

# Some Sources for Christian Teens and Young Adults Who Want to Grow in Their Faith and Christian Witness<sup>1</sup>

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## BOOKS

- Brooks, Rice. *God's Not Dead: Evidence for God in an Age of Uncertainty*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013. This book gives the thinking behind the movie, "God's Not Dead." It talks about faith not being blind, the reality of good and evil, the beginning of the universe, life not being an accident, life's meaning and purpose, Jesus and His resurrection, the witness of scripture, and effect of God's grace, and how God is working in the lives of people. 293 pp.
- Geisler, Norman and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004. A fairly long book (over 400 pages) that is still understandable for older teens. It makes a great point: it takes a lot of faith to reject the existence of God. It covers many questions (e.g. about God, design, first life, new life forms, miracles, Jesus, the New Testament, Jesus' resurrection, and who Jesus was and is). 452 pp.
- Habermas, Gary. *Dealing with Doubt*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1990; and *The Thomas Factor: Using Your Doubts to Draw Closer to God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1999. Both of these helpful books on doubt are available from the author on his website for free at <http://www.garyhabermas.com/books/books.htm>.
- McFarland, Alex. *Stand Strong in College*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2007. While this book is for Christians in college, it would also be very helpful for a high school student. As you experience life and school, the three parts of this book will help you have a prepared heart, an unshakable faith, and a significant life that God wants for us. It also offers short answers to questions and helpful websites. 256 pp.
- McGrath, Alister. *Doubling: Growing Through the Uncertainties of Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006. McGrath says that "doubt is an invitation to grow in faith and understanding, rather than something we need to panic about or get preoccupied with." It deals with the nature of doubt; doubt and the vain search for certainty; doubt in other worldviews; personal aspects of doubt; doubt in the Bible; doubts about the gospel, yourself, Jesus, and God; and how to handle doubt. 156 pp.
- McKnight, Scot. *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2004. A longer book (30 chapters and 335 pages) by a notable New Testament scholar who offers valuable insights to help Christians love God and love others. The relatively short chapters could be used for weekly personal devotions.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *The Reason Why Faith Makes Sense*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2011. A small book that deals with questions about faith, God, the Bible, our accountability to God, Jesus, and God's forgiveness. 135 pp.
- Opitz, Donald and Derek Melleby. *Learning for the Love of God: A Student's Guide to Academic Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brozos Press, 2014. While written for college students, this is very readable and relevant for Christians in high school. It helps students see the connection between their faith and their study, and it challenges Christians to live a Christian worldview in the context of other ways of life. 146 pp.
- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Expanded Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997; 2002. "How do I grow? What does a spiritually mature person even look like? Why does it seem so hard, and go so slowly? Will I ever really be any different?" That's how the book begins. It is an insightful and practical guide that helps Christians learn to live the Way of Jesus. It's a useful handbook on spiritual formation. The Expanded and Kindle Editions include a study guide that can be used for personal direction or for group discussion. 282 pp. (although 60 pages are used for the notes and the study guide).
- Powell, Doug. *Holman Quicksource Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2006. A book packed with much information in an attractive and colorful layout with many pictures. It talks about "apologetics" (giving a defense of the Christian faith), considerations about God's existence, the origin of the New Testament, the reliability of the Old and New Testament, miracles, prophecy, Jesus' resurrection, who Jesus was, and the problem of evil. 403 pp. Kindle price is \$7.99.

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<sup>1</sup> Are you a young Christian who wants to grow in your faith, someone who has questions or even some doubts about your faith, or someone who wants to witness more effectively to others? These resources might help. Many of the books are available in cheaper digital versions that can be read on a computer or a mobile device. The books with asterisks (\*) indicates especially good sources to begin with.

- Ridenour, Fritz. *So What's the Difference? A Look at 20 Worldviews, Faiths, and Religions and How They Compare to Christianity*. Updated and Expanded Version. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2001. The four main parts offer a good introduction to biblical Christianity; other trunks of the Christian tree (Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy); other major religions (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism); and various cults and new religions. 260 pp. Kindle version is just \$2.99.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christianity Answer Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. Provides responses to 60 important questions about the Christian faith in a Q & A format. Sections deal with seeking spiritual answers, God, the Bible, Jesus, Other challenges to faith, and turning answers into action. Strobel is a former atheist and reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* who has become a well-known Christian author and speaker. 224 pp.
- White, James Emery. *A Mind for God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. A relatively small book that's a great place to start in being challenged to develop and use your mind for God. It's about how to "think Christianly."

## SOME INTERNET RESOURCES

- <http://www.arn.org>. Access Resource Network website that is full of resources on science, evolution, and intelligent design. It gives access to a number of people who argue for the need of some kind of intelligence to explain the origin of the universe and life, and it includes links to YouTube videos.
- <http://www.apologetics315.com>. "The vision of Apologetics 315 is to provide educational resources for the defense of the Christian faith, with the goal of strengthening the faith of believers and engaging the questions and challenges of other worldviews. By providing an accessible and growing repository of teaching materials, as well as providing a means of networking within the apologetics community, we hope to be a significant educational resource for churches, campus groups, and Christians around the world."
- <http://www.crossexamined.org>. Started in 2006, this ministry "I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be An Atheist" seminars on college campuses, churches, and high schools. It is headed by Frank Turek, co-author with Norman Geisler of the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* (Crossway, 2004).
- <http://www.garyhabermas.com>. Website of Gary Habermas, a Christian scholar who provides "a strong argument for the philosophical possibility of miracles and the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus."
- <http://www.josh.org>. A website of Josh McDowell, a prominent Christian author and speaker who addresses key questions about Jesus, the Bible, the resurrection of Christ, etc. Includes links to many videos.
- <http://www.leestrobel.com>. Website of former atheist and former *Chicago Tribune* reporter, Lee Strobel, who is now a popular Christian apologist and author. The site includes a number of videos.
- <http://oneminuteapologist.com>. The website features short videos on a variety of important topics for Christians (e.g. Christianity, Bible Difficulties, Faith, Religion, Jesus, God, Atheism, Cults, Doctrine, Theology, Ethics, Science, Philosophy, World Religions).
- <http://www.ratiochristi.org>. A Christian organization "encouraging and strengthening the faith of Christian students at universities around the world through the use of intellectual investigation and apologetics while sharing Christ's message and love to those that have yet to receive it."
- <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>. The website of William Lane Craig, a leading Christian apologist who has engaged in numerous debates with religious skeptics and atheists. Includes many written and media materials. Also offers a mobile app. Much of this material is "advanced," but some is useful for younger Christians.
- <http://www.reasons.org>. Reasons to Believe website by Hugh Ross, a Christian astronomer who argues for the compatibility between biblical creation and a very old universe. Also offers a mobile app.
- <http://www.roomfordoubt.com>. A website that offers a variety of resources to help adults and younger adults strengthen their Christian faith and deal with sincere questions and doubts. Room For Doubt is a grant-funded initiative at Lincoln Christian University. The website includes stories of doubt, questions of faith, finding faith for myself, and finding God in the now; and users can submit questions. Interaction is also provided on its Facebook and Twitter pages.
- <http://www.rzim.org>. "The primary mission of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries is to reach and challenge those who shape the ideas of a culture with the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Also offers a mobile app.
- <http://www.str.org>. "Stand to Reason trains Christians to think more clearly about their faith and to make an even-handed, incisive, yet gracious defense for classical Christianity and classical Christian values in the public square."
- <http://www.thepoachedegg.net>. The Poached Egg is website for Ratio Christi's Christian worldview and apologetics network. Ratio Christi (the reason of Christ) is an organization for university students. The website features good articles and links to audios and videos.
- <http://www.worldvieweyes.org>. A website sponsored by "WorldViewEyes," a grant-funded program administered through Lincoln Christian University specifically designed to inform youth and adults about various worldviews and to help them think critically about their culture with a Christian mind. The site includes papers, outlines, and links to audio and video presentations by Rich Knopp, Professor at Lincoln Christian University, Director of WorldViewEyes, and Project Coordinator for Room For Doubt.