

Questions Of Faith A Skeptical Affirmation Of Christianity

Enlightenment philosophers are often credited with formulating many theories about humankind and society, and in our post-modern age, we still live with some of the very same compelling, contentious and often unresolved questions about ourselves and the world we live in. Author Aubrey Neal suggests that one of these issues that lingers with us today is scepticism, and in 'How Sceptics do Ethics', he unravels the thread of this philosophy from its origins in enlightenment thinking down to our present age. He contends that linguistics and language have not brought modern philosophy any closer to understanding the role and nature of ethics in our current science-based society. Going further, Neal suggests the contemporary reader meets traditional terms for ethical theory, plausible belief and moral action in a different world from the one in which they were coined. Instead, these considerations for modern thinkers require a coherent language practice suitable for the social context in which we live, and thus raise the question of the meaning of old philosophical debates and their value for our society today. Referencing such luminary thinkers as Hume, Kant, and Hegel, Neal seeks to re-ignite age old questions and awaken the reader to a sense that our contemporary modes of reference and understanding should be seen from a substantially different point of view. Challenging, bracing, and entirely unflinching, 'How Sceptics do Ethics' is a wake-up call for anyone who thinks seriously about our society, ourselves, and the world in which we live.

"I wish this book had been around when I was an atheist and started to seek God. It's a no-nonsense, practical, and insightful guide that will help all those on a quest for spiritual truth. If you're investigating whether there's any substance to the Christian faith, you must read this important book."--Lee Strobel, former award-winning legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and bestselling author of more than twenty books ***

In our post-Christian age, the old answers for skeptics are no longer cutting it. Why? Because they largely seek to answer the wrong questions. Our world is changing, and while the gospel never changes, the way we talk about it and learn about it must. Christianity for People Who Aren't Christians answers both classic and bleeding-edge questions that skeptics have about the faith, such as - Is there a God? - Why do the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus matter? - Why is there so much suffering in the world? - Why do Christians think there is only one way to know God? - How do I reconcile the Bible's picture of Christ's followers with the actual Christians I know who have disappointed me? Covering such topics as astrophysics, social justice, and acceptance of the LGBTQ community, this one-of-a-kind book is perfect for those skeptical of Christianity and for those who love them and want to keep the line of communication open.

Can you answer difficult questions about your Christian faith? Do you want to be more confident about what you believe and better able to talk to skeptics about Jesus? If so, then you must learn how to offer a rational defense for the Christian faith. With the lessons in this book, you will be able to share the gospel with anyone, in any situation. You will be able to answer questions like: How do you know God exist? How can you be sure that Jesus is the true God? How do you know the Bible is authentic? You will also find detailed instructions on how to engage a skeptic in conversation about God. The lessons in this book are more important than ever because we live in a skeptical culture that believes Christianity is intolerant, not the only path to God, dangerous to society, and based on blind faith and a flawed Bible. Are you ready to meet this challenge? Now is the time to prepare. As Christians, we must be able to answer tough questions and help others see the overwhelming truths about God, Jesus and the Bible.

Skepticism, Relativism, and Religious Knowledge shows where responses to skepticism and relativism by Karl Barth and Reformed

epistemology have led to impasses, and reconstructs their insights in a more robust response that does not depend on making excessive claims about our epistemic capacities. This response is based on a more nuanced conception of the relationship between trust, doubt, faith, and reason, and a Kierkegaardian perspective on religious knowledge that stresses the role of the will and the intellectual and theological virtues.

The Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®), developed and administered by the AAMC, is a standardized, multiple-choice examination created to help medical school admissions offices assess your problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of natural, behavioral, and social science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine. Preparing for the MCAT exam to become enter Medical College this year? Here We've brought 450+ Exam Questions for you so that you can prepare well for this MCAT exam. Unlike other online simulation practice tests, you get an eBook version that is easy to read & remember these questions. You can simply rely on these questions for successfully certifying this exam.

D. James Kennedy takes on some of the most-asked questions regarding the validity of the Christian faith in *Skeptics Answered*. In clear, unassuming language, Dr. Kennedy examines the reliability of the Bible, the nature of God, and Christian faith in the face of life's harsh realities. *Skeptics Answered* uses factual, well-reasoned arguments to affirm the faith of Christians everywhere. Ideal for both personal and group study, it makes an excellent gift for any non-believer who, as a matter of intellectual integrity, is willing to consider the clear evidence for the Christian faith.

In *10 Answers for Skeptics*, McFarland identifies the ten most common types of skepticism that plague doubters' minds and offers believers proven strategies for connecting intellectually and spiritually with those who are skeptical about the claims of Christianity. Today's skeptics are looking for authenticity, integrity, and straightforward truth. Readers will learn how to answer intimidating questions, identify the root issue behind those questions, and dismantle the "spiritual bombshells" dropped by atheists. Plus, they'll find encouragement to face hostility by persevering in love--the ultimate apologetic Christians can offer as witness to our loving God.

We live in a radically skeptical age. Tough questions are being asked about Christianity. And most believers are ill-equipped to provide the answers our culture and communities desperately need. Many in today's church do not know the Bible as well as they should and they struggle with their own "big questions" about the faith. After receiving more than four thousand questions at his Christian Thinkers Society events over the span of six years, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston began to recognize six categories of recurring, trending questions that dominated the rest. In *Unanswered*, he tackles these tough issues that plague the minds of believers but are rarely addressed in church, such as... Why is it that God often seems to remain silent? How can we trust in the bodily resurrection of Jesus, and what does it mean for us today? What do Christians need to understand about suicide and mental illness? How should Christians respond to spiritual darkness and the obsession with paranormal activity? Why is biblical illiteracy so dangerous for Christians and the church? Why do we experience suffering and pain? *Unanswered* will leave you enriched, characterized by a thinking faith, capable to communicate confidently, and committed to escape the tendency to offer trite answers to a skeptical world.

Speaking all over the United States about apologetics issues, Charlie Campbell has heard just about every question skeptics have to offer. In this concise, reader-friendly handbook, he provides brief responses to the top-40 questions that keep people from the faith, such as... What evidence do you have that God exists? How do you know the Bible is actually

true? What about those who have never heard of Jesus? Will they be condemned to hell? If God is so loving, why does He allow evil and suffering? How can you say Jesus is the only way to heaven? Don't all religions basically teach the same thing? Aren't a lot of churchgoers hypocrites? With a gracious introductory note to skeptical readers and a generous sprinkling of inspiring quotes throughout, this handy resource is an enjoyable read as well as a powerful evangelistic tool.

Though certainly not an original or novel topic of discussion, cellist, conductor, and curious thinker, Lee Richey, invites and encourages the reader to think, question, consider, and explore the specifics and meaning of their faith or philosophy - most specifically, belief in a Supreme Being. Hence, *A Supreme Question*. While offering no definitive conclusion, Richey combines personal perspectives, with the scholarly documentation of renown religious and scientific authors, in an attempt to help illuminate how and why humanity is drawn to religion, deities, God, science, evolution, or any combination. At the very least, he hopes to encourage a continued and respectful dialogue and debate.

Ecclesial Reform and Deform Movements in the South African Context is the fourth volume in a series on the interface between ecumenical theology and social transformation in the (South) African context. Ecclesial movements are amongst the most significant drivers of social transformation. The essays in this volume identify, describe and assess a variety of ecclesial movements. Such movements are often highly contested so that the same movement may be described by some as a reform movement and by others as a deform movement.

Leading religious and cultural commentator, Peter Berger, explores how and what we can believe in modern times. Deals clearly with questions such as 'Does God exist? What was so special about Jesus? How can one be Christian in a pluralistic society? Structured around key phrases from the Apostles' Creed. Draws on the Christian theological tradition and the work of other relevant thinkers, such as Freud and Simone Weil. The author takes the position of an open-minded sceptic, exploring his own beliefs.

Pastors are asked lots of questions about the Christian faith in fact, they are asked some very good questions. Like these: What convinces you that there is a God? Can God do anything? What's the difference between blind faith and reasonable faith? What's the point of praying? Can you explain God's timing? How can someone who has been really hurt extend God's grace? This book provides answers to these tough questions and many others as Dan takes a look at some of the more interesting and difficult questions that he has been asked in his many years of pastoral ministry and offers answers that are biblically sound, understandable, witty, and encouraging. You've probably asked some of these very good questions yourself.

Why does a good God allow evil to continue? Are there two creation accounts in Genesis? Is Jesus the only way? Isn't

Christianity just a crutch? Josh McDowell responds to these and 61 other most-asked questions!

Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466/67-1536) remains, for good reason, the best-known humanist of his time. He influenced reformers, philosophers, politicians, literati, legal scholars, educators, artists and musicians in his own as well as in later centuries and covered an astonishingly broad range of topics: war and peace, politics and human dignity, jurisdiction and philosophy of law, church music and homiletics, piety and common wisdom, style and manners, as well as questions of matrimony, gender and education. Indeed, Erasmus' thought continues to influence European intellectual history to this day. Christine Christ-von Wedel introduces Erasmus as a personality but also expands on his rich and multi-layered thinking and the struggles and longings in the age of Reformation characterised by his clashes with both Martin Luther and the Catholic establishment.

In our relativistic society, Christians more than ever are bombarded by tough questions about their faith. Author Paul Copan has observed that many of these questions emerge as "anti-truth claims" that are part of today's skeptical mindset. Christians defending their faith often hear slogans and questions such as: "It's all relative" "Everything is one with the Divine; all else is illusion" "The Gospels contradict each other" "Why would a good God create hell?" This book provides incisive answers to slogans related to truth and reality; theism, pantheism/Eastern religion, and naturalism; and doctrinal issues such as the incarnation and truth of Scripture. Each of the twenty-two chapters provides succinct answers and summary points for countering the arguments. Copan's book is accessible for all Christians who want to defend the plausibility of Christianity in the marketplace of ideas. It also includes helpful summary sections, additional resources, and additional documentation in the endnotes for review and discussion.

The most widely debated conception of democracy in recent years is deliberative democracy--the idea that citizens or their representatives owe each other mutually acceptable reasons for the laws they enact. Two prominent voices in the ongoing discussion are Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson. In *Why Deliberative Democracy?*, they move the debate forward beyond their influential book, *Democracy and Disagreement*. What exactly is deliberative democracy? Why is it more defensible than its rivals? By offering clear answers to these timely questions, Gutmann and Thompson illuminate the theory and practice of justifying public policies in contemporary democracies. They not only develop their theory of deliberative democracy in new directions but also apply it to new practical problems. They discuss bioethics, health care, truth commissions, educational policy, and decisions to declare war. In "What Deliberative Democracy Means," which opens this collection of essays, they provide the most accessible exposition of deliberative democracy to date. They show how deliberative democracy should play an important role even in the debates about military intervention abroad. *Why Deliberative Democracy?* contributes to our understanding of how democratic citizens and their representatives can make justifiable decisions for their society in the face of the fundamental disagreements that are inevitable in diverse societies. Gutmann and Thompson provide a balanced and fair-minded approach that will benefit anyone intent on giving reason and reciprocity a more prominent place in politics than power and special interests.

Most of us have a fundamental misunderstanding of love. We think it is about us. We believe it is about how someone or something makes us feel. When something or someone fails to give us the positive feeling we want, we move on and look for something else. This type of love requires little effort. By making it about us, and how we feel, we miss the many opportunities presented to us every day to have lasting and meaningful impact. To truly love is hard. It is not a feeling, but an action. It requires us to be intentional and outwardly focused on others rather than internally focused on our own feelings. When we love hard, our lives have real, meaningful, lasting, positive impact on the world around us. In *Love Hard*, Jason Wren uses stories from his and others' lives to show how all of us can learn to love hard and, thus, have significant and lasting impact.

Could you use help answering atheists, skeptics, and agnostics' top 50 objections and questions about God and the Bible? Objections like: "Why doesn't God just appear to us in a public setting and prove He exists?"* "The New Testament authors stole details for Jesus's life story from religions that were around long before Christianity!"* "The God of the Old Testament commanded the Israelites to commit genocide!"* "The Bible condones slavery! Only evil, selfish men would concoct a book like that!"* "You think Christianity is true because you live in the West and were brought up in the Christian faith. If you had been born in India, you'd be a Hindu!" Learn how these and other objections and questions can be answered in this updated and expanded edition of *One Minute Answers to Skeptics*. "Charlie Campbell's books and materials are incredible-beautifully illustrated, thoroughly researched, and very well written. He is an apologist extraordinaire! Don't miss his stuff-it will stretch your mind, stir your soul, and bless your heart."-Dr. Ed Hindson, Distinguished Professor of Religion at Liberty University and Gold Medallion award-winning author of 40 books

The authors of this volume rethink our usual understanding of the relationship between faith, belief and skepticism. For some, skeptical faith is an oxymoron and faith and skepticism are mutually exclusive states or attitudes. Others argue that there is no proper faith without skepticism about faith. Taking John Schellenberg's recent work on the possibility of a skeptical faith as a starting point, the authors respond to and in some cases seek to go further than Schellenberg. In a variety of ways, the papers take up the following questions: How are we to construe the relationship between faith, belief, and skepticism if we seek to understand what is characteristic of a life of faith, or of unfaith? Is belief in God necessary for faith in God to be possible? Does one need to have sufficient reasons for believing something before one is rationally entitled to having faith in something? In short, what is the relationship between faith and belief, belief and understanding, understanding and experience, and experience and skepticism?

The Will to Imagine completes J. L. Schellenberg's trilogy in the philosophy of religion, following his acclaimed *Prolegomena to a Philosophy of Religion* and *The Wisdom to Doubt*. This book marks a striking reversal in our understanding of the possibility of religious faith. Where other works treat religious skepticism as a dead end, *The Will to Imagine* argues that skepticism is the only point from which a proper beginning in religious inquiry—and in religion itself—can be made. For Schellenberg, our immaturity as a species not only makes justified religious belief impossible but also provides the appropriate context for a type of faith response grounded in imagination rather than belief, directed not to theism but to ultimism, the heart of religion. This new and nonbelieving form of faith, he demonstrates, is quite capable of nourishing an authentic religious life while allowing for inquiry into ways of refining the generic idea that shapes its commitments. A singular feature of Schellenberg's book is his claim, developed in detail, that unsuccessful believers' arguments can successfully be recast as arguments for imaginative faith. Out of the rational failure of traditional forms of religious belief, *The Will to Imagine* fashions an unconventional form of religion better fitted, Schellenberg argues, to the human species as it exists today and as we may hope it will evolve.

The Yearbook of the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies mirrors the annual activities of visiting fellows, staff, and affiliates of the Maimonides Centre of Advanced Studies—Jewish Scepticism, Universität Hamburg. Its main section contains scholarly articles about Judaism and scepticism, both individually and together, among different thinkers and within different areas of study. Each volume of the Yearbook also includes a section with an overview of the activities and events conducted at MCAS during a given academic year, as well as a report on its library.

Communication Strategies for Engaging Climate Skeptics examines the intersection of climate skepticism and Christianity and proposes strategies for engaging climate skeptics in productive conversations. Despite the scientifically established threats of climate change, there remains a segment of the American population that is skeptical of the scientific consensus on climate change and the urgent need for action. One of the most important stakeholders and conversants in environmental conversations is the religious community. While existing studies have discussed environmentalism as a factor within the religious community, this book positions religion as an important factor in environmentalism and focuses on how identities play a role in environmental conversation. Rather than thinking of religious skeptics as a single unified group, Emma Frances Bloomfield argues that it is essential to recognize there are different types of skeptics so that we can better tailor our communication strategies to engage with them on issues of the environment and climate change. To do so, this work breaks skeptics down into three main types: "separators," "bargainers," and "harmonizers." The book questions monolithic understandings of climate skepticism and considers how competing narratives such as religion, economics, and politics play a large role in climate communication. Considering recent political moves to remove climate change from official records and withdraw from international environmental agreements, it is imperative now more than ever to offer practical solutions to academics, practitioners, and the public to change the conversation. To address these concerns, this book provides both a theoretical examination of the rhetoric of religious climate skeptics and concrete strategies for engaging the religious community in conversations about the environment. This book will be of great interest to students, scholars, and practitioners of climate change science, environmental communication, environmental policy, and religion.

Analyses of the dynamics of change present in Europe are not complete without taking into account the role and function of the critical approach as a founding element of European culture. An appreciation of critical thinking must go hand-in-hand with reflection on its essence, forms, and centuries-long tradition. The European philosophical tradition has thematized the problem of criticism since its appearance. This book contains articles on the history of philosophical criticism and ways that it has been understood in European thought. Individual chapters contain both historical-philosophical and problem-oriented analyses, indicating the relationships between philosophical criticism and rationalism, logic, scepticism, atheism, dialectic procedure, and philosophical counseling, among others. Philosophical reflection on critical thinking allows for an acknowledgment of its significance in the fields of epistemology, philosophy of politics, aesthetics, methodology, philosophy of language, and cultural theory. The book should interest not only humanities scholars, but also scholars in other fields, as the development of an anti-dogmatic critical approach is a lasting and indispensable challenge for all disciplines.

Does human life have any significance? The statements below have become widely accepted in the Western world: -Life

is the accidental product of random events. -The laws of physics are totally deterministic. -Science does not accept a connection between physical matter and human consciousness. -Atheism is a conclusion from evidence while faith is speculation. -Science and faith are incompatible. -Suffering contradicts the existence of a loving, omnipotent God. -Jesus was a compilation of pagan mythologies or a human teacher who was deified. But do these statements represent eternal truths? Are they logical conclusions based on established facts or merely opinions? What is the evidence? To investigate these and other questions of existence and faith, a skeptical academic objectively explored relevant aspects of philosophy, mythology, history, archaeology, cosmology, quantum physics, biochemistry, and various faiths that finally led to investigation of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures (including the Dead Sea Scrolls and the gnostic gospels). The findings of this research not only challenge many modern assumptions but also have significant implications for our understanding of reality. Written with minimum technicality for general readership, this book presents a wide range of interesting and carefully confirmed facts relevant to the above questions. Whether you are an atheist or an agnostic, a Christian, or a follower of another faith, or have simply not been interested, this investigation provides valuable and surprising insights into the nature of the universe and our place in it.

As we begin the third millennium there is cause for cautious optimism regarding the human prospect. Democratic revolutions and the doctrine of universal human rights have captured the imagination of large sectors of humanity, while major advances in science and technology continue to conquer disease and extend life, contributing to rising standards of living, affluence, and cultural freedom on a worldwide basis. Paradoxically, at the same time ancient authoritarian fundamentalist religions have grown in vitriolic intensity along with bizarre New Age, media-driven paranormal belief systems. Also surprising is the resurgence of primitive tribal and ethnic loyalties, unleashing wars of intolerance and bitterness. In *Skepticism and Humanism*, Paul Kurtz locates these threatening developments within a long-standing and largely unchallenged theological worldview. He proposes, as an alternative to religion, a new cultural paradigm rooted in scientific naturalism, rationalism, and a humanistic outlook. An estimated 60 percent of scientists are atheists or agnostics. However, the skeptical world view has been given little currency even in advanced societies, because of a cultural prohibition against the criticism of religion. At the same time, science has become increasingly narrow and specialized so that few people can draw on its broader intellectual and cultural implications. *Skepticism and Humanism* attempts to meet this need. It defends skepticism as a method for developing reliable knowledge by using scientific inquiry and reason to test all claims to truth. It also defends scientific naturalism—an evolutionary view of nature, life, and the human species. Kurtz sees the dominant religious doctrines as drawn from an agricultural/nomadic past, and emphasizes the need for a new outlook applicable to the postindustrial information age. At the same time, he rejects

postmodernism for abandoning science and embracing a form of nihilism. There can be no doubt that as a new global civilization emerges, scientific naturalism, rationalism, and secular humanism have something significant to say about the meaning of life. Skepticism and Humanism shows how they can to foster democratic values and social prosperity. The book will be important for philosophers, scientists, and all those concerned with contemporary issues. Paul Kurtz taught at Trinity College, Vassar College, and State University of New York at Buffalo. He is founder of Prometheus Books, a major publisher of philosophical works. He is the author of some thirty books including *Toward a New Enlightenment* (available from Transaction) *Humanist Manifesto 2000*, and *A Secular Humanist Declaration*. He is chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and editor-in-chief of *Free Inquiry* magazine. The contemporary world is witness to an intense controversy about secularism. This controversy has intensified due to the presence of fundamentalism, which challenges secular society and the secularization of philosophical ideas and ethical values. Secularists maintain that the state should not impose a religious creed upon citizens and should respect freedom of conscience, the right to believe or disbelieve in the prevailing orthodoxy. This right is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the US Constitution and the Rights of Man enunciated in the French Revolution. Yet many powerful religious institutions do not accept this principle. Paul Kurtz argues that secularism needs to be allied to the emergence of democratic institutions that respect individual freedom and the pluralistic society. He argues that a defense of secularism entails a defense of the civic virtues of democracy, which include the toleration of dissent and alternative lifestyles and the willingness to negotiate differences. Consequently, secularism will take different forms in different societies; the term multi-secularism best describes that. Many people believe that it is impossible to maintain a moral order without the support of religion. Kurtz vigorously denies that, and this volume attempts to explicate the values and principles of secular morality, which he sees as the cornerstone of the open democratic society. Kurtz was involved in the campaign for secularism throughout his career as a philosopher. This book reflects his participation in this battle and extends his thinking to new areas.

Share Your Faith Effectively in a Cynical and Skeptical Age Talking about faith with friends and family members can be a daunting prospect. What do you say if they have questions you can't answer or if they're outright hostile toward God? Actually, you don't have to have all the right answers, just the right questions--and a willingness to listen. As trust and understanding grow, the door to fruitful dialogue will open. *How to Talk to a Skeptic* shows you how to:

- Ask probing questions and avoid being on the defensive in spiritual conversations.
- Tell God's story of the world in a winsome and easily understood way.
- Gently respond to the most common misunderstandings skeptics have about God.

Here's a natural, relational approach to evangelism and a proven way to reach out to an unbelieving world.

Reproduction of the original: Nineteenth Century Questions by James Freeman Clarke

This book is an exercise in philosophical criticism. What I criticize are some variations on a recurrent theme in religious thought: the theme that faith and reason are so disparate that faith is not undermined, but strengthened, if we judge that reason can give it no support. The common name for this view is Fideism. Those representatives of it that I have chosen to discuss do more, however, than insist on keeping faith free of the alleged contaminations of philosophical argument. They consider the case for Fideism to be made even stronger if one judges that reason cannot give us truth or assurance outside the sphere of faith any more than within it. In other words, they sustain their Fideism by an appeal to Skepticism. I call them, therefore, Skeptical Fideists. Skeptical Fideism is not a mere historical curiosity. Richard Popkin has shown us how wide its impact in the formative period of modern philosophy has been; and its impact on modern theological and apologetic reasoning has been immense. In my view, anyone who wishes to assess many of the assumptions current in the theologies of our time has to take account of it; I think, therefore, that there is a topical value in examining the figures whose views I discuss here - Erasmus, Montaigne, Bayle, and more importantly, Pascal and Kierkegaard.

Today the faith of Christians is being undermined daily. A relentless stream of secular attacks from supposedly solid science has put many Christians on the defensive. Whether the argument is about evolution, history, or theology, every believer must be able to provide an answer for the hope that is within them. But you don't have to be an expert to respond effectively when confronted about your faith. Quick Answers to Tough Questions gives you quick and concise answers to the tough questions that are often posed to believers regarding: Creation and evolution Age of the earth and Noah's Ark Death and suffering Origin of life and missing links. Biblical history and a biblical worldview help us to understand the past, present, and future. Too many believers have fallen victim to those who say that the Bible's history is false or that science has disproved it. Equip yourself to address the skeptical questions and comments of believers and unbelievers alike and successfully stand strong in your defense of the inerrancy and truth of God's Word.

Short Answers to Life's Biggest Questions is designed to zoom in on the hard and complex questions of our time that intersect with Christian faith, then provide short yet substantial responses to each. Sadly, many of these questions have not only become no-go zones in today's culture, but also in the Christian community. It is not only people outside the Christian faith who are skeptical of finding answers within the church walls; it is Christians themselves who are not sure where to turn. Short Answers to Life's Biggest Questions is intent on bringing clarity to those questions of faith and thereby showing that not only does Christianity hold the answers, it also offers something of transcendent beauty to our complex and confusing times.

All too often Christians, and even Christian leaders, don't know how to deal with skeptical challenges of the Bible and the Christian faith. Few churches address the historical questions about the Bible and the theological questions concerning the God who, believers claim, has inspired the Bible. Too often Christian scholarship has been kept at arm's length and even viewed with suspicion by the church. Speaking

and writing in this kind of environment, Bart Ehrman—professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and author of four New York Times bestsellers—has found a captive audience. Ehrman's popularity is due in large part to the fact that he is talking about things most people never learned about in church. Some have long given up on Christianity, and Ehrman is only reinforcing their decision to depart from their Christian upbringing. Others are trying to reconcile their faith with rational arguments and find Ehrman's books both interesting and disturbing if not appealing. *Truth in a Culture of Doubt* takes a closer look at the key arguments skeptical scholars such as Ehrman keep repeating in radio interviews, debates, and in his their popular writings. If you are looking for insightful responses to critical arguments from a biblical perspective, easily accessible and thoughtfully presented, this book is for you. This is the first book to provide a comprehensive response to Ehrman's popular works. It is presented in such a way that readers can either read straight through the book or use it as a reference when particular questions arise. Responding to skeptical scholars such as Ehrman, *Truth in a Culture of Doubt* takes readers on a journey to explain topics such as the Bible's origins, the copying of the Bible, alleged contradictions in Scripture, and the relationship between God and evil. Written for all serious students of Scripture, this book will enable you to know how to respond to a wide variety of critical arguments raised against the reliability of Scripture and the truthfulness of Christianity.

What if we changed the face of evangelism? In a time when so many have a negative perception of evangelism, what if a new model was entirely biblical, loaded with skills, and more effective? *Soul Whisperer* shifts the emphasis from "telling" to a "drawing" paradigm. It develops biblically the pattern of Jesus, who did not give static presentations but rather customized his words to each hearer. By learning his ways, our words, too, can have pinpointed impact! Christians will discover how to draw out first, in order to read their friends and discern the relevant appeal of the gospel. In this way, the style is far more dynamic. It adapts! Understanding the non-believer's unique starting point will determine a distinct path. By creating a conversation about spiritual influence and what is involved in faith formation, this book charts ways for Christians to go deeper in evangelistic relationships. Most importantly, *Soul Whisperer* infuses skills that will shape a more Christ-likened missional disciple.

Finding the answers to hard questions in a skeptical age

For more than three decades, philosopher Paul Kurtz has been a strong advocate of skepticism, not only as a philosophical position, but also as a fulfilling way of life. Contrary to the view that skepticism is merely a negative, nay saying, or debunking stance toward commonly held beliefs, skepticism as defined by Kurtz emerges reborn as "skeptical inquiry"—a decidedly positive philosophy ready and able to change the world. In this definitive collection, editor John R. Shook has gathered together seventeen of Paul Kurtz's most penetrating and insightful writings. Altogether these essays build an affirmative case for what can be known based on sound common sense, reason, and scientific method. And as each essay cogently and convincingly explains, so much can be known, from the natural world around us to the moral responsibilities among us. The work is organized in four topical sections. In the first, "Reasons to Be Skeptical," Kurtz presents compelling reasons why the methods of inquiry used by the sciences deserve respect. In short, science provides reliable knowledge, without which humanity would never have emerged from the age of myth and widespread ignorance. In the second section, "Skepticism and the Non-Natural," Kurtz shows how skeptical inquiry can be fruitfully used to critique both paranormal claims and religious worldviews. He also investigates whether science and religion can be compatible. In the third section, "Skepticism in the Human World," he considers how skeptical inquiry can be applied to politics, ethics, and pursuit of the good life. Realizing the essential connections between scientific knowledge, technological power, and social progress, Kurtz has understood, as few philosophers ever have, how the methods of intelligence

can be applied to all areas of human endeavor. The book concludes with Kurtz's authoritative reflections on the skeptical movement that he founded and has led. As he explains, the forces of blind faith and stubborn unreason still fight for control of the mind, so the skeptic can never rest. If there is a brighter future for humanity, a future in which every person enjoys a realistic opportunity for the pursuit of excellence, Kurtz's 'exuberant skepticism' can show us the way.

Life is hard . . . then you die. It's as simple as that. Dead bodies stay dead. So in this modern, scientific age, how can any reasonable person possibly believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead? Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy turned out to be myths. How is Jesus's Resurrection any different? How can there possibly be any credible evidence for an event that happened two thousand years ago? The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in the history of the world—if it's true. If Jesus did rise, then he is God, the ultimate reality itself. In him, you can find the meaning of life, the secret of happiness, and the way to eternal life. Raising Jesus provides the evidence to show that it really is true. In this era of "alternative facts," Raising Jesus relies on the most balanced and up-to-date scholarship to shed trustworthy new insights into the evidence. It does this in an easy-to-follow, systematic way using engaging illustrations to reveal the logic of complex arguments. Most importantly, it deals head on with the biggest problem most people in our modern, scientific age have with the resurrection: the philosophical objection that dead people simply don't come back from the dead. Raising Jesus ultimately shows how believing Jesus rose from the dead is, in fact, the most reasonable conclusion you can make.

Finding the answers to hard questions in a skeptical age.

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