

# LAYMEN MINISTRIES

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THERE IS NO GOD | GOD'S HAND IS ALL OVER IT!

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# THERE IS NO GOD!

“There is no God!” was one motto for the Communist party in the old Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, often referred to as the Soviet Union. It is amazing how many people still buy into this motto — even today.

On social media, people post memes that mock God and religion and make grand sweeping statements that attempt to justify disbelief in God.



statues or The 10 Commandments on public lands must be removed. “God” is a sticky subject in a lot of places.

I have been asked,

And in our country today, there is a strong agenda to eradicate God from our society. Universities have become hotbeds of atheism and even pro-Communism. Some professors have an agenda to turn Christian youth into atheists. If you are a Christian professor, you must keep quiet or lose your job and be blacklisted for employment at other places of “higher learning.” Any mention of God in the form of

“How can you believe in God?” more than once. Or this: “If there really is a God, why did He let this happen?” The questioner may then go on to tell some story of a person who died, or lost their home, or child, or job, or some other terrible thing. Some point at the Crusades or the persecution of people by the Catholic Church during the Dark Ages and say, “And this is Christianity! Who wants to believe in some evil like that?”

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I know people raised in “Christian” families who attended Catholic, Baptist and even Adventist schools and had bad experiences, which totally turned them off from accepting God and having anything to do with religion. A friend of my wife’s since grade school, a woman who grew up going to Catholic schools, said, “If heaven is going to have some of those people there for eternity, I do not want to be there! That would be hell.” I had to think about that one.

Is there a case against God? Yes. Are there seemingly unanswered prayers? Yes. Do bad things sometimes happen to good people? Yes. Has religion sometimes distorted the true view of God? Yes. Are all these things evidence that there is no God? No!

Are there enough excuses to be found to justify not believing in God? Yes. Are there enough evidences in this mess of a world to testify that there really is a God? YES! There are no clear answers for many things that happen in life. There are enough things that give the skeptic a reason to be skeptical, a doubter to doubt, and an unbeliever to not believe. Yet if you look with an eye of faith, there are plenty of reasons, yes, evidences, to prove that God does exist and that He is very active in all our lives.

The Bible says: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). When we talk about substance, we are talking about something real and tangible when it comes to things we hope for. But more than that, there is adequate evidence, or even signs, to prove that these unseen things are true. Simply put — TANGIBLE PROOF.

### **OK —HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?**

One of my best friends is an emergency room doctor. This guy has seen it all — some of the worst things you can imagine. Yet he believes in

God. There are times where someone like him might say, “Why did God let that happen?” Yet God has revealed Himself in many ways, despite the bad things we often see.

My friend’s mother was having health problems and it was discovered that she had lymphoma. To be sure the diagnosis was correct, her doctor ordered a CAT scan. Unfortunately, they found lymph node clusters in the diaphragm area of her chest. My doctor friend realized how serious this situation was for his mom.

The local pastor and a couple of elders decided, after hearing about the diagnosis, to have an anointing at his mother’s home. They came and prayed with her and anointed her with oil.

Later that week, her physician decided to order a positron emission tomography scan. These are sometimes referred to as PET scans. These imaging tests help reveal how your tissues and organs are functioning. A radioactive tracer is used to show abnormal activity and is much more comprehensive than x-ray or CAT scan. The doctor was a bit shocked when he found there were no signs of lymphoma at all! The clusters were completely gone!

This is a factual story that happened to close personal friends. I know both the mother and her son (my ER doctor friend), and they both live just a few miles from me. How does an atheist explain such a seemingly impossible reversal?

Yes, there are plenty of hooks to hang your doubts on, but there are also substantial evidences of God working in the midst of all this sin and suffering in the world. As I look back through my life, I see so many times where prayer was answered or a providential meeting took place where the right person was at the right place at the right time.

## STRANDED

One winter night, I was driving by myself from North Idaho to Walla Walla, Washington, to attend a Christmas program my two eldest daughters were to be a part of. They were attending a small, private, Christian school at the time. There was snow on the ground, and the temperature was around 20 degrees.

I was way out in the middle of nowhere, climbing out of the Snake River Canyon, when my car shifted down and then BANG! The motor revved up, and the car began slowing. I realized that my automatic transmission had just blown!

I coasted to the side of the road. There was no shoulder, so the car was literally tipped on the steep gravel embankment. As I sat there, realizing there was hardly anyone out that night on the roads, I kind of smiled and said under my breath in the form of a prayer, "Well, Lord, how are You going to get me out of this one?!"

I opened my eyes and looked in the rearview mirror. I saw a pair of headlights way off in the distance, down the canyon by the bridge that crosses the Snake River, and they were coming my way. I got out of my car, locked the door, and stuck my thumb out as the car approached.

I will never forget that old Subaru Wagon. The guy driving had a snarly beard and a cigarette in his mouth. The ashtray in the car was overflowing with cigarette butts. I started chit-chatting with him and learned that he was going halfway to Walla Walla. Well, at least I would get halfway!

"Where ya from?" he wanted to know.

"St. Maries, Idaho," I replied.

"Hey, do you know a Rose Marie and Ernie Tiffany who live down there?"

I was a bit surprised. "Yes, they go to the same church I go to."

"Ya, I am related to them," he chuckled. "At the family reunions, they always bring that funny fake meat stuff. I kind of like it, too."

We talked for a while. Then he said, "Well, that was where I was supposed to turn off, but you are almost family — I'll take ya in to Walla Walla."

We pulled up to the school where the Christmas program was being held. I thanked my new friend and offered him some money, which he graciously refused. As I walked in the door, the Christmas program was just ready to start.

How does one explain that experience? Yes, God sometimes looks down and smiles upon us. One person said, "Well, what would you say if you had gotten beat and robbed that night?" If that was God's will, so be it. There is a reason for everything. Bad things happen in this imperfect world. But God showed me one more time that I can trust Him, that He is really there, that there is substance of things hoped for, evidences of things not seen.

## TAKE INVENTORY

Sit down and ask God to bring to your mind the many times He has been there for you and has revealed Himself clearly. Write those events down. Recount these experiences one-by-one. Don't forget them. You will find that God is amazing!

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:10-12). ♦

