

A Simple Evidence for the Existence of God

Act 11:19-26 ESV Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. (SLIDE map) 21 And **the hand of the Lord was with them**, and a great number who believed **turned to the Lord**. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and **saw the grace of God**, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to **remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose**, (SLIDE)

- God (hand of the Lord, turned to the Lord, grace of God, faithful to the lord added to the Lord)
- What they saw was **called the “grace of God”**
 - Strong’s Grace = Divine influence in the heart reflected in the life
- Remain faithful (CLEAVE) - steadfast purpose (INTENTIONAL exposed to the lord - Showbread)

24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great **many people were added to the Lord**. 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they **met with the church and taught a great many people**. And in Antioch the disciples were first **called Christians**.

- Evidence for God? = The grace of God leading to a changed life where they are called Christians

Paul appeals to the Corinthians, to let the fingerprints of God be evident within them

- 2Co 13:11-14 ESV Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; **and the God of love and peace will be with you**. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you. 14 The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ** and the **love of God** and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all**.
- The grace, love and fellowship produces an environment → leading to evidence of God’s existence
- How can I support it? - rejoice, aim for restoration, comfort and agree with one another, live in peace

1) Rejoice - be full of cheer - the world is full of depression

- Php 4:4 ESV Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

2) Aim for Restoration - ‘to make things the way they are meant to be’ - Christianity is a journey to maturity

- “mend the net” “set the bone” - perfect, complete, mature (self and others)
- Heb 13:21 ESV **equip** you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Gal 6:1 ESV Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **restore** him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

3) Comfort One Another - taking an interest in the spiritual well-being of others

- Heb 10:24-25 ESV And let us consider how to **stir up one another** to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

4) Agree with One Another - unity NOT conformity - so often we highlight what divides

- Php 2:1-3 ESV So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by **being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind**. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

5) Live in Peace - overcome the need for constant drama

- Rom 12:18 ESV If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

People are saying there is no evidence for God - yet evidence is around us all the time...how can you contribute? By letting Him work in you and through you to build a community that has the fingerprints of God