



**Bible Verses:** Romans 10-:17, 1 Peter 3:8-17, Titus. 2:1

**Websites:** *Reason To Believe* - [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry -

[www.carm.org/bible](http://www.carm.org/bible)

**Resources:**

*Faith and Reason* (Author-John Piper)

*The Language of God* (Author-Dr. Francis Collins)

## Podcast 14: Faith & Doubt-Nick Spharler

Church has put a bad taste in the mouths of many of us, especially those who grew up in a particularly steady church going family. We were force-fed the gospel and knew nothing different until we grew up to find the adults we trusted don't walk what they talked. There was a lack of integrity that damaged the faith of many who were once believing people. Or we were personally hurt by another church goer or leader which caused us to struggle with our faith doubting that God is real if his people could be so evil. Or maybe, like Nick, there are just fundamental things in scripture that cause us to question the legitimacy of scripture when it is difficult to reconcile with the state of the world we live in.

C.S. Lewis is one of the most famous authors of all time. He was also a Christian author. But Lewis was not always a Christian. He was, in fact, a dedicated agnostic. After countless conversations with his friend JRR Tolkien about theology and finally reading the Bible for himself he decided he believed in God. In his autobiography *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis writes, "You must picture me alone in that room at Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England" (p. 266).

Whatever your story of faith and doubt, I believe God can and will relentlessly pursue you if you are willing to take the first step to opening yourself up to the possibility. Just maybe, as it did for Lewis, reading your Bible might be the most effective way to challenge your preconceived ideas about God's word.

—Luke Burgett

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### Talk about it:

- What did you connect with the most in today's podcast with Nick Spharler?

### Make it personal:

- Are there things that you can't believe out of the Bible? What is your biggest struggle with what is in the Bible?

### Accept the Challenge:

- Do you want to join us in reading the Bible from cover to cover? We are reading 5 chapters a day, Monday-Friday. We want to challenge you to find at least one other person to do this with. Challenge each other and send us questions as you go along at [mens@flatironschurch.com](mailto:mens@flatironschurch.com).

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