

DAVID INGRASSIA - *“I wouldn't say I was disciplined primarily by his apologetics, I was disciplined by his walk with Jesus.”*

Which of the ways that God worked through Norm's life has had the greatest impact:

- his fame.
- his accomplishments.
- his academic degrees.
- his professional memberships.
- through the lives of all his students and disciples.

“I never thought I'd read a book to begin with, but God can do anything.”

Norm Geisler



If God can do anything in our lives, what have we not let go of that is keeping us from taking that next important step?

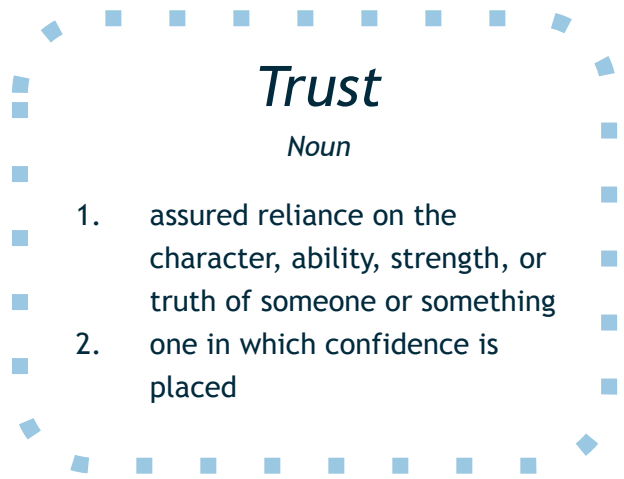
DAVID GEISLER - *“It's about being obedient, not qualified.”*

If you ask God to help you put Christ first, what might He ask you to change in your daily life and priorities?

What kind of power is necessary to transform your mind and life to become more like Christ?

- my own willpower.
- deadlines, accountability, or supervision.
- fear of survival or loss of status.
- God's power as I surrender to trusting and obeying Him step by step each day.
- all of the above.

If we apply this scriptural principle “to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22)” what changes will we seek to make in our discipleship?



1. assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something
2. one in which confidence is placed

What dreams may God be giving you that He wants to see come true in your life?

Take a few moments to think and pray about these questions:

What if my life could be transformed through one act of obedience each day?

What if someone else's life could be transformed through one act of my obedience?

What if my perceived wants, needs and abilities are not a better choice for my life than what God is asking of me?

"The will of God is never contrary to the Word of God."



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

Memorize

Classical Apologetics

STEP 1

Using *philosophical principles*, we establish the truth of the theistic worldview in which a personal, Creator God exists and shows that miracles are possible.

STEP 2

Using *historical evidence*, we establish that only Christian theism has credible miracles to establish its central truth claims such as the New Testament is reliable, Jesus is God, and the resurrection.

*Christian Apologetics
by Norman L. Geisler*

Verses to Know

- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)
- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:12-13)
- You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. (2 Corinthians 3:2)
- Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are *being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another*. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)
- Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that *as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving*, to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:13-15)
- For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, *that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him* who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
- By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you *love one another as I have loved you*. (John 15:8-12)

Resources

- *Christian Apologetics* by Norman L. Geisler
- *The Big Book of Christian Apologetics: An A to Z Guide* by Norman L. Geisler
- *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (BECA)* by Norman L. Geisler
- normangeisler.com/category/postmodernism

Prayer Focus

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him,
and he will act.

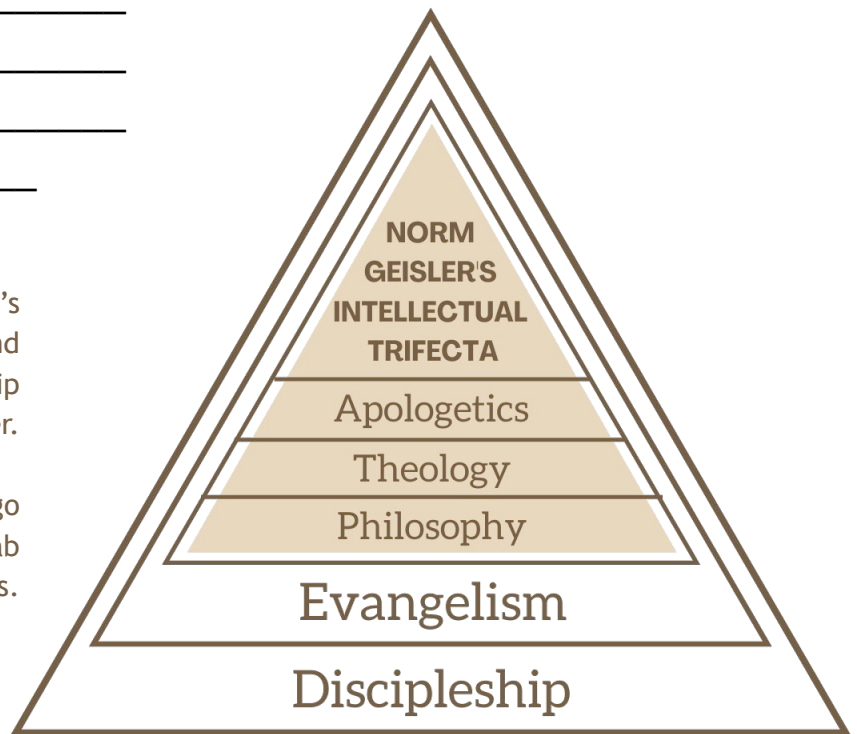
Psalm 37:5

Read Psalm 37. Ask God to reveal to you what He wants you to surrender to Him. Ask Him to make you aware of the “divine appointments” with others that He is preparing for you to be able to share His love and truth. Ask Him to help you become available to Him daily, because you trust He is qualifying you to do what he asks for His glory.

NGIM teaches the application of Norm Geisler’s intellectual trifecta (apologetics, theology, and philosophy) within evangelism and discipleship to cultivate Christ-first character.

To learn more about our training materials go to NGIM.org and visit the tab Norm Geisler Institute under Resources.

**Knowing
is not enough.
Living the truth
every day
is necessary.**



NGIM'S PRACTICAL TRIFECTA

This Week

Make a list of questions you want answers to about your faith. Ask your pastor and one or more spiritual advisors for what answers they would give, or where they would point you to learn more.

*The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MOVIE NORM GEISLER: NOT QUALIFIED

Follow Norm's Journey

*To Discover the Truth
About God, the World,
and Ourselves.*

We cannot **know** ourselves **truly** unless we **know** our God **truly**. The will of God is **never contrary** to the Word of God. Because God's **truth** goes beyond *reason* but not against *reason*. That's why I can **trust** God for the things I don't **know**, because of what he's revealed to me that I do **know**: 1) Christianity is a system of **truth** with **no error** in essential doctrines. 2) All other religions in the world are a system of **error** with some **pockets of truth**. 3) The laws of **logic** apply to reality. You don't have to just **believe**, you can know that it's **true**.

6 Lessons on the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of truth, the existence and real-world application of worldviews, and the importance of actively developing a Christ-like character through evangelism and discipleship.

*We become like what we think of God.
Norm Geisler*

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