




A Reasonable Faith in An Uncertain World

Is believing in God and Jesus Christ a matter of blind faith or are there reasons to believe?

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or reasoning. The background is a dark blue gradient.

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

– 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

You are called to be an apologist



A Reasonable Faith in An Uncertain World


Is the Resurrection of Christ True?

Two Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ



A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears visible inside the brain area. The background is a dark blue gradient.

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve...

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NLT)

*...8 Last of all, as though I had been born
at the wrong time, I also saw him.* 1


Corinthians 15:3-8 (NLT)



Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ
- Before this encounter he was a persecutor of the church...Saul of Tarsus
 - The principle of embarrassment

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or reflection.

You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. Galatians 1:13
(NLT)




*I used to blaspheme the name of Christ.
In my insolence, I persecuted his people.
But God had mercy on me because I did it
in ignorance and unbelief.*

1 Timothy 1:13 (NLT)

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ
- Before this encounter he was a persecutor of the church...Saul of Tarsus
 - The principle of embarrassment
 - Principle of multiple attestation

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or intellect. The background is a dark blue gradient.


Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains

Acts 9:1-2 (NLT)

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ
- Before this encounter he was a persecutor of the church...Saul of Tarsus
 - The principle of embarrassment
 - Principle of multiple attestation
 - He had a reputation

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or reflection. The background is a dark blue gradient.

You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. Galatians 1:13
(NLT)

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ
- Before this encounter he was a persecutor of the church...Saul of Tarsus
 - He became a Christian and suffered and died for preaching the Gospel

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

1. The Apostle Paul

- He claimed to see the resurrected Christ
- Before this encounter he was a persecutor of the church...Saul of Tarsus
- The best explanation for the change:
He actually saw Jesus

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

2. James the Half Brother of Jesus

- Skeptic During Jesus's Lifetime

- ▶ The principle of embarrassment

One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. 21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said. Mark 3:20-21 (NLT)

Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

2. James the Half Brother of Jesus

- Skeptic During Jesus's Lifetime

- ▶ The principle of embarrassment

For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

John 7:5 (NLT)



Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

2. James the Half Brother of Jesus

- Skeptic During Jesus's Lifetime
 - ▶ The principle of embarrassment
 - ▶ Multiple attestation
- James Became a Believer & Leader in the Church



The next day Paul went with us to meet with James, and all the elders of the Jerusalem church were present.

Acts 21:18 (NLT)

In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers.

Galatians 2:9 (NLT)

Also, the book of James



Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

2. James the Half Brother of Jesus

- Skeptic During Jesus's Lifetime

- ▶ The principle of embarrassment

- ▶ Multiple attestation

- James Became a Believer & Leader in the Church

- Was Martyred for His Faith



Two Unlikely Eyewitness Testimonies

2. James the Half Brother of Jesus

- Skeptic During Jesus's Lifetime


- ▶ The principle of embarrassment

- ▶ Multiple attestation

- James Became a Believer & Leader in the Church


- Was Martyred for His Faith

- Best Explanation: He Saw the Resurrected Christ.



He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 (NLT)

Why Is This Important?



And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost!

1 Corinthians 15:16-18 (NLT)