

Bibliography of suggested sources of research. Steve Decker

**A World of Difference: Putting Christian Truth-Claims to the Worldview Test (Reasons to Believe)**

Recent Barna research indicates that less than one in ten evangelical Christians hold a biblical worldview. A World of Difference seeks to change this disturbing fact by educating readers on how the Christian perspective is uniquely reasonable, verifiable, and liveable.

**Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God**

Many teenagers leave home for college but don't take their faith with them. Popular writer and speaker Sean McDowell offers a solution for this problem: a new way of approaching faith that addresses the questions the emerging generation is asking and that incorporates a radically humble and relational approach.

**CSB Apologetics Study Bible, Hardcover Hardcover – August 1, 2017 by CSB Bibles by Holman**

Includes commentary from over 90 leading apologists, including: Ted Cabal, Lee Strobel, Chuck Colson, Paul Copan, Norm Geisler, Hank Hanegraaff, Josh McDowell, Albert Mohler, J.P. Moreland, Ravi Zacharias, and many more -- plus a lead article by Lee Strobel (The Case for Christ).

Features include: Presentation page, Book Introductions, Study Notes, Apologetics articles from leading apologists, "Twisted Scripture" explanations for commonly misunderstood passages, Profiles of Christian apologists, Two-color interior, Two-column text, 9.75-point type size, Smyth-sewn binding, Ribbon marker, Full-color maps, and more.

**Beyond Opinion: Living the Faith We Defend Paperback – January 10, 2010 by Ravi Zacharias**

Respected apologist Ravi Zacharias was once sharing his faith with a Hindu when the man asked: "If the Christian faith is truly supernatural, why is it not more evident in the lives of so many Christians I know?" The question hit hard, and this book is an answer. Its purpose is to equip Christians everywhere to simultaneously defend the faith and be transformed by it into people of compassion.

**Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels by J. Warner Wallace and Lee Strobel | Jan 1, 2013**

Written by an L. A. County homicide detective and former atheist, Cold-Case Christianity examines the claims of the New Testament using the skills and strategies of a hard-to-convince criminal investigator.

**Come, Let Us Reason: An Introduction to Logical Thinking Paperback – August 1, 1990 by Norman L. Geisler (Author), Ronald M. Brooks (Author)**

The perfect introductory textbook, this simplified study of logic prepares readers to reason thoughtfully and to spot illogic in an argument.

**Faith Is Like Skydiving: And Other Memorable Images for Dialogue with Seekers and Skeptics by Rick Mattson**

It can be hard to explain why you believe in God. But images and analogies can provide concrete handles for making the Christian faith more plausible. If someone claims that Christians make a "blind leap of faith," you can respond, "No, it's not a blind leap. Faith is like skydiving. You check out your parachute

beforehand and make sure it's secure. You follow the safety instructions. And then you jump. It's a leap, but it's not a blind leap. It's an informed leap."

**Handbook of Christian Apologetics Paperback – March 22, 1994 by Peter Kreeft (Author), Ronald K. Tacelli (Author)**

Reasonable, concise, witty and wise, Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli have written an informative and valuable guidebook for anyone looking for answers to questions of faith and reason. Topics include:

faith and reason, the existence of God, God's nature, how we know God, creation and evolution, providence and free will, miracles, the problem of evil, the Bible's historical reliability, the divinity of Christ, the resurrection, life after death, heaven and hell, salvation, Christianity and other religions, objective truth

**How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading Revised Edition by Mortimer J. Adler (Author), Charles Van Doren (Author)**

With half a million copies in print, How to Read a Book is the best and most successful guide to reading comprehension for the general reader, completely rewritten and updated with new material.

**A CNN Book of the Week: "Explains not just why we should read books, but how we should read them. It's masterfully done." –Farheed Zakaria**

**Improbable Planet: How Earth Became Humanity's Home Hardcover – September 6, 2016 by Hugh Ross**

Most of us remember the basics from science classes about how Earth came to be the only known planet that sustains complex life. But what most people don't know is that the more thoroughly researchers investigate the history of our planet, the more astonishing the story of our existence becomes. The number and complexity of the astronomical, geological, chemical, and biological features recognized as essential to human existence have expanded explosively within the past decade. An understanding of what is required to make possible a large human population and advanced civilizations has raised profound questions about life, our purpose, and our destiny. Are we really just the result of innumerable coincidences? Or is there a more reasonable explanation?

**Is God a Moral Monster?: Making Sense of the Old Testament God Paperback – January 1, 2011 by Paul Copan**

A recent string of popular-level books written by the New Atheists have leveled the accusation that the God of the Old Testament is nothing but a bully, a murderer, and a cosmic child abuser. This viewpoint is even making inroads into the church. How are Christians to respond to such accusations? And how are we to reconcile the seemingly disconnected natures of God portrayed in the two testaments? Copan not only answers God's critics, he also shows how to read both the Old and New Testaments faithfully, seeing an unchanging, righteous, and loving God in both.

**Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message Paperback – February 6, 2002 by Ravi Zacharias**

In each chapter, Zacharias considers a unique claim that Jesus made and then contrasts the truth of Jesus with the founders of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism with compelling insight and passionate

conviction. In addition to an impressive breadth of reading and study, he shares his personal journey from despair and meaninglessness to his discovery that Jesus is who He said He is.

**Mama Bear Apologetics™: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies Paperback – June 4, 2019 by Hillary Morgan Ferrer**

"Parents are the most important apologists our kids will ever know. Mama Bear Apologetics will help you navigate your kids' questions and prepare them to become committed Christ followers." —J. Warner Wallace

**On Guard for Students: A Thinker's Guide to the Christian Faith by William Lane Craig**

This unique book takes you on an extraordinary journey of exploration as you probe for answers to life's deepest questions: why anything at all exists, the origin and fine-tuning of the universe, the nature of moral values and the reality of evil, the historical person of Jesus of Nazareth, and so on.

**Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity 3rd Edition by Nabeel Qureshi**

Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way.

Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in the world's greatest religions.

Engaging and thought-provoking, Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart--and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus.

**Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions Paperback – February 4, 2009 by Gregory Koukl**

In Tactics, Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to artfully regain control of conversations, keeping them moving forward in constructive ways through thoughtful diplomacy. You'll learn how to maneuver comfortably and graciously through the minefields of a challenging discussion, how to stop challengers in their tracks, and how to turn the tables on question or provocative statement. Most importantly, you'll learn how to get people thinking about Jesus.

**Word of God and the Mind of Man Paperback – February 1, 1992 by Ronald H. Nash**

The last two centuries of Christian theology are the record of an evolving attack on the role of knowledge in the Christian faith. The purpose of this book is to challenge the major forms of Christian agnosticism and offer an alternative theory that makes human knowledge about God possible.

## THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING

How do we explain all the pain?

The Lord our God has not revealed every answer to the problem of suffering. However, He descended into the world of suffering, took on humanity, set aside His immunity to pain, and suffered more than most of us could imagine. That in my mind is God's self-justification. John Stott said it best.

"I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. . . . In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world but each time after a while I have had to turn away. And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in light of his. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross which symbolizes divine suffering. The cross of Christ . . . God's only self-justification in such a world as ours." John Stott

Jesus is right there with us in the dark valleys. He is there sitting beside us in the lowest places of our lives. Are you broken? He was broken, like bread, for us. Are you despised? He was despised and rejected of men. Do you cry out that you can't take it anymore? He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Do people betray you? He himself was sold out. Are your tenderest relationships breaking? He too loved and was rejected. Do people turn from you? They hid their faces from him as from a leper.

We live in a broken world and Jesus was honest enough to tell us that we would have trials and tribulations. We don't need some kind of explanation when we suffer we need someone when we suffer. We don't need a plan we need a person. Jesus. Does He descend into our hells? Yes he does! And only He understands.