

# SESSION 2

HOW CAN I  
BE SURE GOD  
EXISTS?



*What architecture, music,  
or marvel moves you?*

*God has given us ways to know Him.*



## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Does God really exist?

Polls reveal that an increasing number of people question or deny the existence of God. Today, belief in God is no longer assumed or valued. From the fields of science to sociology, we hear voices declaring that we no longer need God and that He is simply a figment of the imagination.

In this climate many are asking the question, “How can I know God exists?” It is impossible to “prove” the existence—or the non-existence—of God. But the real question is, “Does the evidence around us argue for or against the existence of a divine Creator?” Just as a spectacular building or an inspiring piece of music draws us to the one who designed or wrote it, Psalm 19 argues that creation itself testifies to the reality of God, reflecting both the existence and attributes of our Creator.

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

## ***Psalm 19:1-14*** (HCSB)

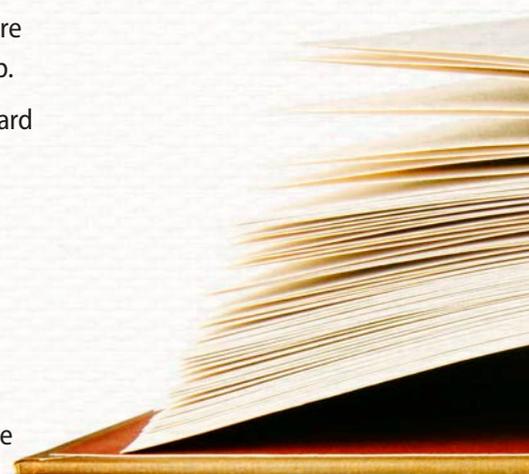
- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.
- 5 It is like a groom coming from the bridal chamber; it rejoices like an athlete running a course.
- 6 It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their other end; nothing is hidden from its heat.
- 7 The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.
- 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous.
- 10 They are more desirable than gold—than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey, which comes from the honeycomb.
- 11 In addition, Your servant is warned by them; there is great reward in keeping them.
- 12 Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.
- 13 Moreover, keep Your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule over me. Then I will be innocent and cleansed from blatant rebellion.
- 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

## *Key Words*

**glory** (v. 1)—The full spectrum of God's marvelous attributes displayed in His creation and actions.

**precepts** (v. 8)—The expectations that God has given His people so they can live in freedom and joy.

**fear** (v. 9)—The response to God's instruction that includes obedience to Him with an attitude of reverence, love, and humility.



## Psalm 19:1-6

David showed how creation testifies to the existence of God. His strong verbs highlight this fact:

- ▶ Declare
- ▶ Proclaims
- ▶ Pour out
- ▶ Communicate

The atmospheric heavens are said to declare God's glory. The Hebrew term for "glory" refers to God's weightiness. God is not a "lightweight." He is a God of greatness and grandeur. In the second part of verse 1, David reinforces the first part of the verse with a parallel statement. The sky above proclaims the handiwork of God. Looking into the sky above reminded David of the One behind it.

In verse 2, David shifts attention to the orderly pattern and transition from day to night. He employed poetic language to describe the sun's rising: it comes out of its "tent" like a bridegroom leaving his chamber. Verse 6 pictures the path of the sun as it moves from one end of the heavens to the other, likening it to an "athlete" who runs his course with joy, so that nothing is hidden from its warmth or heat.

We may take for granted the splendor and beauty of what God has created. Getting up to catch the rising of the sun can be a true worship experience as we are reminded of God's vast arsenal of power and our own limited resources and perspectives. Observing the night sky on a clear night and the stars that twinkle on its canvas can awaken us to the transcendence and magnitude of the God of creation.

**Creation can tell us about God's eminence (His dominion over creation), but what can it tell us about His imminence (His nearness)?**

### QUESTION #1

**If nature reveals God so clearly, why do we sometimes struggle to believe?**

### QUESTION #2



## ***Psalm 19:7-11***

The sky and sun are but two examples of God revealing Himself through nature. These natural and physical realities are not to be worshiped; rather, we worship the God who created them. As astounding and remarkable as God’s creation is, it only goes so far in providing what we need to know about God.

- ▶ **General Revelation.** Up to this point, we’ve been looking at how God has revealed Himself in a general sense through nature.
- ▶ **Special Revelation.** God has also revealed Himself by direct communication to people. This special revelation is deposited in God’s Word—the Bible. David offered a series of parallel statements which describe the wonder and value of God’s Word: instruction, testimony, command, fear, precepts, and ordinances.

These synonyms vividly illustrate the impact of God’s spoken revelation. The Lord’s words are “perfect” or “blameless”; as such, they bring restoration to people down to the core of their beings. The Lord’s “precepts” or statutes are “right” and morally consistent. They lead a heart to rejoice. Likewise, because the commandment of the Lord is pure, it enlightens the eyes. Because God’s Word is so crucial to cultivating a proper view and reverence for Him, David called it the “fear of the Lord.” The Word of God is also a protective shield, preventing sin. To know God better, know the Scripture that reveals Him.

***What does the Bible reveal about God that nature does not?***

**QUESTION #3**



## Psalm 19:12-14

- ▶ God's Word accurately reveals the one true God.
- ▶ God's Word gives us objective insight into His character and attributes.

A survey by the American Bible Society revealed that 88 percent of American homes have at least one Bible.\* In America, we have unlimited opportunity to read God's Word. Instead of taking this privilege for granted, we should saturate ourselves with the Bible.

We must respond to God's revelation with our hearts and minds. David certainly knew through his own successes and failures the importance of heeding the revelation of God. David acknowledged the inability of humans to discern truth and error apart from God's Word. Aware of his own hidden or unknown faults, David desired to be declared innocent.

In verse 13, David made a request that should be a regular item on our prayer list: to be kept back from "willful sins." This refers to our abuse of God's grace by continuing to do what we know is wrong. David pleaded with God to keep him from presuming upon God's grace. He desired to be super-sensitive rather than callous toward sin.

David was rightly horrified at the prospect of sin ruling over his life. A disregard for disobedience to God leads to a loss of direction in life. Lacking proper discernment, we move down paths God has clearly marked "off limits" for our own protection.

David concluded with another personal request. He asked that the words which proceed from his mouth might be acceptable (pleasing) in God's sight. He wanted to honor the God who graciously and clearly has spoken in Scripture. David also prayed that the meditations or thoughts of his heart be acceptable in God's sight. "Heart" in this verse refers to that center of one's personality from which thoughts and feelings flow. Internally and externally, David sought to honor God.

\* American Bible Society: "State of the Bible 2013" ([www.AmericanBible.org](http://www.AmericanBible.org))

***How does the existence of God impact the way you approach each day?***

### QUESTION #4

"You can see God from anywhere  
if your mind is set  
to love and obey Him."

—A.W. TOZER

## NURTURING FAITH

1. The aspect of God that most impresses me is . . .

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2. The feature of God's Word that most impresses me is . . .

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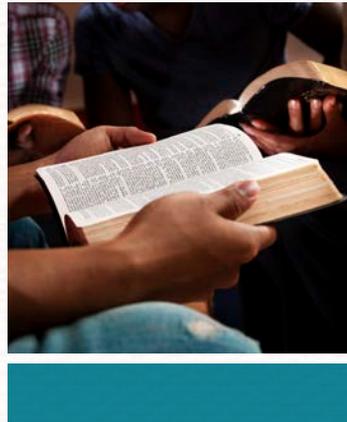
3. A way God and His Word nurture my walk is . . .

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## LIVE IT OUT

God has provided us with powerful clues, in nature and His Word, about His existence and greatness. How will you respond to His revelation?

- ▶ **Look around.** Look up at the sky or at nature around you. What do you see that indicates God is real?
- ▶ **Join the chorus.** Seek to live your life so that it joins creation in declaring the glory of God. Let your actions point to God.
- ▶ **Express your faith.** Explain to someone why you believe God is real based on both nature and Scripture. When you put your convictions into words, you grasp better the truth you hold inwardly.



God desires more than a simple acknowledgement of His reality. He wants us to have a true relationship with Him and to build our lives around Him. Look above. Look in Scripture.

## Shadow of a Doubt



***I had the privilege of growing up in church. When I was 8, I distinctly remember realizing that God was drawing me to Himself. I embraced Jesus as my Savior and entered into new life in the family of God. Though that day was almost 25 years ago, I can still remember the emotions I felt, who was there with me, even exactly what I prayed. I remember how excited I was. But those days on the mountain of excitement and joy didn't last long. They quickly faded into a dark valley of doubt.***



To continue reading "Shadow of a Doubt" from *HomeLife* magazine, visit [BibleStudiesforLife.com/articles](http://BibleStudiesforLife.com/articles).



# My group's prayer requests

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## My thoughts