

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, text **FHNew** to **53123** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church, or stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium.**

You can also fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the back of the chair in front of you. If you have a prayer request, this is a good place to write it out and place in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, text **FHBaptism** to **53123** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- [Moms groups](#) (links)
- [Bible Recap](#) – read through the Bible
- [Men's Boot Camp](#) – May 2-5
- [Women's Worship Night](#) – “Handcrafted With Purpose” – April 19

INTRODUCTION

Foothills is not your average church. It is not for the “cultural” Christian. It is different because our purpose is to coach people up in their faith. Regardless if you are a non-believer, a new believer, a growing believer, a mature believer, our goal is to coach you up to take the next step on your faith. This is called **discipleship**.

If you want to learn, to grow, to get stronger, discover healing and wholeness, courage and confidence to grow or clarify what you believe and why you believe it, then Foothills is the place for you.

This series is one of the most challenging series we have ever done. We are doing this series because I want you to develop **mental strength**. I want you to be strong, mature, solid.

“Thinking is difficult, therefore let the herd pronounce judgment! ~Carl Jung, CW 10, Page 344, Para 652.

Here’s the challenge: Most of us have been trained to think in a way that makes us **weak**. It undermines our confidence. Therefore, we must be trained to think in a new way.

The path to mental strength, intellectual confidence, and security in the direction of your life is all about your **foundation**. **Find and set your foundational intellectual stones** that are intellectually unassailable

1 Corinthians 14:20 *“Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.”*

Proofs: In logic, a **proof** is like a scientific fact

- In addition to the archeological evidence, the extent literature evidence, the historical evidence, this is **rational** evidence -- philosophical evidence that proves there is a God

Why is it so important to be able to prove there is a God?

- **It is the most important question you will ever ask**
- Your position on whether there is a God or not is the most important belief in your life -- it directs the nature of all your other beliefs
- **Jesus said: “The way to life is narrow and few are those who find it.” (Matt 7:14)**

What you believe is one of the most important things about you.

- **Socrates** said: “The unexamined life is not worth living.” So we are examining what we believe and why we believe it.
- **Jesus** said it differently and better in **Luke 14** when he said: *“In order to follow Me, you must first count the cost.”*

Clarifying what you believe requires you to answer the most important question first

- **Aristotle** phrased the question this way: “Why is there something instead of nothing?” to the most important question you will ever ask: “Is there a God?”
- **Atheists spend their time focused on the answer to this question**
 - I have never heard of a book called Atheists’ approach to a happy and full life
 - Or The atheists’ best business practices
 - Or Atheists’ Guide to French cooking
- **Your answer to this question forms the basis for all your other beliefs**

- By evaluating the rational proofs for the existence of God, we discover that what we believe is not irrational but rational
- You can be a skeptic of the proofs and still see the rationality of them
- Rational thinking builds a foundation of powerful convictions. If you want to be a real man or women of strength, then strengthen your convictions
- This is the point of this series: That you grow stronger – mentally, morally, rationally, with the ability to think for yourself, which results in a stronger emotional life

PROOF #1 (see last week's message): THE MORAL PROOF proves that God exists because all human beings are moral beings

- Stories of internet trolls

MAIN POINT: There are groups of people who spend their time trying to tell you that belief in God is irrational. I am here to drive a stake in the ground and say they are liars. They are irrational and when you evaluate their reasoning, their attempts at logic, their false use of language, and their inability to interact with simple basic proofs (without expressing extreme hatred), proves that their belief system is more of a religion than any reasonable expression of intelligence.

PROOF #2: COSMOLOGICAL PROOF

- Everything that begins to exist has a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore, the universe has a cause

The strength in this Proof:

1. **It is simple**
 - The most eloquent truths are simple and profound
 - Einstein's Theory of Relativity is eloquent
2. **It is built on scientific facts already proven**
 - Newton's **Laws of Physics**

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Newton’s First Law of Motion (Inertia)</p> | <p>An object at rest remains at rest, and an object in motion remains in motion at constant speed and in a straight line unless acted on by an unbalanced force.</p> |
| <p>2. Newton’s Second Law of Motion (Force)</p> | <p>The acceleration of an object depends on the mass of the object and the amount of force applied.</p> |
| <p>3. Newton’s Third Law of Motion (Action & Reaction)</p> | <p>Whenever one object exerts a force on another object, the second object exerts an equal and opposite force on the first.</p> |

NASA website: <https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/beginners-guide-to-aeronautics/newtons-laws-of-motion/>

3. If you accept the conclusion, it forces you to answer the question: What type of cause could have created (or caused) the reality in which we exist?

- In other words, the more we know about our universe, the more it reveals the nature of God
- This, of course, is the basis for the Scientific Revolution: The belief that the more we discover the hidden laws of the universe, the more we understand the nature of God
 - **Romans 1:20**, *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*
- First cause
 - Must be infinite or you get stuck in an infinite regression loop
 - Must be all knowing to cause the universe
 - Must be all powerful
 - Must be personal
 - Must be creative
 - Must possess free will
 - Must be loving

4. Joe Rogan talking with Aaron Rodgers Quote

How to use these arguments to strengthen your faith

1. **Take time to reflect, meditate, even pray over these truths. Over time, you will see that your perspective begins to align with the reality around you. Things become more clear as you do this.**
 - The world we live in today is struggling with depression, anxiety, confusion more than ever -- it is heartbreaking to see young people struggling so much
 - Why? Because they have been taught to think in a way that is irrational vs rational
 - **Relationship between Cause-and-Effect removed**
 - In the formation of relationships
 - Between consistent hard work and productivity
 - Between discipline and outcome
 - Between hope and happiness
 - Between learning to make rational decisions instead of emotional decisions
 - Between trying to create your own identity vs receiving your identity from God
 - **Moral development is not difficult unless you don't believe in morals!**
2. **You begin to see how God answers prayer, how He works in your life, and how you affect the strength and vitality of your own faith**
 - We mostly pray because we believe it is a subjective event, but what if prayer is also an objective event?
 - When you consider this proof, you begin to understand why God answers your prayers objectively as well as subjectively
3. **It shows you how to have rational conversations**
 - If you get into a discussion with a friend, **always return to the premise**. Respond to any criticism with, "I don't see how that sufficiently refutes the premise." If you want to be contentious, say, "Try harder."

FINAL CHALLENGE

The more you consider this proof, the more you realize how easy it is to notice the fingerprints of God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to wrestle with your core beliefs as a person?
2. What is the best way, in your opinion, to clarify your core beliefs?
3. How does this proof strengthen your foundation?