

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 – Sign up now!

INTRODUCTION

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.

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.

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?

- 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 in **Luke 14**: “*In order to follow Me, you must first count the cost.*”

PROOF #1: THE MORAL PROOF

- **Proves that God exists because all human beings are moral beings**

PROOF #2: COSMOLOGICAL PROOF

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

PROOF #3: THE “FINE TUNING” OF THE UNIVERSE

The “fine tuning” of the universe to support life is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design

1. **Physical necessity:** The belief that because it happened, it had to happen – this is irrational
2. **Chance:** The option that given enough time and opportunities, it could happen, but there’s not enough time
3. **Design:** It was designed this way by a superior “first cause”; therefore, it must be DESIGN

Ephesians 6:10-17, “*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness*”

that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Story: Hillary was a bright young lady with a bubbly personality. She graduated at the top of her class and was accepted to a number of honors colleges in western universities. She chose the University of Washington. Eighteen months later, she told her parents she was now an atheist.

Many blame the parents or the church for the outcome. That's equivalent of blaming Israel for the murder of 1,200 innocent women and children on October 7, 2023.

Could they have done something different? Sure. Let's keep the blame where the blame belongs.

There is a well-executed plan happening

- The evidence is overwhelming: the least spiritual people are second-half millennials and first half Gen Zs
- In the last 30 years, the percent of atheists and agnostics went from 7% to 25% -- a five-fold increase. How is that possible?
- HuffPost reported a study on The Sociology of Religion by Gross and Simmons
 - In terms of atheists, professors of psychology and mechanical engineering lead the pack with 50 percent and 44.1 percent respectively
 - Among biologists, 33.3 percent were agnostic and 27.5 percent were atheist

The data is not good. Our world is increasingly hostile to rational thought and it is hard on young people. Eighteen to 28-year-olds are going out into the world without the tools necessary to survive and thrive with confidence, ready to conquer

Therefore, doing this series may not benefit you right now, but it will be online for years and when your college student comes home with all these questions or doubts, you can say: "Our church did something about that a while back; let's go study it together."

Paul tells the Ephesian church in 6:10-11, *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

You don't have to understand all of these proofs, you don't need to memorize them, or articulate them with high a degree of accuracy. You simply need to know they are there and they are powerful. They refute what atheists have tried to convince the world of; they debunk the silly and shallow arguments of Gen. Ed professors; they pull back the curtain of deception showing the shallow thinking of those who claim they are smarter than everyone else.

PROOF #4: WHY DOES MATH ALWAYS WORK?

- Math doesn't work some of the time -- it works ALL of the time
- It is a language about how everything is interconnected: Why things work, what are the hidden forces that influence the outcomes
- Math is the basis for beauty
 - One of the things I hear most often from creative people is this: "I can't stand math -- I just don't get it." The more creative you are, the more mathematical your brain operates because math is the basis of all beauty.

- Whether you realize it or not, when you look at something and you say, “That is beautiful,” you are exercising a cognitive function of your brain. You are organizing all the visual data points into a cohesive pattern
- Because you understand mathematics so intuitively, you realize that they fit together in such a perfect and harmonious way you can say, “That is beautiful!”
- Fractals, symmetry, etc.
- Math is the basis for music
 - In 1250 AD, Franco of Cologne invented the time signature for music
 - In 1320, Philippe de Vitry built on his idea
 - This launched the renaissance in music
- Math is the basis for exploration and discovery
 - James Clerk Maxwell discovered electromagnetic waves – He is considered to be the 3rd greatest physicist of all time (after Newton and Einstein)
 - As a musician, to write a new song you begin with math. A melody is simply a construction of mathematical valuations expressed by a note. A catchy melody, one that you remember, is the mathematical aspect of **probability**. In other words, those melodies have received the greatest acceptance. Therefore, the probability that if I organize the notes in a pattern that matches in some form or another these past patterns, the probability of acceptance goes up

The real question is why? Why math?

- Why is there an absolutely ordered language that describes the relationships between everything?
- If we learn the language, it leads to the discovery of new things. How? Because the language points to it -- directly to it
- If GPS sends you somewhere perfectly, do you wonder, “How does it do that?”
- Atheism says, “It is simply a coincidence that math exists.”
- Theists say. “No, it is this way because math pre-existed the formation of the universe”

PROOF #4: WHY DOES MATH ALWAYS WORK?

1. If God does not exist, then the applicability of mathematics is just a coincidence
2. The applicability of math is not a coincidence
3. Therefore, God exists

The impact of this proof

- The more rationally we think, the more discoveries we make. Rationality is the mechanics of **faith**. What I just said is probably the most controversial thing that you could imagine!
- Where do new ideas come from?
 - First, they come from a **belief**. Dr. Picard, professor at MIT (see last week’s 5 Proofs #3), said science is based on the belief that there is an objective truth to discover. Or another way to say it: New ideas come when someone believes there’s a better way or a better option -- something no one has ever seen before or imagined. Regardless of how you say it, all new ideas come from a **belief**. When you act on this **belief**, that is **faith**.
 - In **Hebrews 11:1**: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
- The verbs are conviction and assurance. Are assurance and conviction, rational, cognitive mechanisms of the mind?

- Where do beliefs come from?

One parting thought . . .

- The HuffPost survey states the highest percent of theists are in accounting and financial departments -- the areas where math is used the most!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think how math can describe how everything is interconnected, how important do you think math can be?
2. When it comes to your faith, what are the significant connections between you, Jesus and the world?
3. If you could discover or understand one thing about this remarkable universe, what would it be?