

DO I REALLY NEED GOD?

Goal of the Lesson: To show that going through life in our own strength and following our own wisdom is not enough.

In answer to this question consider these points:

1. **He gives us a moral point of reference**, or in other words, he provides a moral foundation for ethics. Without this moral foundation how can we even speak of right and wrong? ¹ See Psalm 12: 6; 119:160; Hebrews 4: 12, 13; Proverbs 14: 12.
2. **Let's think of these five levels of morality:** (1) Concern for others or society, (2) Examining one's self, (3) Realizing one's inadequacy to keep the moral law and then one's need for a savior, (4) Knowing where you are going, (5) Knowing how to live on the way.² This is a process growth. However, some people stay at the first level and never get to the level of examining themselves. At what level are you and in what ways do you need to grow?
3. **He gives us hope and meaning in life** and in pain, suffering, death, rejection and loneliness. Without God life really has no meaning and death is pure darkness. Jesus once asked, "*What does it profit for a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*" (Mark 8: 36; Ephesians 5: 8; 1 Peter 2: 9-10; 1 John 1: 5; 1 Peter 4: 1).
4. **He is the ultimate foundation for love, beauty and truth.** Without an ultimate foundation for all of these how could we even speak of true love, beauty or know what the truth is (1 John 4: 7-21; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalms 19: 9; 119: 89,105; John 17: 17; 14: 6, 17; Ecclesiastes 3: 11; Matthew 26:10; 1 Peter 3: 5).
5. **We need God because we cannot control things.** It is encouraging to know that no matter how bad things get, God is in control. See Nehemiah 9: 6; 1 Chronicles 29: 11, 12; 2 Chronicles 20: 5, 6; Psalms 104.
6. **God gives us purpose in life and a goal to look forward to – heaven** (2 Corinthians 5: 1-10).
7. **We need God in order to understand evil.** If there was no ultimate standard of good then how could we call anything evil? (Mark 10: 18 – God is good.)
8. **God gives us constant unconditional love.** He is not happy when we sin but his love for us does not change. This love was shown to us in its greatest degree through the cross of Jesus. His love is everlasting (Romans 1: 18; 1 John 4: 7-12; Psalm 103: 17).

¹ See Ravi Zacharias, *Can Man Live Without God?* Page 44.

² The core of this idea from C.S. Lewis in his book, *Mere Christianity*.

9. **Unlike our friends and family God totally understands** us and he listens to us in a deep manner like no one else can. We need God because he can be the best friend we have ever had. He will never leave us or forsake us (1 John 5: 14, 15; Isaiah 59: 1-3; Philippians 4: 6-7; Hebrews 13: 5, 6).
10. **We are so weak.** We cannot even control our own heart beats and we do not know when we will die. We cannot keep ourselves from getting hurt or sick. It is great to know that God can turn weakness into strength. God gives us strength to resist the temptations of the Devil to do evil (Romans 3: 22-26; 1 Corinthians 10: 13; 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10).
11. **God sustains the whole universe** including all the laws of the universe that we take for granted like gravity. We need God because if he was not holding everything together, we would be doomed to destruction (Isaiah 40: 26; Nehemiah 9: 6; Psalm 147: 8-9; Acts 17: 25, 28; Colossians 1: 17; Hebrews 1: 3; 1 Timothy 6: 15, 16).
12. **We need God because we are sinners who are in a hopeless state**, whether we admit it or not, and he gives us a way out by his grace through believing in Jesus, repenting of our sins and being baptized for the forgiveness of our sins in order to receive the Holy Spirit. This is what the Bible calls the new birth because we put away the old way of life and take on a new way of life (Romans 3: 22-26; John 5: 24, Acts 2: 37, 38).
13. **We need God because he even gives us a way to love our enemies.** On our own we do not have the power to do this (Matthew 5: 43-47; Romans 12: 17-21).
14. **We need God because he gives us a family who has common beliefs so we can grow, learn, love, encourage and minister together** (Acts 2: 40-47; Hebrews 10: 24, 25).
15. **We need God because he can give us peace and joy** far beyond human understanding (Philippians 4: 6, 7; Psalm 29: 11; Ephesians 2:14-18).
16. **We need God because there is a judgment after death** and he is the only one who can save us through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10: 27, 28; Romans 5: 9-11; Romans 6: 1-4).
17. **We need God because he is the only one who can truly give us abundant life** here in the face of all the problems of this world (John 10: 10; James 1: 2-8).
18. **We need God because deep calls to deep.** In other words, he is the only true answer to the deepest longing we have in our heart of hearts for something and One greater than ourselves. He can help us and give meaning to life, suffering and death. Augustine said in his "Confessions" that our souls are restless until they rest in God. See these verses: Isaiah 50: 10, 11; Jeremiah 2: 13; John 6: 27, 35; Psalm 42: 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 53-56.
19. **We need God to help us avoid hell.** Life is not just about avoiding hell, but it is comforting to know that God loves us so much that he does not want any of us to perish in hell

but that we might all come to repentance and live in eternal joy with him (2 Peter 3: 8, 9; John 3: 16-18; 5: 28, 29; Revelation 21: 6-8).

20. We need God because alone we are so blind by ourselves. We cannot see the whole picture so we need to follow the will of the One who can. God can guide us to do the right thing if we seek him with all our heart and follow him above all others. The Bible says, "Seek first the Kingdom of God" – Matthew 6: 33. See also John 9: 35-41; Proverbs 3: 5-7; Jeremiah 17: 9.

21. We need God because the godless way has not worked. Think of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and others. When there is no moral foundation and all races of people are not respected in the same way, society moves toward violence, persecution, extreme prejudice and at times total genocide (Galatians 6:7, 8; James 1: 13-15; Psalm 1: 4-6; Proverbs 13: 15; Psalm 33: 8; Habakkuk 2: 12-14; Jeremiah 48: 42).

For further reading:

1. *20 Evidences That God Exist* by Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman Jr. (2002)
2. *More than a Carpenter* revised 2009 edition by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell.
3. *Holman Quick-Source Guide to Christian Apologetics* by Doug Powell (2006).
4. *Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel (2004)
5. *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel (2000)
6. *The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel (1998)
7. *The Case For Easter* by Lee Strobel, 2004.
8. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek (2004)
9. *The New Evidence that Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell, 1999.
10. *Evidence for Christianity* by Josh McDowell, 2006.
11. *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ* by Gary R. Habermas, 1996.
12. *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis, first published in 1952.
13. *There is A God* by Anthony Flew, 2009. He used to be an Atheist but changed his mind.
14. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* by Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona, 2004.
15. *Evidence for the Resurrection* by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell, 2009.
17. *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences* by Norman L. Geisler, 2008.
18. *The Apologetics of Jesus* by Norman L. Geisler, 2009.
19. *Who Moved the Stone* by Frank Morrison, 1958, 2002, New edition with a forward by Lee Strobel.