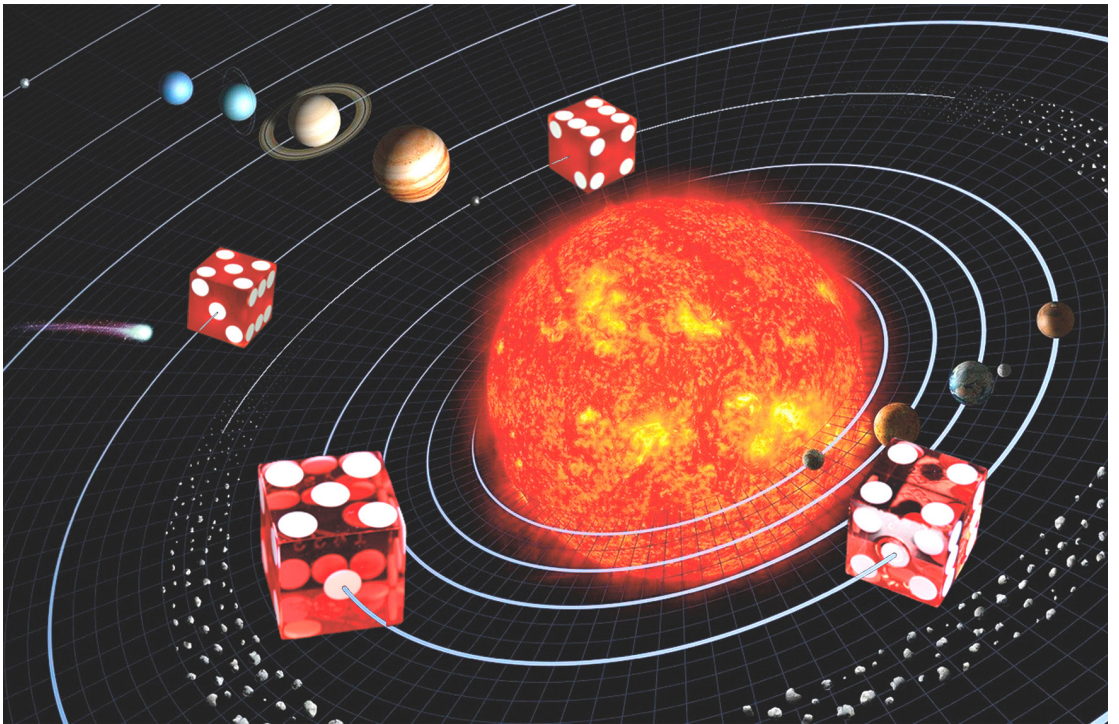


CONSIDER THE ODDS



BY JOHN DISTERDICK



WHAT ARE SOME OF LIFE'S KEY QUESTIONS?

Universal Questions

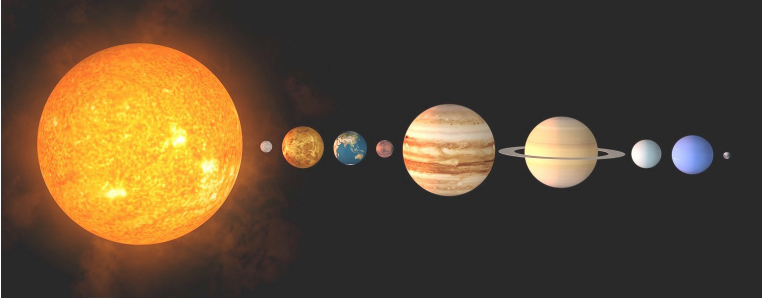
1. Did the universe and our planet earth come from the Big Bang?
2. Where did the Big Bang come from?
3. Were you created, or did you evolve?
4. Is there life after death?
5. Where do I get answers to life's questions? Does life have a purpose?
6. Is there a spiritual aspect to life? If so what is it?
7. Why are there so many different spiritual ideas?
8. Are there absolutes? Truths?
9. If so, is there a way to know and understand them?
10. Will science give us the answer to these questions?
11. Could a true scientist believe in God?
12. Have great scientists believed in God?
13. If there is a God, can we know Him?
14. Do miracles happen?



Personal Questions

1. How can I make the most money?
2. What career should I pursue?
3. Should I marry? Whom? Should I have children?
4. Are peace and contentment available in the difficult circumstances we face in life?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE OF YOUR OWN?



PROBABILITY

Certainly, the origin of the universe and of our planet has significant implications for many of our questions! Understanding probability should influence our thinking, attitudes, and actions.

Probability plays a key role in my thinking and decisions. When more than one outcome is possible, and the outcome is not predetermined, then probability is a factor. If the weather



forecast shows a 5 percent chance of rain, I might not worry much. But if it shows a 100 percent chance, I'll prepare for rain. In my days as a master boxer, I knew there was a 100 percent chance that my opponent wanted to win, and that I would take some hits. Knowing this probability affected my attitude and behavior.

I don't worry about getting hit by lightning when I leave my home because the probability is very low. However, as I drive down the road, I'm cautious of movement around me because I understand if I'm not cautious there is a much greater probability I'll be involved in an accident.

Probability is used extensively in medicine, insurance, engineering, gambling, advertising, genetics, computers, space science, and a host of other fields. When you look at our

universe—and life itself—happening by chance, the probability of that is so remote that it takes more faith to believe in “chance” than in a “higher power” using design.

In the universe, there are at least four forces working in harmony: gravity, electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear forces, and the weak nuclear forces. Alter any one of these forces and the universe would not exist. If the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off by $1/10^{17}$ power—that’s one chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (a quintillion)—then no stars and therefore no planets would have formed.

Let’s try to understand what $1/10^{17}$ power means. A mathematician at MIT once created a mental picture to depict this number. He concluded that a person, in one try, would have to find the one unique silver dollar within the entire state of Texas that is covered two feet thick in silver dollars. If you consider the probability of this actually happening, I believe you would conclude that this is next to impossible.¹

We are led to believe that, given enough time, “anything is possible.” This sounds reasonable, but if you think more deeply, the concept loses its value. For example, take a watch and remove all the screws holding it together, all the gears, springs, mounting board, and every other component. Place them in a bag. How many years of shaking the bag would it take for all the parts to fit together “by chance,” with the crystal on top and each screw in its place and tightened down? It doesn’t matter how many billions of years you shake the bag, the parts will not come together “by chance.” It takes intelligence to properly align all the parts and finally put in the screws and tighten the watch together.

IT ALL SCREAMS “DESIGN!”

The complexity and order of the universe is a lot more complex than a watch. It screams “design!” by an intelligent Creator (Genesis 1:1 tells us that “God created”). The same is true of our small planet earth. Can we really believe that the



earth could evolve from the Big Bang and sustain life as we know it today without a Designer/Creator overseeing this?

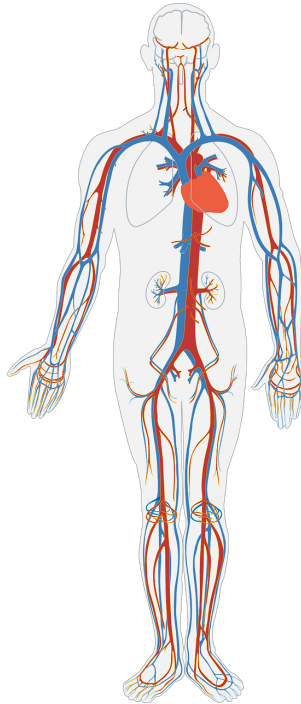
Today there are over two hundred known parameters, like the nuclear and electromagnetic force ratio we just looked at, that must be perfectly met for a planet to support life. Just a few are: the earth's 23.5° axis of rotation, gravity, rotation period, field crust, oxygen/nitrogen ratio, carbon dioxide, water vapor, ozone levels, distance from the moon and sun, and numerous other factors. Our sun is just the right distance from earth, just the right size, shape, and type. Our moon has just the right gravitational pull for our tides and oceans. The stars are in just the right orbits, and our galaxy is in just the right location. The evidence is overwhelming that our planet was the result of intelligent design. The Bible expresses this well when it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains," and "Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens" (Psalm 24:1 and Isaiah 48:13).

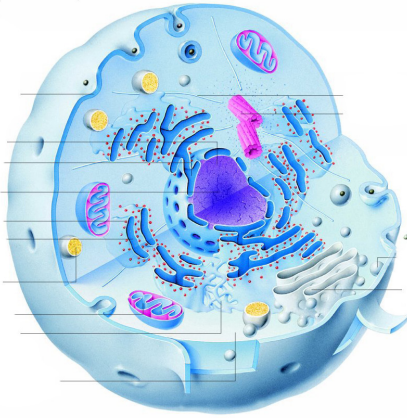
HUMAN ORIGINS

Now we come to the big question about humanity and not just the physical universe: Were we created as well, or did we evolve? I believe anyone who investigates the evidence carefully will conclude that the universe, earth, and human life were created—not by chance, but by an awesome intelligent power, whom many call God.

So what is the probability that the human race is the result of that awesome intelligent power? The complexity of the universe and earth is undeniable, and, similarly, when you investigate the complexity of the human body, you can't help but be blown away.

The human body is made up of some sixty trillion cells. Cells have a great number of components: DNA, RNA, protein, flagellum, and mitochondria, to name a few. Each cell is specifically designed for a particular function within the body. There are one hundred trillion atoms in the cell. Atoms have protons, neutrons, and electrons. When combined, they create molecules (like H_2O). These molecules create hundreds of amino acids, but only twenty can be used—and must be the right ones in the right order—with oxygen and water and an energy source to create proteins, which are the building blocks of the human body. One study concluded that the chance of forming a biological protein is one chance in 10^{30} (remember Texas and $1/10^{17}$?). One chance in 10^{21} would require covering the entire USA over one hundred feet thick in silver dollars. So, 10^{30} is a number our brains have difficulty comprehending.





Cells also have an amazingly sophisticated editing process to ensure each gene is reproduced error free. The genetics are so astoundingly complex and interrelated, it too screams “Design,” consistent with what we read in Genesis 2:7 and Mark 10:6, which say that God created us.

PROBABILITY AND THE CELL

An airplane has some five million non-flying parts, yet it can fly. Why? The answer is design. The cell has millions of non-living parts. What makes it alive? The answer again is design!

One study concluded the probability of one cell being created by random chance is one chance in $10^{40,000}$ —a number so remote it is beyond human conception.

Cells are energy generators, invasion guards, transport systems, food factories, protective barriers, waste disposal, communication links, and they manufacture their own replacement parts.

Think of the complexity of the human body:

- Contains forty million capillaries (over 25,000 miles’ worth)
- Its heart beats some one hundred thousand times each day
- Red blood cells transport oxygen to tissue
- White blood cells rush to identify foreign agents and mark them for destruction
- Its eyes and ears are more complex than any man-made machine

- Controlled by a brain with one hundred trillion interconnections able to make one quadrillion calculations per second
- Nervous system, skeleton structure, liver, lungs, skin, stomach, kidneys—all scream “Design!”
- Not to mention emotions—love, anger, guilt, compassion, imagination, curiosity. Where did these come from if we are just random molecules?

THE INFORMATION IN DNA

DNA has become very important in our world today, especially in the criminal justice area. We see TV shows like *Forensic Files*, in which the criminals would not be brought to justice were it not for the discovery and advances of DNA. DNA is the software of life. One DNA molecule has five billion times more information storage than a 340GB storage drive. One gigabyte is 1,024 megabytes, and one megabyte is 1,024 kilobytes. One kilobyte is 1,024 bytes. Therefore, one gigabyte equals 1,073,741,824 bytes. There are 1.5 gigabytes of information in each cell and 150 trillion gigabytes of information in the human body. The math gets crazy, but suffice it to say that DNA stores massive amounts of information, and can make copies of itself. How did all this information get there? Again, design seems the only logical answer.

Every human body is a testimony to a powerful, purposeful Creator (as we read, in Proverbs 20:12 and First Corinthians 12:18, that the Lord made us according to His desires). I find it interesting that the protein network foundation for most cells and organs is *laminin*, a high-molecular-weight protein in the shape of a cross. God certainly has a sense of humor.



Laminin

LEAP OF FAITH

If you're still convinced the universe came from the Big Bang, and that the earth just happened, and that all the necessary components to sustain life aligned "by chance," and if you're convinced that the human body just evolved over millions (or billions) of years, then you don't need to read on. But if you

have questions about how these extraordinary developments occurred, then read on for one person's perspective of truth.



Let's take a leap of faith, because that's what is always required to take on these issues. There never will be ironclad evidence of chance or design with regard to the origin of the universe, the earth, or the human race, but it seems that the weight of evidence and logic clearly points to intelligent design.

As we set out to investigate such deep issues, let us start by asking a question that might not seem related, but it is of vital importance: if all creation is from intelligent design, why have there always been so many different understandings in the world of this supposed Creator/Designer God? This question opens the door to spiritual considerations that are essential to our full understanding, though they may seem bizarre.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

I make the claim that there is a spiritual dimension to life, and we are in the midst of spiritual warfare. We don't see

the spiritual dimension (normally), and we don't feel it (usually), but nonetheless, it exists all around us. This is what the Bible clearly teaches (as in Second Corinthians 10:4, which says, "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful").



Why do I trust what the Bible teaches? Why do I believe the Bible is the Word of God? A statement that has stuck with me through the years is, "You can't experience life for *what it could be*, unless you face it for *what it is*." There are many arguments that support the truth of the Bible. We have over 24,000 known ancient manuscripts of the Bible or parts of it. The second largest group of ancient manuscripts we have is of Homer's *Iliad*, which has some four hundred manuscripts, and no one doubts that Homer wrote the *Iliad*. The sheer volume of consistent evidence gives great credibility to the truth of the Bible. The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 further demonstrate the accuracy of the Bible we now have. Here are three points to consider:

1. Archeology

The ongoing discovery of numerous artifacts has continued to verify the veracity of Scripture and shut the mouths of skeptics who have denied the truth of Scripture.

2. Prophecies

This point has had the biggest impact on my life. What is the probability that the Biblical prophecies of future events could be 100 percent accurate? There have been 322 prophecies fulfilled to this point, with a probability of one chance in 10^{157} . Remember the illustration of $1/10^{17}$, and that anything under one in 10^{50} is virtually impossible, unless it's a miracle of God.

3. Science

The Bible was never meant to be a scientific manuscript, yet every detail lines up with science. One of the greatest scientists to ever live, Isaac Newton, and thousands of other notable scientists through history and up till today have been or continue to be devoted Christians who believe the Bible is inerrant.

You decide how important it is for you to know the truth. But remember, if the Bible is true, your eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

THREE IN ONE

Another spiritual concept that will challenge your logic but hopefully drive you closer to your Creator is that God has revealed Himself in the Bible. He is not a single unit, but something deeper and more complex than anyone imagined—one being in three Persons with love between them as the core of who God is. That’s right, three individual Persons but one God (as confirmed in verses such as First John 5:7, “The three are in agreement”). I said you’d be challenged, so hang in there. God is a Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some things can’t be comprehended by our human intellect, but nonetheless they are true. This is one of those things.

I’m not surprised that God is more complex than my mind can grasp. To illustrate, think of intelligence as an elevator that goes to level one thousand, but the human brain can only go to level five. Therefore, much knowledge is unavailable to us by our brains’ limitations. These situations call on faith, but not blind faith. Rather, faith built on solid evidence providing a solid foundation.

THE ENEMY OF GOD

Now back to spiritual warfare. If the Bible can be believed, then it is true that a third of the angels and their leader, Satan, rebelled against God—they left heaven. They were cast down to earth and are alive today with the goal to keep people

from following God and receiving eternal life. Evil is alive and well here on planet earth, and these demonic forces are at work to keep you from knowing the truth. They are intent on destroying your marriage, stealing your children from a relationship with God, promoting drugs and alcohol as a method of destruction, causing emotional turmoil with depression and anxiety, fostering anger and self-pity, justifying illegal actions, and any other strategy to keep you from the truth that sets you free (as we read in John 8:32). This truth that sets you free allows you to have peace and contentment and a relationship with your heavenly Father. He wants to give you that peace, no matter the personal circumstances you are facing.

If you see this spiritual warfare as a reality, you find the answer to the question we posed of why there are so many different approaches to understanding God. Here's how it works: our enemy, Satan, is very powerful, and he can influence a person's thinking and actions, and then, through that person, the enemy can influence the world, with deceptive and misleading books such as the *Book of Mormon* and *Pearl of Great Price*, which teach Mormonism, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which teaches Christian Science, the Koran, which teaches Islam, books on Scientology, and the list goes on and on. The enemy of truth can have a powerful impact on the world—just think of Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Muhammad, and many others. In this way the enemy permeates every aspect of society. Often, his agents seem to be doing good, which is another tactic of Satan to turn people from the true God.

PROBABILITY AND THE BIBLE

We've covered a lot of territory—the design behind the creation of the universe, the earth, and the human body, the truth of the Bible, and spiritual warfare. So, what now? Are there answers? Can you benefit from all this? Well, if the Bible is true (which we've shown is highly probable) and was written by God using different individuals (as it says in Exodus 31:18, where we learn that God Himself wrote on the tablets of

Moses with His own finger), then we can look to this proven resource for the answers to our many questions.

The Bible contains sixty-six books, written by over forty authors, covering a time span of some fifteen hundred years, and it is by far the most unique and most popular book ever written. So what does the Bible say about dealing with the spiritual warfare that touches all of us? What do you need to understand to have victory over the spiritual enemy in your life that wants you beaten down rather than living and thriving?

The Bible is very clear: the answer is Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). When you look at Jesus's life and teachings, you must conclude that He was either a lunatic, a liar, or He was who He said He was. He can't be characterized as a good teacher or just a nice guy, because He Himself said He was God (John 10:30). He also said He could forgive sins. For that, He was crucified.

Let's look more closely at Jesus, the Messiah, or Christ. Remember, I told you that probability played an important role in my decisions. So, what's the probability that any person could fulfill the Bible prophecies about the coming of the Jewish Messiah, all written hundreds of years before He was born? There are over three hundred prophecies in the Bible about Jesus's first coming, and all have come true. Here are just eight of them:

1. Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 2. Messiah would be born in the tribe of Judah (Isaiah 37:31)
 3. Messiah would be called from Egypt (Hosea 11:1)
 4. Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)
 5. Messiah's clothes would be gambled away (Psalm 22:18)
 6. Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16)
 7. Messiah's bones would not be broken (Psalm 34:20)
 8. Messiah would be buried in a rich man's grave (Isaiah 53:9)
- What is the probability of just these eight prophecies coming

true? The probability is, again, one chance in 10^{17} that only these eight prophecies could be fulfilled by one man, which we have previously seen is virtually *no chance*. So logic tells us that Jesus's life, death, and resurrection are supernatural events from a supernatural power. This is only eight of over three hundred prophecies. The probability of all three hundred Bible prophecies coming to pass is ridiculously astronomical, simply incalculable, except that the real author of these prophecies is God, who is the Lord of the past, the present, and the future—another concept difficult for our brains to comprehend.

The God who created the universe out of nothing is in total control and knows the past, present, *and* future. Though difficult to comprehend, this is also most comforting as we go through uncharted waters living in this fallen world.

I think the issue of probability, which we have discussed, is so important that I will give another example to set the concept more strongly in your mind. We are told that an individual's



chance of winning the Powerball lottery is one in about 200 million. So let's put a graphic illustration to this number, which is about one in 10^8 . If we had 200 million one-dollar bills and placed the dollar bills one behind another starting from Washington, D.C., we would have enough dollar bills to go all the way

south to Disney World in Orlando. Then we'd still have enough to go clear across the country to Disneyland in California! But, even then, we would not run out of dollar bills. We could go north and make it all the way to Portland, Oregon. Even then, we would have dollar bills enough to make it all the way back east to Portland, Maine, and finally enough to make it back to D.C., completing the loop. Would we have any dollars bills left after that? Yes! We would still have enough dollar bills to go all the way around the loop a second time!

Now imagine that you walk, skateboard, skip, bike, or drive for as long as you want around the double loop, and when you decide to stop, you stoop over and pick up one dollar bill. Your chance of selecting the lucky dollar bill is one in about 200 million. And this is only one in 10^8 .

With all these probabilities we have explored—the probability of the universe just coming to be, the earth's chance of sustaining life as we know it, the human body, cells, proteins, and DNA coming to be, and finally Jesus's fulfillment of ancient Bible prophecies, we see probabilities so remote that they defy logic.

GOD COMMUNICATES THROUGH THE BIBLE

Having considered the odds regarding the prophecies of the Bible and seen that they overwhelmingly point to a Creator, we can now consider a reasonable and logical alternative to chance and random evolutionary processes for explaining origins. That alternative is intelligent design. A mind beyond our timeline and beyond our space has brought into being all that we see and know as life in the universe. Is it reasonable to believe that the mind behind this level of intelligent design would be capable of communicating to us what He has done in creation and what He expects of us as part of His creation? The answer is a resounding yes. The Bible is what God has written to communicate all this to us. Many look to the Bible as authoritative in their lives, a stable alternative to relying on what they like, think, or desire, which are all very changeable.



What is God trying to communicate to us in this Bible of His? The Bible tells us that we are separated from God by sin (Isaiah 59:2; First John 1:8). It also states that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We all fall short of what God created us to be. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). It goes on to say, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Actually, the Bible says lots of things that each individual should investigate on his or her own, since the stakes are so high. You need to ask yourself where you will spend eternity—in heaven or hell? The Bible can provide the answer to that all-important question.

So how can we return to fellowship with God and be assured of eternity in heaven, as He intended, to enjoy Him forever? Well, you face three barriers that you yourself cannot overcome:

1. **Your sin nature rebels** against returning to God because each of us has a blind and rebellious heart (Deuteronomy 29:4; 31:27) with thoughts that are “only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5)! Pardon me, but according to Scripture you resemble a venomous serpent, “a deaf cobra that stops up its ear.” By this is meant that sin makes us hostile toward God and unable to hear the truth (Psalm 58:3–4). Jesus underscores this: “Out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,” etc. (Mark 7:21–22). The apostle Paul

concur and gives the reason: "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:18).

2. **You cannot return to God** because "all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment." Every good deed we do is tinged with selfishness and sin in some way (Isaiah 64:6)! Pardon me again, but Scripture says your righteousness resembles a cesspool! (Philippians 3:8). Paul underscores this well: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). You may live a better life than someone else, but that is not the standard against which we are measured. We are measured against the holiness of God. There is still sin and evil in you.

3. **Your life is not holy**, and without holiness "no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). So, pardon me a third time, but you have a tongue that "is set on fire by hell" and is "full of deadly poison" (James 3:6, 8)! Paul ups the ante: You harbor this "poison" everywhere, as we read: "The law of sin ... is in my members," meaning throughout all "the members of my body" (Romans 7:23)!

So you truly are behind three eight balls and cannot possibly save yourself. Besides, it should chill all of us to recognize that, as a result of the three barriers that we built ourselves, we all face the just, eternal wrath of God (Romans 1:18). After all, our sin and rebellion against God is a crime against the holy King of the universe. It is cosmic rebellion, treason against our King.

Now, if and when the Holy Spirit opens your eyes, which is the hope of this booklet, you may cry out in shame and dismay, "What must I do to be saved?" (as we read that others cried out in Acts 2:37 and 16:30). The answer to this question is that you must turn in prayer to God the Father, who, in His great love, makes provision to pay the penalty for your sins by Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

In His mercy, God gives three saving promises that will remove your three criminal barriers once and for all: "I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh" and give you a heart transplant. "I will cleanse you from all your filthiness." And "I will put My Spirit within you" (Ezekiel 36:25-27)! Awesome, isn't it?

But now you may be really curious and ask, “How does He do all this?” Well, God removes His wrath by the work of His Son Jesus, and through Him He fulfills His promises. In short, the Son produces what the Father promises! With His death, He makes us a new creature (Second Corinthians 5:17). With His shed blood, He washes away our filthy criminal record (Romans 3:25) and sprinkles our hearts clean (Hebrews 10:22). He fills us with His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). With His resurrection from the grave, He overcomes death so we can do so also (Romans 6:4), clothed in His righteousness (Second Corinthians 5:21) and His holiness (Ephesians 4:24). In short, after totally exterminating “the old you,” He totally reinvents “the new you”! This is awesome once again!

Hopefully, at this time you are asking yourself with a sense of urgency, “But how does the threefold solution come my way?” Well, the answer is, through God, the Holy Spirit, who personalizes what the Father promises and what the Son produces. When we believe and trust in what Christ has done, God gives us a new life—a new spiritual birth (John 3:3–6), which evidences itself in repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 2:4). Further, upon the forgiveness of your sin, the Spirit seals forever the righteousness God gives you by taking residence in you (Ephesians 1:13–14; Second Corinthians 1:22). Finally, He implements Jesus’s holiness by writing the law of God on your heart (Second Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 8:10). This is awesome, for the third time!



Note well that this is a package deal—the fullness of the Triune God works in this process, with all three Persons of the Godhead

cooperating to remove all three criminal barriers as the triple cure to man's three problems. Frankly, it is all or nothing!

MAKING IT PERSONAL

This should prompt you to ask two important questions: Firstly, "How do I personally receive the three solutions?" The answer is this: Call "on the Name of the Lord" Jesus from a broken heart (Acts 2:21). Petition Him in sorrowful repentance to overcome the three barriers of rebelliousness, sin, and an unholy life by His cross. In heartfelt faith, ask Him to bring forth the three glorious solutions He provides through His resurrection: a spiritual "heart transplant," cleansing of your filthiness, and the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide and direct you. When you put in this application with Him, you can be certain that *He will not turn you down* (John 6:37).

And now the second question: "How may I be personally assured that I have received the three solutions?" When by the grace of God you genuinely repent and believe (Ephesians 2:8-9), you will not only receive the forgiveness of your sins, but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). As you abide in Christ, obey His teachings, and gradually grow in your relationship with Him, He guarantees that you will produce the "fruit" by which you and everyone who sees you can be assured that you truly have new spiritual life.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Don't we all want that kind of life? Our lives become fruitful through continuing participation in the meetings of the Church, which is the gathering of God's people and the workshop of the Holy Spirit. In these meetings you are trained as disciples of Christ by clinging without ceasing to the preaching of the Word, fellowship with other believers, the Supper of the Lord, and the exercise of prayer (Acts 2:42).

What are some possible benefits of taking this bold step?

- An acceptance that can never be questioned (Ephesians 1:6)

- An inheritance that can never be lost (First Peter 1:3–5)
- A deliverance that can never be excelled (Second Corinthians 1:10)
- A grace that can never be limited (Second Corinthians 12:9)
- A hope that can never be disappointed (Hebrews 6:18–19)
- A bounty that can never be withdrawn (First Corinthians 3:21–23)
- A joy that can never be diminished (John 15:11)
- A nearness to God that can never be reversed (Ephesians 2:13)
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished (Second Corinthians 5:21)
- A salvation that can never be canceled (Hebrews 5:9)
- A peace that can never be disturbed (John 14:27)
- A peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7)

FROM THIS POINT ONWARD

This has been quite a journey. We have covered some complex subjects, but, as you can see, being “born again,” or becoming a Christian, takes very little effort. God knows your heart—He created it—so there’s no faking it with God. The Christian life is not a puzzle to solve but a mystery to live, once you have received new life in Christ.

Even with an overwhelming mathematical probability against a self-existing universe and in favor of intelligent design, belief in God ultimately requires a spiritual decision. It is a matter of heart and mind, as Jesus Himself reminds us in Matthew 22:37: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” All people must overcome their natural resistance with a willingness to seek God on His terms. They should “seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

So, what's the challenge from this point onward? You must do the work and seek the deepest relationship possible with your Lord and Savior. How do you do this? You take the simple steps, and God does the heavy lifting. Here are some suggestions to get started in a "walk" with Christ:

- Find a church that properly teaches the Word of God
- Get a Bible and read it daily
- Read solid Christian materials so you can learn the basic tenets of the Christian faith and build on solid ground (look for suggestions at the back of this booklet)
- Pray about whatever concerns you in your life
- Get involved in a small group to share your experience
- Attach yourself to a matured and wise Christian mentor for growth

And as you grow in your "walk" with Christ,

- Determine what abilities God has given you, and utilize them for the good of God's people and the world
- Talk to others about God's love for them as God opens opportunities to you
- Share with others what you have learned about living to honor God
- Do whatever strengthens your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and flee from whatever interferes with it

One of the great truths of the Christian life is that it isn't up to you to figure it all out. Those personal questions about marriage, college, children, and other issues are not yours to solve. You don't have that kind of power. You have died to your pride that tells you that you can do everything by yourself. You have given your life to Jesus Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit in you and the Word of God will guide you into all truth and wisdom for decisions for your life. You won't always like the situations you find yourself in, and some of your prayers will not seem to be answered as you would want them, but when I think about it, I am very glad that God did not always answer my prayers

the way I wanted. I have prayed some pretty dumb and foolish prayers. Someone said, "God will always answer our prayers the way we would have wanted if we knew as much as He knows."

As your relationship with God strengthens and deepens, you will have a new peace and contentment, no matter what the circumstances, a peace that surpasses understanding.

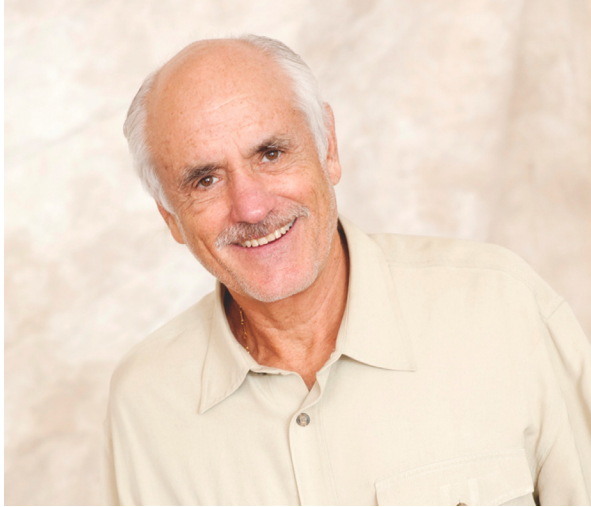
Praise the Lord for that!

**MAY THE LORD RICHLY BLESS YOU
IN THIS JOURNEY WE CALL LIFE!**

1. Source for math on page 3: Peter W. Stoner and R. C. Newman, *Science Speaks* (Chicago: Moody, 1958), 112.

Scripture is taken from the (NASB) NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

All images thanks to Wikimedia Commons and Pixabay.

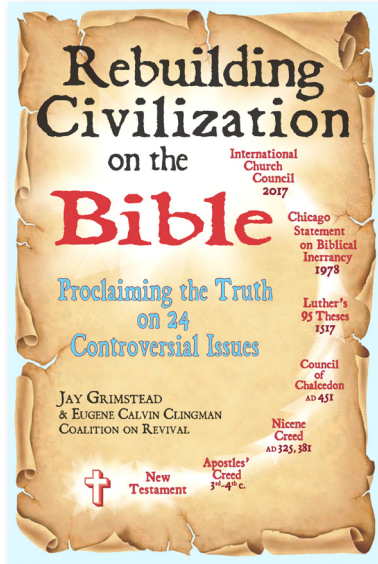


As a competitor who strives to win, whether in business or athletics, John Disterdick has learned the art of identifying goals, assembling a team, marshaling assets, and setting priorities for success. He has been an actor, director, or writer in over one hundred productions. He has competed on a national and world level in some twenty diverse events in six different sports, placing in the top three nationally in seven of these events. He was *Master Athlete Magazine's* 2007 Master Athlete of the Year and has held the World Masters Boxing title for over ten years undefeated. Most recently, in June 2017, John competed in the National Senior Olympics in Birmingham, Alabama, receiving the Gold medal in the triathlon and a Silver and Bronze in the 500 and 200 swim events. He also won twenty-one medals in the Tennessee State Senior Olympics. John is in three Halls of Fame: Tennessee State Senior Olympics, Master Boxing, and Chattanooga Boxing. For this and all his blessings, he gives all glory and honor to Jesus Christ.

If you want to see a video of his personal testimony, go to johndisterdick.com, click on "ministry" and then on "testimony."

If you'd like to see testimonies of individuals that have overcome extreme circumstances, including suicide, go to ComeOn-LetsGo.com and see the true stories of numerous individuals.

More from Nordskog Publishing...



*Rebuilding Civilization on the Bible:
Proclaiming the Truth on 24 Controversial Issues*
by Jay Grimstead and Eugene Calvin Clingman,
The Coalition on Revival

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" Hosea 4:6.

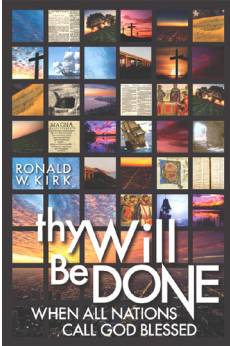
This book is the fruit of the work of hundreds of theologians and Christian leaders working throughout a thirty-seven-year period to define and defend the key Biblical points on 24 controversial issues.

Our goal is to, "...find the knowledge of God," as in Isaiah 28:9-10 and Proverbs 2:1-11 (NKJV), and to discern from the very Word of God, truth versus error!

To order: 805-642-2070
staff@NordskogPublishing.com
NordskogPublishing.com



More from Nordskog Publishing...



Thy Will Be Done: When All Nations Call God Blessed

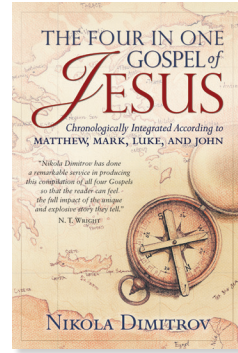
by Ronald Kirk

A few simple Biblical principles guide a systematic and practical approach to a fulfilled Gospel life and the earthly tools needed for it. The author weaves a tapestry of possibility—Christ's people growing as salt and light, putting flesh on the Bible's vision of blessing in every aspect of human life and endeavor.

The Four in One Gospel of Jesus: Chronologically Integrated According to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Compiled by Nikola Dimitrov

A harmony of the four Gospels rearranged into a single chronological narrative, according to the best scholarship. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John fully represent God and themselves in this faithful Gospel book, perfect for seekers, new believers, and accomplished scholars alike.



See our full catalog at NordskogPublishing.com

The BELL RINGER



Sign up for our E-Newsletter, *The Bell Ringer*, for timely articles, recent releases, and product discounts.

NordskogPublishing.com/newsletter/



4562 Westinghouse Street, Suite E, Ventura, CA 93003
staff@NordskogPublishing.com (805)642-2070