

**General Topics :: Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule...****Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule... - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/16 8:05**

Hello All, this is my first time posting and I want to thank you all for the previlige.

In my many web journeys I do encounter all kinds of people. It is somewhat sad as well as interesting to hear what atheists and others have to say whenever issues of the Christian faith surface.

In technology sites like Slashdot there are a lot of intelligent atheists over there who do everything to discredit Christianity and Christians whenever the topic comes up--or whenever a debate on evolution and Intelligent Design surfaces.

I had the chance to talk to some people who HATE JESUS SO MUCH in a very real sense on some sites and talk to them about the Christian faith. Here is the argument one of them put forth below on the evil of Christianity.

Huh? Childish antics? Oh, I was looking at your profile and now I see the stunningly clever message I sent. Accident, but since your ego clearly requires some sinister plot revolving around YOU -- take that little "." as you will.

But since you quote the Bible at me . . . warning, unlike most "Christians" I have READ the book(s).

And here are some things you should read . . . angry boy!

The Bible is the infallible word of our Lord. If you are a TRUE Christian, you follow these these commands:

Who You Should Kill

- Unruly or rebellious child. Deut 21:20-21
- Those who curse or hit their parents. Lev 20:9, Ex 21:15
- Worshippers of other gods. Deut 13:6-11
- Psychics, witches. Lev 20:27, Deut 13:6-11, Ex 22:18.
- Those who do not believe in Jesus (parable). Luke 19:27.
- Those who work on the Sabbath. Ex 35:2 (Moses kills a gentile for this. Num 15:32-36.)
- Those who are accused by at least two people of wickedness. Deut 17:6.
- The children and babies of enemies. Num 31:17, Deut 20:13, Psalm 137:9, Lev 26:29.
- Adulterers. Lev 20:10.
- Homosexuals. Lev 20:13.
- A woman who is not a virgin when married. Deut 22:13-21.
- Those who are careless with murderous livestock. Exodus 21:29.

Who You Should Hate

- Those who eat crab or shrimp. Lev 11:10.
- Those who sacrifice an animal to God that has a blemish. Deut 17:1.
- Those who remarry the same person after divorce. Deut 24:4.
- Homosexuals. Lev 18:22.
- Those who are proud. Prov 16:5.
- A woman who wears pants. Deut 22:5.
- A man with long hair (Jesus?). 1Cor 11:14
- Those who call others fools Mat 5:22

Should we still do this stuff?

- All OT laws still apply in NT. Matt 5:17-19

You don't dare to try and FILTER and pick and choose from the word of God right? You don't pull that nambie-pampy "out of context" silliness with passages you don't like, but then wholeheartedly accept those you DO like? That is SIN!

So either you are a TRUE Christian, and you'll follow those loving commands from God. Or you are doomed to be tortured in hell forever! Oh Glory!

I know she quoted the above out of context and I dutifully responded to counter her points by stressing on the Greatest Commandments Christ extolled and the need for the New Covenant to replace the Old with so many relevant Scripture quotations. So she responded:

Well, thank you very much for all the work there. But there is one big problem -- using the words of a book to prove the legitimacy of a book is running in circles. There is no shortage of superstitious/religious books which claim in great detail why THEY are right.

The argument of New Testament replacing OT is an old and tired one. If ANY of the horrible commands/acts by a deity in the OT are true? You worship an evil being. Besides of course the vast and well documented horror and contradictions in the NT as well.

It shouldn't be this complicated anyways. Its a loving and all powerful god? Then the holy book should be at least as easy and clear of a read as say a Micheal Crichton book! Shouldn't be that hard to accomplish, even over time in every language . . . to an all-powerful, loving and omniscient being!

Anyways, though 80% of Americans consider themselves Christian (though of course 4/5ths of them have never even READ the Bible(s)!) --- 2/3rds of humanity are NOT Christian. They all doomed by your loving McJesus?

Anyways - here is truth: I might vent harshly here, but I'm a loving and dedicated parent, I am giving and honest in my personal and professional life, I give to charities and more . . . if in spite of my actions I'm doomed to be tortured for eternity because I didn't jump through the right mental hoops? You worship an evil being.

If somebody who is good and honest because of threat or promise, pie in the sky vs. torture . . . rather than because they love their fellow humans and other creatures? I submit THEY are actually more evil than I --- regardless of their beliefs.

Carrot and stick theology is demeaning to all involved. Only already evil people require a carrot and stick to do the right thing, the rest of us just are inherently GOOD.

Bye bye.

After her bye-bye she blocked me from responding to her. But through a friend I got to respond to her message which resulted in a final message from her below:

2/3rds of humanity are NOT Christian.

I'm a loving parent and wife, an honest business person, I give to charity . . . if somebody "saved" but less loving and honest gets a paradise after they die, but a truly GOOD person who just doesn't believe what you do . . . gets TORTURED for eternity after they die? You worship an evil being.

So, let me be. Stop stalking me!

It is so sad she blocked my friend as well. But I wanted the forum to observe these arguments and use relevant Scripture

e and experience or knowledge to encourage others who might encounter someone with the above type of mindset. To me it's sad that this woman took pride in having American Christians block her from taunting their faith--but when I took the time to explain things to her from Scripture, she was the one blocking me. Are American Christians actually learning how to "defend their faith and ready to give an answer" from external ridicule--or are their roots too shallow to make a credible defence. Well, thank you for reading and God bless you all.

Joseph

Re: Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule... - posted by enid, on: 2007/7/17 11:37

Joseph, welcome to the forum. Much to enjoy, learn and share here.

I can understand why your post was largely ignored.

It was negative and ungodly. Not a reflection of you, but of the ungodly, bitter, godless woman who blocked you from the website.

For myself, I don't visit non-Christian websites.

They have nothing I want to be involved with.

I might view a few news websites, but that is it, I don't partake in the forum.

In order for a Christian to have a credible defence for their beliefs, they have to believe that the Bible is the word of God.

The way Christians seem to give more time to the things of the world than they do to the word of God shows the weakness and unimportance of their faith.

The blasphemous woman of the website you visited is very confused and has lost all arguments, as well as her soul, if she continues in the way she is going.

You obviously must have got to her in order to block you from the site, so well done!

But defending our faith, as it says in 1 Peter 3v15 is important.

Also, Jude tells us to contend for the faith, or fight, for the faith.

Won't go on, hate long posts.

God bless.

Re: Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule..., on: 2007/7/17 18:01

Joseph I was blocked from posting God Word and view on a news website in our state. When blocked I emailed the general manager and complained he was allowing the liberal comments and not God's Word. He said I was being offensive to some. Most of what I posted was copied and pasted from scripture about homosexuality. It was in reference to legislation on prohibiting homosexual from fostering and adopting children. The legislation failed. There were more comments about homosexuals were just as good at being parents than there were against. As a matter of fact there was very little truth allowed to be posted. I know there many people who speak out and get censored. The news media controls what is said and there is not as much ignorance as appears sometimes because of the censor. After I was banned I re-registered under a different email address and continue to post occasionally. They welcome and allow all the liberal comments about homosexuality being ok and the "What has God Got to do with it and the separation of church and state so leave God out attitude". We give what we can and praise God he did leave us ignorant and without understanding and it is by HIS grace that he didn't. God Bless.

Re: Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule... - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/7/20 17:21

Freak,

I read this post a few days ago and have thought a lot about it since...

Mind if I give you a piece of advice? I suggest that for your own spiritual well-being you stay away from those evil sites. The reason is that at some point in time, the devil will use these arguments to wear down your faith in the LORD Jesus. These arguments will come back to haunt you and weaken you. Your first priority is to protect yourself from evil, to get out of evil's way.

Usually, when people have developed well formulated reasons about why God is not reliable, etc., etc., it is because they have fought against the Holy Spirit and are quite pleased with their position. They are closed minded, they have shut God out and never mind your best intentions, they will try to knock you flat. And you know the devil is behind all this.

So, Brother, I suggest, you stay away from them...they will contaminate your memory, your brain, your spirit...may have to ask the LORD Jesus to clean it up for you!

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/21 5:24

Thankyou Ginny, Enid and moe_mac...I really do appreciate all your kind thoughts and advice! I am so sorry that my first post had to be negative. It was something that was bothering me for some time. I do appreciate all what you had to say. God bless you all...

When I first read some of the things these people were saying about our Lord Jesus I was so "unhappy" and I spent some time talking to God about it. I knew for a fact that it's Satan inspiring these people to do and say these things. But after some prayer God gave me the confidence to reply back to some of these people and confound their arguments. Sometimes, I so much feel like allowing God use me to "CAST DOWN IMAGINATIONS AND EVERY KNOWLEDGE THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST!"--and I venture to give these atheists, blasphemers, etc., the right kind of response that would remind them how truly shallow their thoughts and reasoning are.

I have had a very deep deep experience with the Lord Jesus beginning with my Salvation in 1994. Over the years I have very profound experiences...something that you would call God's Supernatural power in the name of Jesus! I know JESUS IS REAL and every word in the Bible is TRUE because I have experienced things that have reminded me there is so much more to our natural world!

This is the real battle now isn't it. Many of us have settled into predictable natural patterns and have come to think because mankind has come to understand and manipulated what is there in nature to advance their quality of life, then the spiritual world no longer exist. And those saying there is a spiritual world which preceded and controls the natural world are seen as cranks. And it's sad to see this naturalistic thinking has also crept into the Church so much so that many begin to doubt the Supernatural events that did take place in the Bible and that Jesus did.

Concerning the provocative pic and the reference of Eve being "rib woman"--isn't it amazing to see science falling behind? The concept of Stem Cell research aims to grow any human organ/tissue based on other body cells. If humans ever achieve this, meaning they can grow any human organ from other human organ/part, why is it so hard to believe that the Creator of the Universe can grow another WHOLE HUMAN BEING from a man's rib? So much to think about there.

WISDOM FROM ABOVE - posted by dohzman (), on: 2007/7/21 12:43

Jam 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Brother Joseph, Thank you for getting involved at SI, but I was wondering if you might consider something, a question really. Do you believe it was God's wisdom to post a tag to that "my space" website?

My purpose isn't to offend you but I see so much pass on Sermon index that potentially is dangerous to the unlearned and really is unnecessary. I believe you should have posted in segments your thread to that individual and gave your rebuttals in order that we all may be edified and built up in the faith, just a suggestion.

Re: WISDOM FROM ABOVE - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/23 9:13

Thanks for the thought dohzman. I am also learning a lot more about God and also how to relate with people! I am sorry if that tag offended anyone here and I am truly sorry about it.

There were a lot more offensive images that had to do with Christ that this person, who I conversed with, along with others were sharing to unsuspecting Christians and challenging their faith. I thought this particular one was one amongst the more offensive many that could still provoke some serious thought or "holy anger?"--in an effort to counter their message. I was so provoked to the point that I wiped the offensive message and made the pic my main My space pic.

But I am here to also learn and I do apologize for the offense the reference to this tag might have caused. My intention was to learn how Christians here would respond to these kinds of "in-your-face-attack" because we do live in a world full of offenses really. I have heard people say unbelievable things to me when I simply wanted to share the love of Christ. So, when faced with these kinds of challenges--how do we respond? The love of Christ constrains us to pray for and bless our enemies. Yes. But truly dohzman--I was really angry. I thought about how Paul "handed" over certain people to Satan who were impediments to the spread of the gospel--if I can remember-- a certain Sorcerer. I was almost tempted to pray that kind of prayer so that God would humble these people, but then I remembered I still have to "bless" them. When do I draw the line?

How I responded to these bits was a bit long, and I felt pasting it here would increase the length of my post. And yes, the contents of what I said was quite a bit harsh although I did not go over the line insulting them. I thought I would most likely learn from people here how to go about this in future that is why I also did not put my own responses, but I would if any one is interested. The truth is, as long as one is out to share the gospel to an evil world, these kind of offenses WILL surface. Christians shielding themselves and focusing on heaven is ok...but when that Christian wants to advance God's kingdom here on earth, he would definitely meet devilishly inspired speech aimed at quenching his/her fire. And as the world becomes a lot more complex, and the arguments against the faith become what they are now...how should the Christian challenge the "wisdom" of the world? Prayer is a start, but like Paul noted about the Greeks, these people seek a "wisdom", but if we preach Christ and Him crucified, which is foolishness to the world, the world now is taking the battle to our courtyard by aiming to ridicule the Cross itself which we preach about so as to silence the Truth...so there's a need to demonstrate the superior power and wisdom of Christ's death on the Cross. I don't have a monopoly of knowledge, that is why I shared this so that I could also learn from others, how this through the Spirit's help can best be done.

I will try to see how I can edit out the link to the tag. If I am not able to I would welcome any useful suggestions. Again, I am truly sorry for any offense this might have caused. It was not intentional. Thank you for understanding and God bless you all.

Joseph

Re: Christian response to blasphemy, ridicule..., on: 2007/7/23 10:25

you dust off your feet, and walk away, let God deal with her and don't fret, don't worry. He saw the time you spent lovingly witnessing to this woman. God sees, that's all that counts.

Re: - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/25 14:11

Thank you worm4Christ. It's amazing that I never even thought of that. Thankyou for reminding me that I don't have to answer everything but trust God to handle the situation and people best. I appreciate this reminder. Not all battles are worth fighting. Thank you.

Joseph

Re: Wow - Deja vu, on: 2007/7/25 15:13

Ha or however you spell it.

JesusFreak, did you get your nickname from the Books "Jesus Freaks" ???

I loved those ... AMEN.

And that song by Steve Green, "The Blood of The Martyrs is the seed of the Church" Actually the name of the song is "THE FAITHFUL".

And "I pledge allegiance to the Lamb" sung by Ray Boltz, but ya GOTTA see the video that he did with that song it's probably on the web somewheres. I know the lyrics are to both songs.

Anyhowz, some of us retired or disabled folks are missionaries on line now.

IF GOD calls a person to that (Only HE can) then don't expect anything less than what you got there.

ONLY GOD can tell you when to pull out.

That is a way or form of OPEN-AIR PREACHING or Missionary work. Look at James Elliot ... what did he get ???

What freaked me out though, is that I've gotten those same remarks back at me from christian sites. OH-OH !

BUT if GOD calls you there or a similar place, He will equip you to take it all.

He will grow you in wisdom to have reply posts ready before they even reply. :-D

HE IS SOOOOO GOOD. He'll never send you where HIS GRACE & SPIRIT will not "hold" you.

LORD Bless your desire to SAVE SOULS.

Just be pressing in to HIM with complete "child-like" DEpendence.

Bless you "Joseph". He's one of my favorite Bible characters, only second to Paul.

Only one life will soon be past,
Just what's done 'for' Christ will last.

Re: - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/26 11:47

Hi GrannieAnnie! So pleased to know you ma'am :). I am truly thankful for your thoughtful message. God bless you for the concern.

I just wanted to clarify that I am not in anyway having any ill-will with anyone here. When I said that I don't have to fight all battles I was actually referring to having to answer the plethora of arguments against Christianity out there on the web. I also had images of Old Testament battles narrated in the books of Kings and Chronicles where godly kings who trusted God did not even need to battle their enemies themselves...God simply rewarded their trust in Him by fighting their battles. And as the Bible says "we war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in high places", so I do know the real battle today is NOT a physical one with physical people. It's one wild spiritual war out there and as one

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who's had God's grace and mercy help overcome the strong stranglehold of sin...I know!

So really, I was not referring to getting replies to a topic like this. It had more to do with the burden in my heart to counter the lies Satan is spreading about the fundamentals of our faith. Convincing another human being to the Truth of the gospel is not something me or any effort can do. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. But I had to recheck my motives a lot. Was I plainly driven by a desire to win an argument or did I really have a genuine passionate desire for the salvation of this person's soul? I was really afraid that it was more of the former and dohzman was kind of right in a way about referring to the "wisdom from above". Yes, I do think about the woman I talked with time to time and I know an eternity in hell is not what God had planned for her life--but sadly she is convinced that if God would burn her in hell forever because she just does not believe in Jesus then God must be evil! When I meet people with this mindset, it is expected for me to share Jesus with His very compassion and wisdom--not merely rise to try to win an argument. I was also afraid that the tints of harshness in my replies to her did not reflect His compassion and this made me wonder how other Christians would have responded. She may not be the last person I might meet with this mindset. I needed to learn how to better respond in case someone else I meet has the same mindset.

With regards to this woman, yes, Jesus DOES love her as well...only if she could just understand that!!! I was actually guilty at a point, perhaps blinded by my own hurt on seeing those images I did not from deep within seek to really cry for God's mercy on her behalf--including all the others. And I also felt guilty by not being sensitive to the sensibilities of the nice folks here, underestimating the resulting shock the link would cause. For all this I am truly sorry.

Well, I just thought I should share that.

By the way, the name "Jesus Freak" was gotten from a song/album of the same name by a defunct group called DC-Talk. They also had a book on Christian Martyrs with the same title. From the tone of your voice, you sounded so excited about Steve Green's and Ray Boltz's work and I think I would try to check them out. Thanks for the references.

As for sharing Jesus online being a form of Open air preaching, I quite agree. I believe it is natural to go where the fishes like to hide out a lot...in this case, many more people do spend their time online and sadly on worthless pursuits that would not help them. I am way younger than you, being 31, so I use every means on and off line to try to share Jesus with people. And because of the very very deep relationships I have developed with a few as I shared Jesus with them, I hold that it is a strategy God would want others with the time to consider. You would be surprised about the kind of questions many of these would ask.

Thanks again for the great advice. I suppose if God gives you a burden about someone or some issue, only He can clear it when it's time. I truly appreciate this thought. God bless you.

Joseph

Re: The last post to the thread? - posted by JesusFreak76, on: 2007/7/30 6:15

Well I thought real hard about whether I should or should not write this. My original plan was to learn from other experiences not just spout out mine. But I felt compelled to write something edifying in relation to dohzman's suggestion and I hope it goes some way to explain why these issues have been something I think about a lot.

The writing below are not the responses I had given to the woman I talked to. I spent the whole of Sunday afternoon and evening yesterday writing this hoping that it would help as many Christians who read it. Although I am not well versed into evolutionay theories and even the fundamentals of Intelligent design, I have read only small bits and what I have written is something entirely from my own viewpoint as I also reflected on the Bible. The personal bits I also wrote down were completely true experiences. I hope you are blessed by this even if it is the last post to this thread. It is a bit long bear with me. Thanks.

Any evolving natural state could not have inherently developed or evolved its ability to "consciously" think based on just being a complex mass of protein. Evolving natural organisms--if they ever existed, could not have evolved a "mind" on their own. Having a brain does not equally mean being conscious and evolving over a complex "consciousness" process.

Dead people have brains...but are not conscious. People in coma have brains but are not conscious. Living people who are asleep have brains, but are not fully conscious. The workings and reality of the mind represent a very huge gap in any evolution theory. No chaotic natural state, can ever evolve a mind, over any stretch of time. This is because the very structure that makes a mind "work", is not entirely physical. Yes, we do have physical brains, but the mesh of signals from neurons that are ubiquitous within its wet fragile mass, are way beyond our grasp. This is simply an area that science has no claim over and that part of the human body that interfaces with it--the brain, is largely unexplored by any scientific method. It would be really hubris to say that natural organisms that live on earth must also have evolved their conscious parts only based on natural selection and other criteria. If natural selection played a part in shaping and adapting for survival in hostile settings, that has not clearly explained where the essence of consciousness comes from--that only explains how these conscious entities react to their various environments. Reacting to physical stimuli does not explain the origin of consciousness. It could verify you are conscious, but prove its source, that it would not.

***A lot of arguments have gone about if the Universe can be deterministic...that is if it could naturally evolve organisms that can consciously observe it. It's a bit of stretch in the sense that the ability to mirror the real world internally into thoughts based on the experiences of the natural senses would imply that determinism in this little context is not entirely a physical process. It may have a physical chemical pattern in the brain, but things like memory, emotions, reasoning, and other things which are a product of the mind, go beyond physical processes. That is why humans behave so differently. That a human can "determine" to move from point A to B in 3 dimensional space, and do so intelligently, proves that ordered concepts and plans structure determinism and this ordered concepts are not entirely physical. And you would realize that even things we think as being abstract like the spirit or the mind, are a higher level of concrete existence beyond what our natural senses can perceive, even though all our thinkings and behaviours are controlled by it.

An analogy is apt. Using the computer world we could say that if humans were the "hardware", and somehow this "hardware" evolved to what it is today, that is just one part of the puzzle. Where did the "software" or the mind come from? Did they evolve together? And by any stretch, the mind is far far more complex an entity than the hard tangible parts of the human being. So if your computer from Dell evolved to what it is today, could the Windows Operating System and applications running on it evolve the same way also? Does having a chunk of a brain AUTOMATICALLY create a conscious mind? If so, how?

These are very difficult questions that are simply unprovable by any scientific theory. In a sense, science also relies on its own kind of "faith" based on certain observable, measurable, verifiable strata of natural laws by trying to model "how it could have come about" or "how it could have been"--but this process is more faith than science because science here is trusting on the consistency of certain natural laws to help explain things it cannot readily prove at hand. Abstract modeling does not equate concrete evidence. So a scientific "faith" based on the trusted experience of physical laws is completely at odds with the Christian "faith" based on the fact that God created the Universe. So which "faith" is right?

As Christians we believe:

Gen 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
NIV

We are stressing here that an external Power beyond the closed system of nature, was active in the process of creation. I believe this Power is a Person we know as God.

Proving a system from within a system is a good but very limited attempt. This is what evolution is trying to do. A child in a womb cannot be trusted to speak about the origins of the "universe of the womb" without realizing that a wide range of greater external forces took place before the process of life could begin to form in that womb. Does the baby in the womb even realize that there is a wider and greater world outside of the womb? And that this same world and its forces exactly started the process by which life could begin to form in that womb in the first place? It's just the same way we marvel if a greater spiritual world exists from the "wombs" of our natural universe. Another hubris is to think our natural bodies are the height of sense perception. We have five sense yes, does that make what we cannot verify by our senses non-existent? If we make instruments to compensate for this, does that still make what our instruments cannot verify non-existent? In other words, if our senses, experiences and machines cannot see beyond a point, does that make what we cannot account for null and void? I would have to say that either we humans are not really smart enough to observe the Spiritual world or that we are just too arrogant to admit that our scientific processes have severe shortcomings in understanding if the Spiritual world exist or its exact nature.

In other words, explaining the origins of a closed system like our natural world from within the same closed natural system is like running in circles. We hit a limit where we completely misunderstand what is going on and then we say in strange pride, that nothing beyond what our perceptions can gather exists. Those primitive ancestors were not as sophisticated as us that is why they say there is a God in a Spiritual world who knows and controls everything. We have made cars, planes and computers so we are smarter right?

If chaos characterized the early processes of evolution, and the natural state stabilized over a period of time, and this stability in nature is what we derive our physical laws from, is this stability so inscribed in stone that no anomaly ever occurs, ever? If true, what has sustained this stability over time? Why doesn't the moon suddenly rebel and crash towards the earth? Why doesn't gravity cease? Why doesn't the Sun suddenly expand and burn? Why don't we see the oceans flood the dry lands? Why are natural bodies and natural systems so largely stable at the moment? Is it because they just have to be stable? Yes, science can give plausible reasons as to what makes body A rotate around body B, or why the oceans don't just swell and flood the lands and other natural phenomena. But if we as humans have learnt anything is that these natural systems sometimes do get chaotic once in a while and most times even this revert cannot simply be explained. Why they have to obey a very stable order most of the times and go bunkers at another time--cannot simply be because nature is inherently stable, or inherently unstable. There is an "order" in nature that physical laws, evolution or natural selection cannot just explain. The "forces" that govern these bodies have to have come from somewhere, and if you tell me, it is unlikely that natural forces in the earth and the Universe--like humans--can be trusted to regulate themselves. Put another way, a chaotic closed system can only stabilize under the control of a greater external influence. This is the catalyst effect. In its original sense a catalyst is supposed to be a substance which controls the rate of change of a chemical reaction without being affected by it. In another related sense, it is like a building on fire and you are trapped inside... can you effectively put out or control the fire from within? The firemen with their hoses do not put out the fire from within, the control and put it out from without. You in the building are in a closed system and limited. The firemen are out of the system and not so limited. If the early stages of the Universe was chaotic, the stability we see today could not have just been because a fall from a higher to a lower energy state occurred. If true, what made it fall especially at this time? A catalyst extraneous to the whole system could have managed the chaos to the great stability that we see today. And the range of stability from the biological to the physical worlds and the amazing order in which they operate talks of a very Intelligent Being! No doubt about it!

The other argument about the age of the Universe can also be explained if we understand the Bible.

Gen 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

KJV

Before God segmented the creation into "days" He had already created a rough template which the Bible says "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." This rough template like a painter's template could have existed for any periods of time, the Bible is not specific in telling us when the "days-based" creation followed this rough template. I believe what the Bible says about God creating the heavens and the earth in seven days. But before this, the earth as well as the heavens were a formless mass, a rough template for sure. When God began to bring order and beauty into this template, in the process of creation, it could have been from any stretch of time from the initial rough template. The ignorance in those arguing that the earth could have been more than just six thousand years old since there is evidence that rocks date millions to even billions of years is like looking at a painter who created a beautiful painting on Sunday and saying--"Your beautiful painting could not have been created just today even though it looks so new. I have evidence to show that you couldn't have been the painter because the dating experiment on the canvas and colors on the painting proves that the painting is more than fifty years old!" So what if the painter used a fifty-year old canvas and color template? Does that make his fresh painting fifty year old or brand new if he painted his picture just today?

The fallacy here is, you are using the very mind that you claim has evolved from nature, to try to discover how it and other natural systems evolved and work. It is a worthy attempt. But being a derivative product of a said natural system--and not an external observing entity--beyond this system, you would always be limited in providing a sufficient explanation as to how this product--"your mind"--evolved or how even nature came to be.

To say the mind is entirely a physical entity is to be a big liar! And just like the wonderful order seen in nature, the ability to think and be "self aware" must have come from an external stimuli. Yes, this same God.

Gen 2:6-7

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

NIV

This breath from God was NOT oxygen, since God is not human and does not need oxygen to survive. This breath of life from God that Adam got that day that changed him from being a lump of clay is the HOLY SPIRIT, and the day Adam and Eve sinned, this Spirit left them and they died in a spiritual sense. So in essence, man created in the image of God became a tripartite being like God: being a spirit, having a soul, and living in a body (please understand that I am not saying God's Tripartite Being is exactly like man's in that sense). The breath of life made Adam a spiritual entity in the image of God. The lump of clay, or Adam's body, "came alive" when the Spirit entered and this resulted in him becoming a living soul. So having a spirit, soul and body made up the complete human called Adam when the breath of life from God came into him. Now evolution is merely trying to account for how the "body" part came to be, but can it account for the soul or spirit parts? Does a soul exist? Are they tangibles too like the body? If so, where do they come from?

It is no wonder that we still can not explain fully how the brain works. Because here, we are actually dealing with the very interface between the natural and spiritual world. This is the boundary science just has to stop and marvel at because beyond a point, our scientific methods has no say in this area. This is where faith begins to count...the right kind of faith. Why faith? I think God deliberately made faith a means of finding Him instead of physical methods because after the fall, He had to really humble us. We want knowledge and means to control the natural world, we create scientific and technical disciplines to help us do that. All well and good, because God did tell us to dominate the earth and we are merely doing so. But with faith, we have to surrender all known means we have known to understand what exists beyond nature. Our science is useless here so we only have to fall back to TRUSTING what God says in His word. God is reminding us that this is an area way out of our control and TRUSTING Him is what matters not our ability to understand and manipulate things. We may manipulate what we see in the physical world to achieve what we want, but we simply cannot manipulate what exists in the Spiritual world. And to even begin to understand the spiritual world we just have to take the Lord Jesus seriously and especially when He said "Without me, you can do nothing."

I have been very very skeptical in sharing this. This is because I do not want to draw undue attention to myself. I know I am a very sinful person and that I live only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have had very out-of-the-ordinary experiences since a child that convinced me that a larger spiritual world does exist. At a point in my teens between 1990-1994 I was quite agnostic and so terribly confused despite learning somewhat about Jesus earlier. I watched and listened to a lot of Carl Sagan, read Richard Hoagland and a lot of other nonsense about extraterrestrial intelligence and what not. In my zeal to appear intelligent and in control of my life, I became terribly foolish and sick. This in a real sense because those distractions affected my class work and I became a failure even in class. I also had a besetting sin which so gripped me, drove me crazy and almost destroyed me. When I asked Jesus into my life in 94 I was completely transformed. Jesus TRULY proved His power over the grip of sin by breaking its hold on me. This, what human effort could never do. I was so hungry for Him so I devoured His word like a starving mad man. The experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit alone in my bedroom at about midnight in July of 94 completely blew me away.

Here is what I wanted to really share. In some websites, as I have previously mentioned, people who are ignorant mock the supernatural nature of the Christian faith--especially who Jesus is and what He did. This is because they do not see their trusted laws of nature interrupted all the time the way Jesus did as recorded in the Bible. As a result, they equate the Bible with a Harry Potter book, or mock the fact that Jesus came through a virgin birth or even defied gravity! Even though it falls under a very intense personal experience I still want to share my testimony. Having been set free from sin, was not a guarantee that the temptation would cease forever. Once, I was alone in my room, this was in 95, I had the same temptation grip hold of me when I was resting on the bed. No I would not go into details here as I really don't want to cause any other further offense than I have, but it was something strongly related to lust. I was really weak and easily yielded to the temptation. In the midst of it I simply stopped what I was doing and could not continue. My mind and body wanted to but I simply could not continue. I was alone in the room, even sweating by this time. So I laid sideways facing the wall and immediately, I heard a voice shouting in my head "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!!" repeatedly. Remember, I was all alone in my room. My mouth was shut. But a voice in my head area was shouting the name of Jesus. I don't know what made me stretch out and recline my arm backward at the very moment the voice was shouting Jesus repeatedly. But in that moment, I TOUCHED A BEING WITHDRAWING FROM ME AS THE NAME WAS JESUS PROCLAIMED. My fingers touched the very being behind my sinful act. I could mention what the sin is but since I said it was related to lust and that I was alone you may have an idea already and I would not shock you by going further than this. Yes, demons have very tangible bodies too--their own kinds of spiritual bodies just the way we have natural bodies. It was amazing to suddenly r

realize that the very lustful images in my mind had a direct relationship with a being whose soft skin my fingers were touching. No, I did not see anything as I was facing the wall and my arm was stretched backward. Who shouted the name of Jesus? My own spirit? The Holy Spirit? I am not sure but I always held that it was the Holy Spirit who tried to help me overcome where I was weak by using His own voice to shout the name of Jesus. The images in my mind that left, had a real spiritual body behind it and the Holy Spirit made me touch this being as well. It was certainly a scary experience and it reminded me of how really merciful God is. He saw me sinning in the secret of my room but instead chose to help me in an amazing way.

I wrote my experience to stress a point--even though I did not go into full details because I did want to shock anyone--that yes, spirits are definitely tangibles. A spirit, whether a human spirit, or a demonic spirit, or an angelic spirit or even the Holy Spirit are not abstracts living in an abstract layer above the earth. Please no! They are as real as this real world--even more real! And the Spiritual world is not some far away place in the sky--it is all over. Just as Jesus said to those who listened to His words, the Kingdom of God is within you...we can say because of sin, the kingdom of Satan is all over where sin rules. It is shameful for me to say this, that my fingers touched a demon when I was sinning instead of Jesus, but it is true! They DO have their own kinds of tangible bodies--what I touched was so soft--really hard to describe. And yes, they interface with humans all the time through our minds and thoughts to enslave us to sin and despise God. But the good news is that this confirms to me beyond any reasonable doubt that the only Power and Authority in this physical world or the spiritual world is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus has the same power to reveal any formula or process behind His creation but these are not the essentials He is seeking from us. We foolishly seek the wrong kinds of knowledge when He just wants us to have a relationship with Him. If these demons would inspire humans to call my Lord a "cosmic zombie" it is simply because they have no hope of any kind and that they are resorting to these mockeries and blasphemies is proof that their fate is sealed. What is sad is that these demons begin to copy their personalities over some misguided people and begin to accuse God of being evil because in truth demons are powerless over the Person and name of Jesus and they are doomed because of what He did on the cross. Humans still have hope and can cry for their sins to be forgiven and Jesus would forgive them. Demons don't have hope. For the human to willingly share into the fate of the demon and begin to accuse God of being evil is tragic. It is buying into a lie. There is still hope for the human being since he or she can cry for mercy and God would still forgive because He is so merciful. For the human to despise God's only way to Salvation and Hope--the Lord Jesus Christ--and begin to share the hopelessness of the fate of demons is quite so sad.

I am compelled to share another experience not because I really want to. But I have to illustrate a point. We read really amazing things in the Bible and especially what the Lord Jesus did. Do we blush when we say before our unbelieving friends that Jesus truly walked on water and even defied gravity? Everything written down in the Bible is true!! I had the opportunity to talk to someone on her blog who was sharing the drawing images of Jesus ascending into heaven under "religious humor" tag. In the drawing, Jesus' disciples watched him ascend as some people in futuristic astronaut garb had some pipes connected to the image of Jesus and pumped something like helium or so--so that Jesus would float and rise in the sky. No, I did not tell this 19 year old girl my personal experience but I simply told her her humor was wrong.

The event I am about sharing occurred recently to me on the 20th of May 2007--yes once more alone in my bedroom!!! I was so very very discouraged that Sunday. My heart was so heavy and with the weight came an unbearable pain. Certain things in my family were happening beyond my control. That Sunday night I was so very very heavy, sad and discouraged, I could not even pray...

I was just about sleeping but not yet asleep when a MASSIVELY HUGE FORCE or EXPLOSION I could both feel and hear its impact) occurred around my chest area as I felt A HUGE BEING FORCEFULLY REMOVED from my heart! The impact of this Being's ejection from me was so huge that it LIFTED ME UP FROM MY BED!! It was like my body was like a spring coil depressed by the this awesome weight. Then suddenly, this weight was released and like the coil, my whole body reacted to the release. No, I never made the conscious effort to raise my body. No, I did not even hear a voice.

My whole body was at inertia before this sudden massive explosive force tore through my heart and so massive was its ejection from my heart that my body lifted up in the forces' direction and then fell back. As a Christian I know that this "force" could not have been just an ordinary "force" but Satan Himself. I was actually raised from the bed as the Lord JESUS removed Satan from my heart who really oppressed me with the weight of pain and depression. My mind was dumbfounded! And it was a really scary experience. The depression, and other negative thoughts and feelings left and instantly I could feel a NEW REFRESHING ENERGY BUILD inside of me. Jesus brought back HOPE and STRENGTH to carry on amidst the very trying moments I was in. I was and am ever so grateful. I didn't ask Him to help but in His Mercy He reached down and helped me. For this I am so very thankful!! And my whole body being lifted up from the bed without my own conscious effort to do so really does baffle me. That does DEFY any laws of Physics. You could say a force beyond me made me defy gravity for a brief second! And I am just so amazed that we live in a world completely ignorant of the r

realities of the Spiritual World and the Supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ...it is sad that this ignorance prevails even among Christians who yield to the persuasions of the so-called intelligent people of this age. But I am so grateful that the Lord reached out to help me even when I was so discouraged to even pray. I did think about Him, but I was so discouraged to even pray. I don't deserve His mercy and kindness of course...I know how terrible my heart can be. But He reached out to help me and comfort me amidst trials in an amazing supernatural way.

No, I really did not originally set out to tell you all about these things that happened to me but to learn from you. I believe Jesus defied gravity because the Holy Spirit was there to lift Him up to the bosoms of the Father just as the Holy Spirit had pity on me and helped eject an oppressive being from my heart and body, in turn, momentarily lifting me up from my bed. It does further convince me that the greater energy and power in the Spiritual world is so awesome--just so awesome that all the forces and laws of nature are so puny before it. Physical laws are not inscribed in stone. The Spiritual world controls the natural world in every way. The physical laws of nature which are ordered as they are did not create themselves. The One who created them can also interrupt them as He wishes and He does so to glorify and honor just one Person--Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus comes, I look forward to hearing of and seeing more of ordinary humble Christian people who would experience the very wisdom and supernatural power of God before an unbelieving world. Yes, to the glory of only one Person, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you for reading and God bless you all.

Joseph