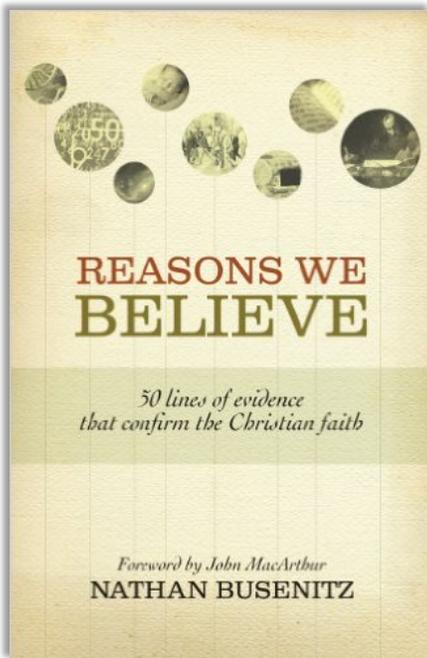


book of the month *Reasons We Believe* by Nathan Busenitz



Christian, why do you believe in God? You likely would not answer that it is because you were convinced from overwhelming evidence. In fact, according to Romans 1:20, everybody, believers and unbelievers have plenty of evidence; we all see and even to some extent know (v. 21) God revealed through His creation. Instead, this clearly perceived truth is suppressed, exchanged, and rejected. Nevertheless, even if you weren't saved by the evidence, there is plenty of evidence for what we do believe.

An important part of apologetics being able to give reasons for our belief. However, sadly, many apologetic texts and methods act like the main issue is proof. "If only I could have tight enough logic or enough evidence, then they will believe," it seems that many apologists reason. Maybe you've thought, "If only I could *prove* beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus really did rise from the dead, then my loved one would believe." What our naturally unbelieving heart needs isn't just proof. God needs to break through our dead, truth-suppressing heart; He loves to do that through His Word, not proofs or demonstrations of the miraculous. As Jesus said, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

Nathan Busenitz does a great job of starting with Bible first; he refuses to make the Bible subservient or on trial (as if God's Word was not authoritative). However, Busenitz does an excellent job of laying out evidence from science, history, Biblical

studies, philosophy, and more in defense for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). The evidence does indeed confirm just what God's Word says.

The book can be used as a reference, excellent to quickly introduce you to the most important aspects of any apologetic topic. Thankfully, it is well footnoted so that you can do more research if you need to. However, while you can use this book as a reference tool, in my opinion, *Reasons We Believe* is best read front to back. You will not stumble over complex jargon or endless argument. The flow is easy to follow. Each section is concise and to the point without being simplistic. The 50 bite-size *chapters* ("reasons") are each accessible to junior-high age student and well-read adult alike.

The book's organization is simple. As you can see in the box on the right, an introduction is followed by five sections. Each of the five sections provides 10 reasons why Christians believe in the foundational truth laid out in that section. You could easily read one section a week and finish the book in a month. But if you wanted to go a bit slower and take one reason at a time, you can certainly do that too, finishing in just under 2 months.

Reasons We Believe is my favorite apologetics text. It is readable, easily appropriate for even young teens, but not too simplistic for a seasoned saint. It is edifying for a faithful believer, but it would also be extremely helpful for a nonbeliever who wants some proof of the Bible's claims. While not exhaustive, it does cover the major lines of apologetic proof and argument the Christian should be aware of.

There is no other apologetic text I recommend more highly. Buy it, and plan to read it in a month or two with a close friend or family

member. *Jacob Hanila*

Recommended Plan

Six weeks: One section a week, finish in six weeks.

One-Two months: Read section one in a week and then read one "Reason" per day (there are 50, and you will finish in 2 months. Double this and read 2 "Reasons" per day, and you can finish in a month

Section 1: The Christian Faith Is Unseen, Not Blind

Section 2: 10 Reasons We Believe in God: He Exists and We Can Know Him

Section 3: 10 Reasons We Believe in the Bible: The Bible is the Word of God

Section 4: 10 Reasons We Believe in the Bible: The NT Gospels are Historically Accurate

Section 5: 10 Reasons We Believe in Jesus: He is Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the World

Section 6: 10 Reasons We Believe in Jesus: He Died and Rose Again