

## **Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist** **Does God Exist? The Moral Law, Answer Key**

**1. The United States began with these words: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." What do these words say about Moral Law? How does this compare to Romans 2:14-15?**

- The Moral Law is grounded in God and known as self-evident because God has written it on our hearts. Because we are made in the image of God, we are endowed with rights from God. The knowledge of the Moral Law agrees with Paul's statement in Romans 2:14-15. "Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them."

**2. Dr. Turek uses an illustration of comparing two maps of Scotland to a real place called Scotland. He then compares Mother Teresa to Hitler. How does the map example help illustrate that an objective morality exists beyond mere human opinion?**

- The illustration shows that there must be an unchangeable, authoritative stand (Scotland) in order to see which of the maps is better. Likewise, there must be an unchangeable, authoritative standard of morality that transcends human behavior or opinion in order to see which behavior is better. There can't be a better or worse unless there is a best by which you can make the judgment.

**3. Dr. Turek points out several absurdities that would follow if we denied objective morality. List as many of six you can remember that he mentioned. Add any you think of yourself.**

- 1. The Nazis were not really wrong.
- 2. Love is no better than rape.
- 3. Freedom is not better than slavery.
- 4. Religious crusades are not wrong.
- 5. Tolerance is no better than intolerance.
- 6. There is no such thing as evil (because there can't be evil unless there is Good and there can't be Good unless God exists-the shadows prove the sunshine).

**4. Darwinists often claim that morality is materially and genetically determined. It is based on inherited feelings or instincts, not on an objective standard of right and wrong. How would you answer each of the following:**

**a. You see a plane crash into a river and passengers are drowning. You immediately have two competing instincts: one to stay safe and one to help. Even though your stronger instinct is to preserve yourself by not helping them, you ignore your own safety and swim to their rescue because you sense it is the right thing to do. How does this show that morality is not mere instinct?**

- You have two competing instincts: one of self-preservation and one to help. But then there is third thing, which tells you that you ought to help (even though your self-preservation instinct is probably stronger). That third thing can't be an instinct itself. It is your conscience telling you which instinct to follow.

**b. Why can't non-theists justify that anything -including murder, rape, or the Holocaust-is objectively wrong?**

- Because they have no authoritative personal moral standard external to themselves. Everything is just a matter of human opinion.

**c. How does the utilitarian or pragmatic view-do the greatest good, or do what works-assume an absolute moral standard?**

- "Good" or what "works" requires a standard by which one can know what "good" is or an aim to know what "works". In other words, these ethical systems smuggle in an objective moral law. They borrow from God in order to work.

**d. When you state the moral argument, atheists often think you are claiming that atheists are immoral or don't know morality. What would you say in response?**

- This misunderstands the argument. We are not saying that atheists don't know morality or can't be moral. We are saying that atheists can't justify morality. So, it's not a matter of epistemology or behavior, it is a matter of ontology.

**5. In Lessons 1-6, we focused on three arguments for God that are crucial to understanding the meaning of life: the Cosmological, Teleological, and Moral arguments. Each of these arguments shows us something about the characteristics of God. What attributes about the First Cause do we discover from each argument?**

- **Cosmological:**  
Spaceless, timeless, immaterial, powerful, personal.
- **Teleological:**  
Extremely intelligent, purposeful.
- **Moral:**  
Morally perfect, purposeful, personal.

**6. Look at the attributes of the First Cause that we have discovered from the Cosmological, Teleological, and Moral arguments. How do these attributes line up with the God of the Bible?**

- These are the attributes of the Biblical God, yet they were discovered without reference to the Bible.

**7. From these three arguments, we are able to know beyond a reasonable doubt that a theistic God exists. We have not assumed God exists because the Bible says so. We have shown this through natural revelation without use of the Bible as evidence. If theism is true, what are the implications for any non-theistic worldview?**

- Since the opposite of true is false, non-theistic religions are wrong when it comes to their beliefs about the existence and nature of God (this does not mean all their teachings are false, on

**8. Make a list of which major religions:**

- **Cannot be true regarding their view of God (this does not mean that these religions are wrong about everything, but that their teaching about the existence and nature of God is incorrect).**

Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Mormonism, New Age, Secular humanism, Shinto, Taoism, Wicca

- **Could be true regarding their view of God.**

Christianity, Islam, Judaism

***ANSWER KEY NEW LESSON 7 CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE***

## **Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist Are Miracles Possible? Signs of God or Gullibility, Answer Key**

### **1. How is a miracle from God like a seal on a message from medieval King?**

- Just as a seal proved the message was from the King, a miracle proves that the message (or messenger) is from God).

### **2. What was the main purpose of miracles in biblical times?**

- To confirm a message from God; to confirm a prophet of God.

### **3. According to Exodus 4:1-8; Numbers 16:5-33; 1 Kings 18:21-39; Matthew 12:40; Luke 7:20-22; what was the purpose of miracles in these instances?**

- Signs from God to offer proof of a truth claim.

### **4. We think miracles happen continuously in the Bible. Do they? If you look at miracles in the Bible from Moses to Jesus, about how many instances of miracles are there?**

- About 250 from Moses to Jesus and the Apostles. If you spread those out over 1500 years, that's one miracle event every six years. But they did not occur every six years (see next question).

### **5. What are the three time frames in the Bible when God does miracles through people?**

- The lifetime of Moses.
- The lifetime of Elijah and Elisha.
- The lifetime of Jesus and the apostles.

### **6. Why do you think many people today have a hard time believing in miracles?**

- Answers will vary from person to person.
- They've never seen a miracle. They've been taught that miracles do not occur (naturalism). They assume that our growing understanding of the natural world somehow precludes the supernatural. They react emotionally against the possibility of miracles because some people who claim to do miracles are exposed as frauds.

**7. Some people have difficulty with what they think are unbelievable events in the Bible, such as the story of Jonah and the resurrection of Jesus. But what does Genesis 1:1 and the evidence for the beginning of the universe tell us about the possibility of God doing miracles?**

- Miracles are not only possible; miracles are actual because the greatest miracle of all-the creation of the universe out of nothing-has already occurred. So, with regard to the Bible, if Genesis 1:1 is true- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”- then every other miracle in the Bible is easy to believe. We now have scientific evidence that the first verse is indeed true!

**8. What does Romans 1:18-20 tell us about our knowledge of the Creator?**

- That God has made his existence plain to people through his creation, so that we are “without excuse.” In other words, we know about God through his effects, and the universe is one of his effects. Other effects of God include conscience (objective morality), life (including you) and the scriptures.

**9. Give two counterexamples to show that David Hume’s assertion that the evidence for “the regular is always greater than that for the rare” is false.**

- The big bang is not based on regular events.
- The spontaneous generation of life happened only once-it’s certainly not happening regularly.
- The entire history of the earth cannot be repeated, but we still have very good evidence that it occurred!

**10. Why do miracles need to be rare events?**

- That’s the only way they could get our attention. If miracles occurred regularly, then we might think they are some form of natural phenomenon. They wouldn’t necessarily point to God as the primary cause.

**11. What are some of the known motivations for people ruling out the possibility of miracles?**

- To keep God out. Atheist Richard Lewontin admitted that his scientific materialist colleagues often rule out the possibility of the miraculous because they “cannot allow a divine foot in the door.” Atheist Thomas Nagel has admitted that he, and other atheists have “a cosmic authority problem.” In other words, they don’t want a moral authority such as God to interfere with their lives.

**12. How is Divine Providence different from a miracle?**

- God is behind providential events, but no overpowering of a natural law is required; natural forces that happen regularly produce an effect that has significant spiritual implications. An example would be the fog at Normandy on D Day. Fog happens all the time naturally, but in that context perhaps God had more of a direct role in its appearance.

**13. Suppose someone said to you, “Only a fool would believe in miracles?” Of course, you would first ask him to support what he says with the two questions: 1) What do you mean by that? and 2) How did you come to that conclusion? After you hear his answers, what evidence or point would you want him to consider? Complete the sentence, “Have you ever considered....”**

- That you are living in a miracle-that this universe is a miracle! It came into existence out of nothing. So the first and greatest miracle in the Bible appears to be true. If that miracle is true, then other miracles in the Bible are possible. After all, God exists, then miracles are possible.

**14. Do miracles always motivate trust in God? Give examples from Scripture to support your answer.**

- No, for some, miracles did nothing to motivate belief in. In fact, many of Israelites worshipped the golden calf after witnessing several exodus miracles. And the Pharisees and Chief Priests, after witnessing Jesus’ signs, instead falling at His feet and calling him Lord, decided they should kill him (see John 11:47f)!