

KEY BOOKS

- For those seeking spiritual truth and checking out the Claims of Christ
- For those wanting to learn how to share their faith with others

1. JOSH MCDOWELL, Thomas Nelson Publishers

Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Vol. I

Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Vol. II

The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict (combines above 2 volumes)

More Than a Carpenter

A Ready Defense

Josh McDowell is an internationally known speaker, author, and traveling representative for Campus Crusade for Christ. A graduate of Wheaton College and Talbot Theological Seminary, he has written more than forty-five books.

Before presenting the clear case for Christianity, he exposes the myths and misconceptions that obscure the vision of many people:

- Blind Faith --
many believe that you must have to commit intellectual suicide to become a Christian
- Sincerity is not enough --
Many people today advocate a type of tolerance that leaves no room for absolute, objective truth. They conclude: "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe it enough."
- The Bible is full of myths --
There is an obvious difference between the events recorded about Christ in the bible and the stories conveyed in Greek mythology that bear a vague similarity. The similar stories, such as resurrections, and others, of Greek mythology were not applied to real flesh-and-blood individuals, but instead to non-historical, fictional, mythological characters. However, when it comes to Christianity, these events are attached to the historic Jesus of Nazareth whom the New Testament writers knew personally.
- The Jesus of History is Unknowable --
When people start with modern presuppositions (there is no God; we live in a closed system; miracles are not possible; no supernatural power exists; etc.) it is no surprise that they cannot perform objective historical investigation.

2. J. I. PACKER, InterVarsity Press

Knowing God (the nature and character of God)

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

Keep in Step with the Spirit

J. I. Packer has been professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College in Vancouver.

Five basic truths, five foundation-principles of the knowledge about God which Christians have, guide the study in *Knowing God*:

- God has spoken to man, and the Bible is His Word, given to us to make us wise unto salvation.
- God is Lord and King over His world; He rules all things for His own glory, displaying His perfections in all that he does, in order that men and angels may worship and adore Him.
- God is Saviour, active in sovereign love through the Lord Jesus Christ to rescue believers from the guilt and power of sin, to adopt them as his sons, and to bless them accordingly.
- God is Triune; there are within the Godhead three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and the work of salvation is one in which all three act together, the Father purposing redemption, the Son securing it, and the Spirit applying it.
- Godliness means responding to God's revelation in trust and obedience, faith and worship, prayer and praise, submission and service. Life must be seen and lived in the light of God's Word. This, and nothing else, is true religion.

3. PAUL E. LITTLE, InterVarsity Press

Know Why You Believe

How to Give Away Your Faith

Paul E. Little served as a staff evangelist with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship from 1950 until his death in 1975. He was also associate professor of evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Deals with the fundamental questions:

- Is Christianity rational?
- Is there a God?
- Is Jesus Christ God?
- Did Christ rise from the dead?
- Is the Bible God's word?
- Are the Bible documents reliable?
- Does archaeology help?
- Are miracles possible?
- Do science and scripture conflict?
- Why does God allow suffering and evil?
- Does Christianity differ from other religions?
- Is Christian experience valid?

4. JERRY BRIDGES, NavPress, a ministry of the Navigators

The Pursuit of Holiness

The Practice of Godliness

Trusting God

Transforming Grace

Jerry Bridges is Vice President for Corporate Affairs of the Navigators. He grew up in Tyler, Texas, and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. While serving as an officer in the United States Navy, Jerry came in contact with the Navigators and soon felt God's call on his life to that ministry. He has served on The Navigators' staff since 1955.

Regarding *Transforming Grace*:

My observation of Christendom is that most of us tend to base our personal relationship with God on our performance instead of on His grace. If we've performed well – whatever "well" is in our opinion – then we expect God to bless us. If we haven't done so well, our expectations are reduced accordingly. In this sense, we live by works rather than by grace. We are saved by grace, but we are living by the "sweat" of our own performance.

Moreover, we are always challenging ourselves and one another to "try harder." We seem to believe success in the Christian life (however we define "success") is basically up to us: our commitment, our discipline, and our zeal, with some help from God along the way. We give lip service to the attitude of the apostle Paul, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (I Corinthians 15:10), but our unspoken motto is, "God helps those who help themselves."

The realization that my daily relationship with God is based on the infinite merit of Christ instead of on my own performance is a very freeing and joyous experience. But it is not meant to be a one-time experience; the truth needs to be reaffirmed daily. That is what this book is all about.

5. PHILIP YANCEY, Zondervan

The Jesus I Never Knew

Where is God When It Hurts?

Disappointment with God

The Gift Nobody Wants

Philip Yancey serves as editor-at-large for Christianity Today magazine.

Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work – his teaching, his miracles, his death and resurrection – and ultimately, who he was and why he came. Relating the gospel events to the world we live in today, *The Jesus I Never Knew* gives a moving and refreshing portrait of the central figure of history. With a willingness to tackle difficult questions, Yancey looks at the radical words of this itinerant Jewish carpenter and asks whether we are taking him seriously enough in our own day and age.

From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith.

The Jesus I New Knew uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying.

6. CHUCK SWINDOLL

Living on the Ragged Edge, Word Publishing

Living Above the Level of Mediocrity – A Commitment to Excellence

Improving Your Serve

Strengthening Your Grip

Dropping Your Guard

Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life

Charles R. Swindoll, senior pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, California, is also known for his conference ministries and his radio program, “Insight for Living.”

Living on the Ragged Edge is about COMING TO TERMS WITH REALITY How empty life can be ... how disillusioning . . . how downright depressing! Yet, in all his under-the-sun counsel, Solomon finally comes back to the most foundational of all realities, the living God. You will feel as though someone has *been* looking through your journal as the pages of Ecclesiastes are unfolded. But best of all, you will realize that living on the ragged edge of life brings no satisfaction, no lasting pleasure. To find that, we must move above the sun into a vital relationship with the Son.

7. LARRY MOODY & KENNETH BOA, SEARCH MINISTRIES, Chariot Victor Books

I'm Glad You Asked

Larry is the President of Search Ministries, a ministry to adults that seeks to equip the laity in the area of lifestyle evangelism and discipleship. As President, Larry co-labors with 46 staff in 32 cities throughout the United States, speaking weekly in a variety of settings from Sunday schools, evangelism seminars, Bible studies and outreach studies. Since 1981, Larry has served as the Bible study leader for the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour and presently serves on the boards of five other Christ-honoring organizations.

Everything your friends wanted to know about Christianity and you were afraid they'd ask:
Such questions as:

- How can you be sure there really is a God?
- What basis is there for believing in miracles?

- Isn't Christianity just a psychological crutch for weak people?
- The Bible is full of errors and myths – how can you believe it?
- If God is good, how can evil and suffering exist?
- Isn't it narrow-minded to claim that Christ is the only way to God?
- What about people who never heard of Christ – will they be condemned?
- How can Christianity be true when its adherents are so phony and hypocritical?

How many times have you been placed in an uncomfortable situation when faced with skeptical questions about Christianity? You know Christianity is true, but you are unable to communicate the truth effectively.

The Apostle Peter told us to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks us about the hope that is in us. *I'm Glad You Asked* can help you become that able defender of the faith. This classic book, first published in 1982, explains the alternatives to the Christian position and then demonstrates why the Christian world view is valid. It provides answers to the basic questions people ask and guides you logically through these questions with helpful flow charts. And it shows, most importantly, how each objection is really an opportunity to present the Gospel.

8. LEE STROBEL

The Case for Christ

The Case for Faith

Lee Strobel was as an award-winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune and an avowed atheist when he first investigated the greatest news story of all -- the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, in *The Case for Christ*, he presents compelling evidence and expert testimony for the claims of Christianity. As a seasoned journalist with a Yale law background, Strobel systematically tracks down his leads and asks the blunt, tough questions you would want to ask -- questions that can make or break the Christian faith. He refuses contrived, simplistic answers. Instead, he pieces together hard facts through interviews with a dozen of the country's top scholars.

The Case for Christ reads like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting journey to the truth about the most remarkable event in history: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And it's a revealing, personal testimony to his power to transform people yet today -- even the most case-hardened, cynical journalist.

Lee Strobel, with a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School, was an award-winning journalist for thirteen years at the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers. He was a spiritual skeptic until 1981 and then had his own encounter with Christ. Lee and his wife live in West Dundee, Illinois.