



Bible Verses: Luke 1:25-28, Jer. 29:13, Matt. 26:36-56

Website: www.str.org

Resources:

Mere Christianity (Author-C.S. Lewis)

More Than a Carpenter (Author-Josh McDowell)

Finding God (Author-Larry Crabb)

Podcast 12: Faith & Doubt-Kevin Vannorsdel

Do you ever lay awake at night, your head spinning, trying to make sense of who God is and why He works the way He works? Do these thoughts send you down a path of questioning the reasons for your faith? That's a good thing. It is good to know why you believe what you believe. Sadly, many Christians have a hard time defining concrete reasons for their faith. Christians are often accused of not thinking critically about life and the world. This is a travesty because part of the great commandment is to love God with our mind (Luke 10:27).

Kevin found himself about to walk away from his faith after a period of unanswered questions. He had almost given up on the possibility of his questions having satisfying, quantifiable answers. What brought Kevin back was a believer who helped him realize that you can be a Christian and still use your mind! Kevin began using his mind and thinking critically about his faith and finding answers to the questions he held for so long. Later, when Kevin and his wife lost a close friend in a tragic accident, their faith was shaken. How could a good God let such a horrible thing happen to their friend? Ever asked that question before?

Because Kevin had devoted so much time and energy thinking about (and finding) answers for his faith, his faith remained strong through this tragedy. When the world (and our heart) tell us that God cannot be trusted, sometimes our mind (and the truth we fill it with) is the only thing we can count on to remind us what is real. If we pay attention to what God has revealed to us about His own character our faith will be unshakable in times of trouble. Our task is to do the hard work of thinking about and studying about who God is. The danger of not using our minds to pursue a real knowledge of God's character is the world will tell us what to believe about Him instead. Like Dan said in the podcast, *"If we look for God's goodness solely in our circumstances we will eventually come to the conclusion that God is not good because our circumstances are not always good."*

—Luke Burgett

Talk about it:

- Have you ever had...or do you regularly have...those late-night, internal conversations about doubt?
- What are some things in this world that you think causes the greatest doubt for most people?

Make it personal:

- Where are you struggling with doubt today? Is there an event or circumstance that has caused it?
- Kevin Vannorsdel said that (after his friend's drowning) he couldn't trust his heart. Have you been there too? How do we work through this tough period; when we can't trust our hearts?

Accept the Challenge:

- There are some great resources listed above. Commit yourself this week to reading one of the books, listening to the *Stand To Reason* radio/podcast or maybe connect with the *Apologetics 101* small group that Kevin Vannorsdel leads (<https://groups.google.com/group/ap101>).