

PERSONAL EVANGELISM #12 - DEALING WITH THE SKEPTIC

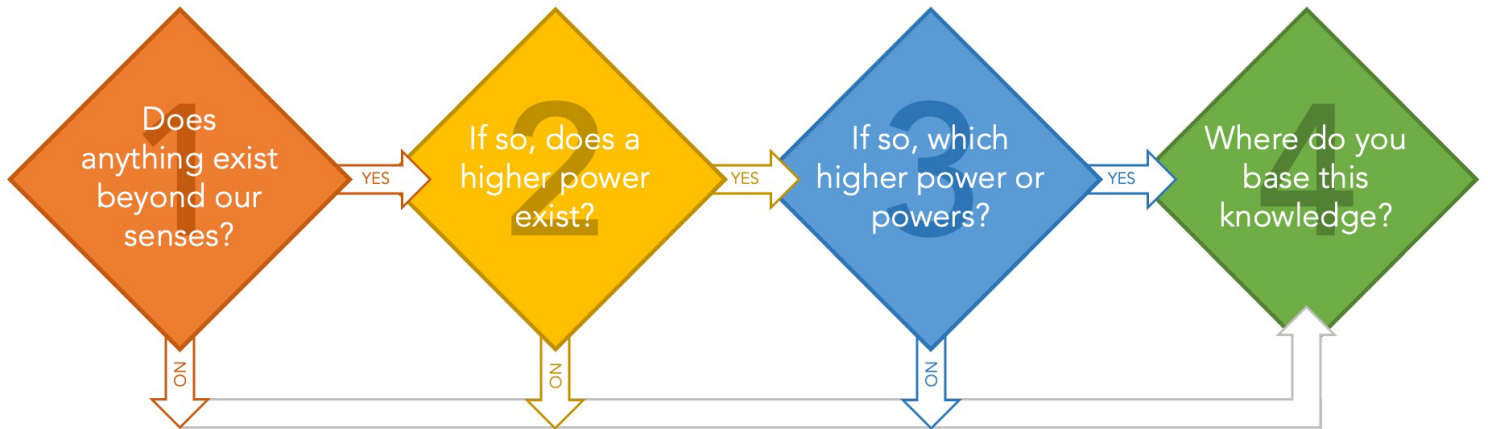
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

The world says, "If I see, then I will believe," but God says, "If you believe, then you will see." A true skeptic questions, a scorner has a closed and a mind made up against God.

- I. "THE GOSPEL ALL SEEMS SO FOOLISH/CHILDISH TO ME"
 - A. It IS foolishness (God says so!) 1 COR. 1:18
 - 1. Preaching your opinion never works ("I say")
 - 2. Preaching the Gospel changes lives! ("God says")
 - 3. Not empty or without legal binding ISA. 55:11
 - B. It isn't a question of sight but faith 1 COR. 2:14
 - 1. It is understandable to struggle in man's wisdom
 - 2. It is a matter of the soul ROM. 10:9-10
 - C. Salvation by grace: Distinct from religion JOHN 7:46
- II. "I TRIED BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE"
 - A. It could be that the mind is blinded to the truth
 - 1. If there is a God, then there is a devil
 - 2. If there is a devil, then he blinds 2 COR. 4:3-4
 - B. Believing has many facets (knowledge/repentance/faith)
 - 1. Not intellectual but TRUST (Getting on a plane)
 - 2. There can be only one source of faith ROM. 10:17
- III. "I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS A GOD"
 - A. The evidence of General Revelation proves it PSA. 19:1
 - B. The evidence of Special Revelation proves it JOHN 1:1
 - C. God takes GREAT PAINS to reveal Himself ROM. 1:19-22
- IV. "I DON'T BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD"
 - A. Yet He says His Word will never pass away MATT. 24:35
 - 1. Soviets - Nazis - Muslims: They've all tried!
 - 2. Bible: The anvil that has broken every hammer!
 - B. Prophecies / Construction unlike any other book
- V. "I DON'T BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD"
 - A. No one else did the works of Jesus JOHN 15:24
 - B. The ONLY name that matters LUKE 16:19 / ACTS 4:12

CONCLUSION: Discern the difference between the skeptic and the scorner. A skeptic may be convinced but probably not a scorner.

MEETING AT THE POINT OF DISBELIEF



We must be better at discovering where a person might be in relation to the Gospel. Dr. Pat Briney (University of Arkansas, Microbiology) instructs using these four questions.

He calls these his Four Presuppositions of Paradigms. While slightly in their wording, and these questions might be thought of as “four worldview filtering” questions. When speaking to someone about spiritual things, we must be on the alert to catch clues towards answering these questions. Jesus Christ used very similar questions with the Samaritan Woman at the Well. In some cases, but certainly not always, we may even ask them directly!

1. Does anything exist beyond our senses?
2. If so, does a higher power exist?
3. If so, which higher power (or powers)?
4. If so, where do you base this knowledge?

Call it meeting a person at the point of their disbelief.