

JOHN DISTERDICK

# CONSIDER THE ODDS

Exploring Probability, Intelligent  
Design, and the Search for Truth



**INSPIRATION**  
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# **Consider The Odds - Exploring Probability, Intelligent Design, and the Search for Truth**

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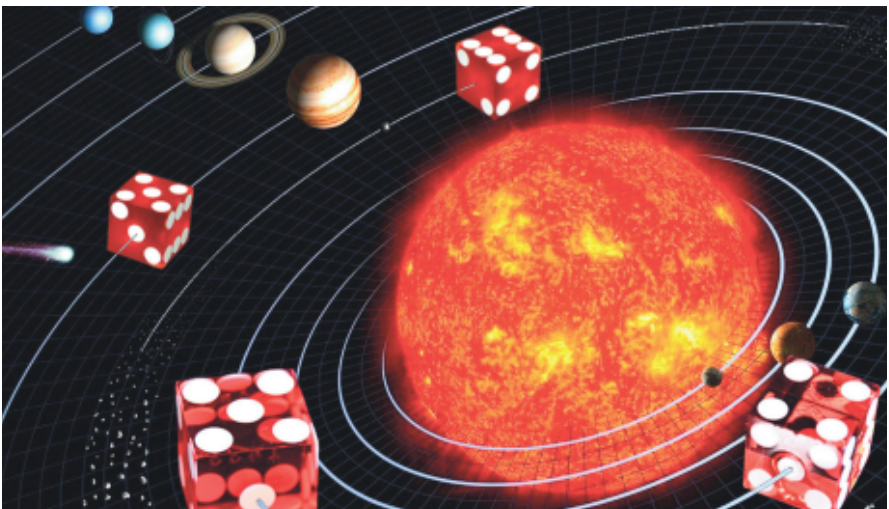
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# INTRODUCTION

Life presents us with a series of profound questions—questions about our origins, our purpose, and the nature of truth itself. In *Consider the Odds*, John Disterdick embarks on a compelling exploration of these fundamental inquiries, blending scientific reasoning, personal experience, and biblical wisdom to challenge conventional perspectives on chance, design, and faith.



A world-class athlete, successful businessman, and devoted follower of Christ, Disterdick approaches these questions with the same discipline and determination that have defined his career. Through a deep dive into probability, he examines whether the universe and life itself could have arisen by random chance or if the overwhelming complexity of existence points to an intelligent Creator. By weaving together evidence from science, mathematics, and scripture, he invites readers to consider the improbabilities of a self assembled universe and the undeniable fingerprints of design.

This book is not just an academic discussion but a personal journey. Disterdick shares insights from his life experiences—both in the boxing ring and in the boardroom—to illustrate how understanding probability influences our choices, beliefs, and actions. He challenges readers to weigh the evidence for themselves and to embark on their own search for truth, one that could ultimately transform their perspective on life, faith, and eternity.

Whether you are a skeptic, a seeker, or a believer looking to strengthen your convictions, *Consider the Odds* is an invitation to examine the world with an open mind and a willingness to explore the possibility that behind the universe's intricate design lies a Creator with a purpose for each of us.

## CHAPTER ONE

# THE QUESTIONS THAT DEFINE US

Throughout history, humanity has sought answers to the fundamental questions of existence. These questions shape our beliefs, influence our decisions, and determine the direction of our lives. They are not just abstract inquiries posed by philosophers or theologians; they are the same questions that each of us, at some point, must wrestle with as we seek meaning and purpose.

We live in a world filled with mysteries—some that science has begun to unravel and others that remain beyond our grasp. The deeper we search, the more we realize that every answer leads to new questions. Where did we come from? Why are we here? What happens after we die? Is there a greater purpose to life, or is everything simply a matter of chance?

Our search for truth is more than an intellectual pursuit; it is a deeply personal journey. The way we answer these questions will influence our worldview, our values, our choices, and our future. They determine whether we see ourselves as products of random processes or as beings with an intentional design. They shape our approach to science, philosophy, and spirituality. And ultimately, they determine where we place our trust—whether in human knowledge, in divine revelation, or in something else altogether.



## **The Universal Questions**

Some questions transcend culture, time, and individual experience. They touch on the very fabric of existence, challenging us to consider what we believe and why we believe it. Among them are:

1. Did the universe and our planet Earth come from the Big Bang? The origins of our universe remain one of the greatest mysteries of modern science.

Did everything come from a singular explosion billions of years ago, or is there more to the story?

2. Where did the Big Bang come from? – Even if the Big Bang theory explains the beginning of the universe, it leaves us with a deeper question: what caused it? Was it a spontaneous event, or is there an intelligent force behind it?

3. Were you created, or did you evolve? – The debate between creation and evolution has shaped discussions in science, religion, and education. Do we exist due to a process of natural selection, or were we formed by an intelligent Creator?

4. Is there life after death? – One of the most profound questions we face: What happens when we die? Is this life all there is, or does something await us beyond the grave?

5. Where do I get answers to life's questions? Does life have a purpose? – If there is meaning to life, where do we find it? Can philosophy, religion, or science provide satisfying answers?

6. Is there a spiritual aspect to life? If so, what is it? Many people have experienced something beyond the material world, but what does that mean? Is spirituality an essential part of our existence?



7. Why are there so many different ideas about religion? If there is one truth, why do people hold so many different beliefs? Are all religions equally valid, or is there one that holds the ultimate truth?

8. Are there absolute truths? In a world where perspectives often vary, is there objective truth? If so, can we find and understand it?

9. Can science provide us with answers to these and other questions about spirituality? Science has tried to explain much about the physical world, but can it provide answers to the deepest questions of meaning, morality, and purpose?

10. Could a true scientist believe in an all powerful God? Is faith in God compatible with scientific discovery, or are the two in conflict?

11. Have great scientists believed in God? Throughout history, many of the world's most brilliant minds have grappled with faith. Have some of them found reason to believe?

12. If there is a God, can we know Him personally? If God exists, does He reveal Himself to us? Can we have a personal relationship with Him?

13. Do miracles happen? Are miracles just ancient myths, or do they still occur today? If they do, what do they tell us about the nature of reality?

## **Personal Questions**

Beyond these universal questions, each of us faces deeply personal concerns that shape our day-to-day lives. Questions such as:

1. How can I earn more money? Financial security is a significant concern for many. How do we balance ambition with contentment?

2. What career should I pursue? How do we choose a profession that aligns with our talents, passions, and values?

3. Should I marry? Whom? Should I have children? Relationships are among the most important choices we make. How do we navigate love, commitment, and family?

4. What are the secrets to peace and contentment when I face difficult circumstances in life? Can we find true peace despite struggles, disappointments, and challenges?

## **Your Questions**

As you read through this book, you may find yourself asking new questions. Some may challenge what you have always believed; others may confirm convictions you already hold. The purpose of this journey is not just to provide answers but to encourage a thoughtful and intentional search for truth.

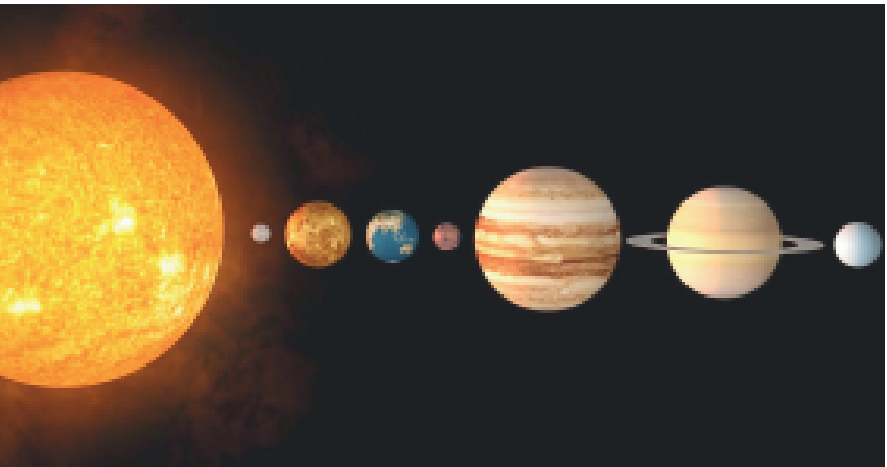
What are the questions that weigh most heavily on your heart? What uncertainties keep you up at night? This book invites you to explore, examine, and seek truth with an open mind and a willingness to consider the evidence.

The journey begins with a willingness to ask hard questions. The answers we are seeking—whether in science, philosophy, or faith—may surprise you. Let us begin the search together.

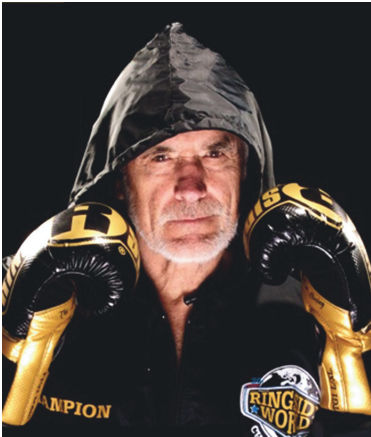
## CHAPTER TWO

# PROBABILITY

Certainly, the origin of the universe and our planet has significant implications for many of our deepest questions! Understanding probability should influence our thinking, attitudes, and actions.



Probability plays a key role in my thinking and decisions. When more than one outcome is possible, and the outcome is not predetermined, probability becomes a factor. If the weather forecast shows a 5 percent chance of rain, I might not worry much. But if it shows a 100 percent chance, I'll prepare for rain. In my days as a master boxer, I knew there was a 100 percent chance that my opponent wanted to win, and that I would take some hits. Knowing this probability affected my attitude and behavior.



I don't worry about getting hit by lightning when I leave my home because the probability is very low. However, as I drive down the road, I'm cautious of movement around me because I understand that if I'm not careful, there is a much greater probability I'll be involved in an accident.

Probability is widely used in medicine, insurance, engineering, gambling, advertising, genetics, space science computers, and a host of other fields. When you look at our universe, and life itself, happening by chance, the probability of that is so remote that it takes more faith to believe in "chance" than in a "higher power" using design.

In the universe, there are at least four forces working in harmony: gravity, electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear force, and the weak nuclear force. Alter any one of these forces and the universe would not exist. If the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off by  $1/10^{17}$  power—that's one chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (a quintillion)—then no stars and therefore no planets would have formed.

Let's try to understand what  $1/10^{17}$  power means. A mathematician at MIT once created a mental picture to depict this number. He concluded that a person, in one try, would have to find the one unique silver dollar within the entire state of Texas that is covered two feet thick in silver dollars which is 268,596 square miles. If you consider the probability of this actually happening, I believe you would conclude that this is next to impossible.

We are led to believe that, given enough time, "anything is possible." This sounds reasonable, but if you think more deeply, the concept loses its value. For example, take a watch and remove all the screws holding it together, all the gears, springs, mounting board, and every other component. Place them in a bag. How many years of shaking the bag would it take for all the parts to fit together "by chance," with the crystal on top and each screw in its place and tightened down? It doesn't matter how many billions of years you shake the bag; the parts will not come together "by chance."

It takes intelligence to properly align all the parts and finally put in the screws and tighten the watch together.

This same logic applies to the universe, our planet, and life itself. The precise order and complexity we observe in the natural world suggest something more than random chance. The probability of life forming by accident is so incomprehensibly small that it requires far more faith to believe in a universe without design than in one that was carefully created.

When we look at probability, it points us toward reason, and reason leads us to ask: If the universe is the result of intelligent design, then what or who is behind it? As we continue this journey, we will explore the evidence and consider the implications of what probability suggests about the nature of our existence.



## CHAPTER THREE

# IT ALL SCREAMS "DESIGN!"

The complexity and order of the universe go far beyond that of a watch. It screams “design!” by an intelligent Creator. As Genesis 1:1 declares, “God created.” The same is true of our small planet Earth. Can we really believe that the Earth could have evolved from the Big Bang and sustain life as we know it today without a Designer or Creator overseeing it?



Today, there are over two hundred known parameters that must be in perfect order for a planet to support life. Just a few of these include:

- The Earth's  $23.5^\circ$  axis of rotation, which regulates seasons and climate stability.
- The precise gravitational force, ensuring that our atmosphere remains intact.
- The Earth's rotation period, maintaining a balance between day and night for livable temperatures.
- The field crust, acting as a protective barrier against extreme geological instability.
- The oxygen/nitrogen ratio, finely tuned for breathable air.
- The presence of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and ozone, all necessary for sustaining life and regulating temperature.
- The distance from the moon and sun, crucial for gravitational effects on tides and planetary temperature control.
- The sun's size, shape, and type, providing consistent and life-sustaining energy.

- The gravitational pull of the moon, which influences oceanic tides, essential for marine life and ecological balance.
- The stars' precise orbits and our galaxy's position, all aligning to create a habitable environment.

The evidence suggests that our planet was not a random occurrence but the result of intelligent design. This remarkable balance and finetuning defy the odds of chance, pointing instead to an intentional Creator who orchestrated the universe with purpose.

The Bible expresses this truth: “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains” (Psalm 24:1), and “Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens” (Isaiah 48:13). These scriptures affirm what science continues to uncover—the intricacies of our world are not coincidental but the result of divine craftsmanship.

If all these elements were even slightly altered, life as we know it would be impossible. The question then is not whether design exists, but rather: What does this design tell us about the nature of the Designer? As we continue this journey, we will examine the implications of this undeniable evidence and consider what it means for our understanding of existence, purpose, and faith.



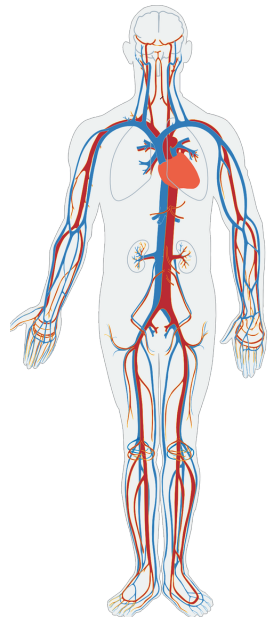
## CHAPTER FOUR

# HUMAN ORIGINS

Now we come to the big question about humanity—not just the physical universe: Were we created, or did we evolve? Anyone who carefully investigates the evidence will conclude that the universe, Earth, and human life were created—not by chance, but by an awesome, intelligent power, whom many call God.

### **The Probability of Human Design**

What is the probability that the human race is the result of an intelligent Creator? The complexity of the universe and Earth is undeniable, and, similarly, when you investigate the intricacy of the human body, the evidence overwhelmingly points to intentional design.



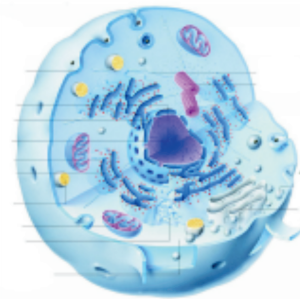
The human body is composed of approximately sixty trillion cells. Each cell contains a multitude of components—DNA, RNA, proteins, flagella, mitochondria, and more. Each cell is specifically designed for a particular function within the body. Within a single cell, there are an estimated one hundred trillion atoms.

Atoms consist of protons, neutrons, and electrons. When combined, they create molecules such as  $H_2O$ . These molecules then form amino acids, of which there are hundreds. However, only twenty of these amino acids can be used in human biology—and they must be in the correct sequence, with the right combination of oxygen, water, and an energy source to create proteins, which serve as the building blocks of the human body.

One study concluded that the probability of forming a biological protein by chance is one in  $10^{30}$  (for reference, remember the improbability of  $1/10^{17}$  from our previous discussion?). By comparison, one chance in  $10^{21}$  would require covering the entire USA over one hundred feet thick in silver dollars. The number  $10^{30}$  is practically beyond human comprehension.



## The Marvel of Cellular Design



Cells also possess an astonishingly sophisticated editing process to ensure that each gene is accurately reproduced without error. The genetic code is so astoundingly complex and interrelated that it further reinforces the concept of intelligent design.

The Bible affirms this truth for us in Genesis 2:7: “Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.” Similarly, in Mark 10:6, Jesus states, “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.”

The undeniable evidence of intelligent design in the human body is another testament to the remarkable intelligence behind our existence. The sheer improbability of our formation through random processes further strengthens the case for a purposeful, creative force behind all life. As we continue this journey, we will explore the implications of this design and what it means for our understanding of God and our place in the universe.



## CHAPTER FIVE

# PROBABILITY AND THE CELL

An airplane has approximately five million non-flying parts, yet it can fly. Why? The answer is design. Similarly, a single living cell consists of millions of non-living parts. What makes it alive? Once again, the answer is design!

One study concluded that the probability of a single cell being created by random chance is 1 in  $10^{4,000}$  —a number so astronomically large that it is beyond human comprehension. The likelihood of life arising by mere chance is effectively zero.

Our Cells function as energy generators, invasion guards, transport systems, food factories, protective barriers, waste disposal units, and communication links, all while manufacturing their own replacement parts. Their complexity is nothing short of astonishing.

# The Marvel of the Human Body

The human body is a masterpiece of design, with intricate systems working in perfect harmony. Consider the following:

- The body contains forty million capillaries, stretching over 25,000 miles.
- The heart beats approximately 100,000 times per day to sustain life.
- Red blood cells transport oxygen to tissues, fueling every function of the body.
- White blood cells identify and destroy foreign agents, defending against illness.
- The eyes and ears are more complex than any man-made machine, processing vast amounts of information instantaneously.
- The brain has 100 trillion interconnections, enabling it to perform one quadrillion calculations per second.
- The nervous system, skeletal structure, liver, lungs, skin, stomach, and kidneys all function in seamless coordination—each part essential, each playing a unique role in sustaining life.

- Beyond physical complexity, human emotions such as love, anger, guilt, compassion, imagination, and curiosity point to something beyond mere biological function. Where do these qualities originate if we are merely random molecules?

The evidence overwhelmingly supports the idea that life is not an accident but a product of meticulous design. The sheer complexity of a single cell, let alone the entire human body, defies the notion of random assembly. The intricate systems within us—working tirelessly, efficiently, and with purpose—point unmistakably to an intelligent Creator.

As we continue this exploration, we must ask: If life itself is the result of design, what does that say about our purpose and our place in the grand scheme of creation?





## CHAPTER SIX

# THE INFORMATION IN DNA

DNA has become one of the most crucial discoveries in modern science, particularly in fields like criminal justice. Shows like *Forensic Files* highlight how DNA analysis has revolutionized law enforcement, ensuring that criminals are brought to justice. However, beyond its role in forensics, DNA is far more than a tool for identification—it is the very blueprint of life itself.

DNA is often described as the software of life, and rightly so. One DNA molecule has five billion times more information storage capacity than a 340GB storage drive. To put that in perspective:

- 1 gigabyte (GB) = 1,024 (megabytes (MB))
- 1 megabyte (MB) = 1,024 (kilobytes (KB))
- 1 kilobyte (KB) = 1,024 bytes
- 1 gigabyte = 1,073,741,824 bytes



Each human cell contains nearly 1.5 gigabytes of genetic information, and when multiplied across all the cells in the human body, this equates to 150 trillion gigabytes of data! The sheer magnitude of this information is beyond human comprehension.

## **The Question of Origin**

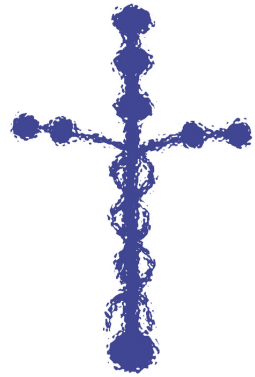
Where did all this information come from? How did such a complex system encode the instructions for every aspect of human life? DNA not only stores massive amounts of data but also has the remarkable ability to replicate itself with near-perfect accuracy. The precision of this process defies randomness and strongly suggests design over chance.

## **A Testament to a Creator**

Every human body is a living testimony to a powerful and purposeful Creator. Scripture affirms this truth:

- “The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both.” — Proverbs 20:12
- “But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body just as He desired.” 1 Corinthians 12:18

One particularly fascinating discovery in molecular biology is laminin, a high-molecular-weight protein that serves as the foundation of cellular and organ structures. Intriguingly, laminin is shaped like a cross, a symbol of Christ's sacrifice and redemption.



*Laminin*

While some may see this as mere coincidence, for those who believe in intelligent design, it is yet another affirmation that God has left His imprint on creation in ways both seen and unseen.

## **The DNA of Design**

The profound complexity of DNA stands as one of the greatest evidences for intelligent design. It is not merely a random collection of molecules but an intricately encoded language, a system so sophisticated that even the most advanced human technology pales in comparison. Science may attempt to explain how DNA works, but the deeper question remains: Who wrote the code?

As we continue to examine the wonders of creation, it becomes increasingly clear that life was not an accident. It was designed, with purpose, intelligence, and intention. DNA is not just a molecular structure; it is a divine signature—evidence that we were fearfully and wonderfully made.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

# LEAP OF FAITH

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6*

If you're still convinced that the universe originated from the Big Bang, that Earth and all its life-sustaining components aligned purely by chance, and that the human body evolved over millions (or billions) of years without guidance, then you may not feel the need to read further. But if you have lingering questions and if you find yourself wondering whether such extraordinary developments could truly have occurred without intention—then continue on for a deeper exploration of truth.

## **A Leap of Faith**

Every human perspective on the origins of life, whether based on science, philosophy, or religion, ultimately requires faith. While there may never be absolute, undeniable proof of either chance or design regarding the origins of the universe, Earth, or humanity, the overwhelming weight of evidence and logic points to intelligent design.

Faith is not merely blind belief, it is a reasoned trust in what the evidence suggests. When we examine the finely tuned complexities of the universe, the intricate systems that sustain life, and the remarkable design of the human body, we must ask: Is it truly more logical to believe in randomness than in a purposeful Creator? Could it be that God designed it this way?

## **The Question of Many Beliefs**

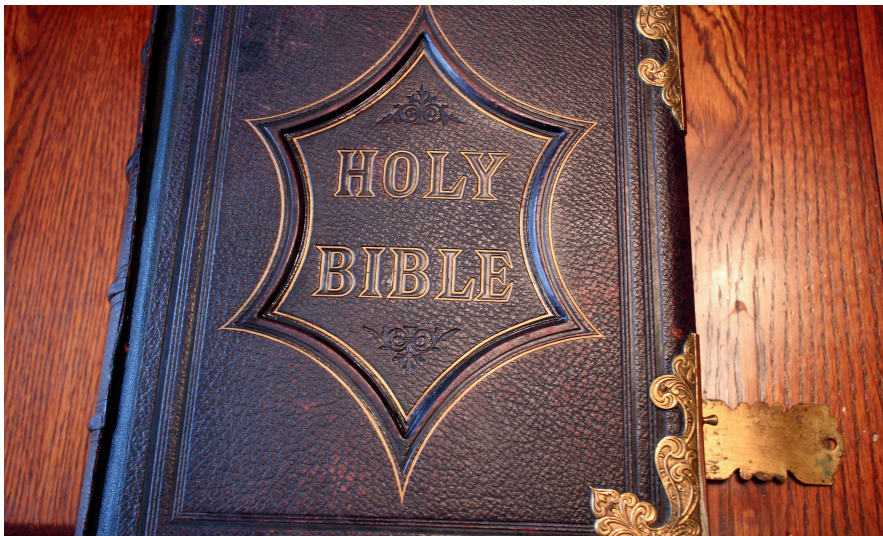
As we embark on this investigation, an essential question emerges: If all creation is the result of intelligent design, why are there so many differing understandings of this Creator?

This question opens the door to an even deeper discussion, one that extends beyond science and into the realm of spiritual truths. It challenges us to examine not only whether a Creator exists, but who that Creator is and what that means for us as individuals.

Could it be that God designed our World to require "faith" for reasons we can only imagine?

While some may choose to dismiss spiritual inquiries as abstract or unnecessary, they are vital to understanding the full picture of our existence. If intelligent design is evident, then seeking to understand the Designer becomes the most important pursuit of all.

In the chapters that follow, we will explore this journey of discovery, a journey that requires not only intellect and reason but also the willingness to take a leap of faith.





## CHAPTER EIGHT

# THE ENEMY OF GOD

### The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

If the Bible is to be believed, then one of the most profound truths it reveals is the reality of spiritual warfare. Scripture tells us that a third of the angels, led by Satan, rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven. These fallen beings are still active in the world today, working tirelessly to keep people from knowing the truth and receiving eternal life.



Evil is not just a philosophical concept—it is alive and well on Earth. These forces seek to destroy lives, break apart families, and lead people away from God. Their tactics are varied and insidious, including:

- Attacking marriages, creating division and strife.
- Leading children away from faith, distancing them from a relationship with God.
- Encouraging destructive behaviors, such as addiction to drugs and alcohol.
- Fueling emotional turmoil, fostering depression, anxiety, anger, and self-pity.
- Justifying sin, making wrong actions seem acceptable or even virtuous.

Jesus spoke about truth in John 8:32, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” This freedom brings peace, contentment, and a relationship with our Heavenly Father. But the enemy seeks to obscure that truth, leading people into confusion, deception, and spiritual bondage.

## **Why Are There So Many Views of God?**

One of the questions we asked earlier was: Why are there so many different beliefs about God? The reality of spiritual warfare provides part of the answer. Satan is not just a deceiver, he is a master manipulator who distorts truth and influences people’s understanding of God.

The enemy influences human thought through deceptive ideologies and misleading religious teachings and concepts. History has shown how dangerous and misleading doctrines have shaped civilizations, often leading people away from the true God. Consider the impact of influential books and teachings, such as:

- The Book of Mormon and Pearl of Great Price (Mormonism)
- Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures (Christian Science)
- The Quran (Islam)
- The Teachings of Scientology

Many leaders throughout history, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Muhammad, and others have shaped societies in ways that led people away from truth, often with catastrophic consequences. Satan's influence is pervasive, reaching into politics, religion, media, and culture, all with the goal of keeping people from the true knowledge of God. Satan is extremely powerful, but as a Christian,

*...the one who is in you is greater than the one  
who is in the world. **John 4:4***

# The Deception of Good Works

One of the enemy's most cunning tactics is making deception appear good. Many ideologies seem well-intended, offering paths to enlightenment, morality, or self-improvement. However, they subtly turn people away from God's truth. The Bible warns that Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), meaning that deception often appears righteous and attractive.



The battle for truth is not just an intellectual one, it is a spiritual war. To find the truth, one must seek God with an open heart and test everything against His Word. The next chapters will explore how we can recognize deception, cling to truth, and walk in the victory that God provides.

## CHAPTER NINE

# THREE IN ONE

One of the most profound spiritual concepts, one that may challenge your logic yet draw you closer to your Creator—is the revelation that God is not a single, solitary unit, but something deeper and more complex than anyone could fully comprehend. He exists as one being in three Persons, united by an eternal bond of love. This is the doctrine of the Trinity.

### **The Triune Nature of God**

The Bible describes God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct Persons, yet one God. As 1 John 5:7 affirms, “The three are in agreement.” This idea is difficult for the human mind to grasp, yet it remains a fundamental truth of Christian faith.

Some things are beyond human comprehension, and this is one of them. But our inability to fully understand a concept does not make it untrue.

## **A Limited Mind, An Infinite God**

It should not surprise us that God is beyond our complete understanding. To illustrate this, imagine intelligence as an elevator that reaches level one thousand, yet the human brain can only ascend to level five. The vast majority of knowledge remains inaccessible to us, not because it does not exist, but because our minds are limited in their capacity to comprehend it.

This is why faith plays such an essential role. But faith in God is not blind faith; rather, it is built upon solid evidence, logic, and the testimony of scripture. The existence of the Trinity is a divine mystery—one that calls us to trust in the wisdom of a God who is greater than our understanding.

## **Love at the Core of the Trinity**

At the heart of the Trinity is love. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist in perfect unity, each fulfilling a role within the divine nature. This eternal relationship of love is reflected in creation, in redemption, and in our own spiritual journey.

Rather than being a contradiction, the Trinity is a profound expression of God's nature, revealing a God who is relational, personal, and deeply invested in His creation.

As we move forward, we will explore how this understanding of God impacts our lives and also will strengthen our faith in Him.





## CHAPTER TEN

# PROBABILITY AND THE BIBLE

We've covered a vast range of topics, the intricate design behind the universe, Earth, and the human body, the truth of the Bible, and the reality of spiritual warfare. So what now? Can we derive answers from all this? Can this knowledge benefit us?

If the Bible is true (as we have already demonstrated is highly probable) and was divinely authored through different individuals, as Exodus 31:18 states, where God Himself wrote on the tablets given to Moses, then it stands as the ultimate source of truth. This proven resource offers answers to life's deepest questions.

### **The Bible's Unique Nature**

The Bible is unlike any other book. It contains sixty-six books, written by over forty authors across a span of fifteen hundred years. Despite this, it maintains an

extraordinary consistency and accuracy. No other book in history has influenced humanity so profoundly.

But what can we learn from the Bible about the spiritual warfare that affects all of us? How do we gain victory over an enemy who seeks to keep us in deception and defeat?

## **The Answer is Jesus**

The Bible provides a clear and decisive answer: Jesus Christ.

Jesus declared, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). When examining Jesus life and teachings, one must conclude that He was either:

- A lunatic (someone with delusions of grandeur).
- A liar (intentionally deceiving people about His identity).
- Or, He was exactly who He claimed to be, God.

Jesus stated, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). He also claimed the authority to forgive sins, a claim that ultimately led to His crucifixion. If Jesus was not God, why would He make such bold statements, knowing they would cost Him His life?

# The Probability of Jesus Fulfilling Prophecy

Remember, probability plays an important role in decision-making. What is the probability that any one person could fulfill the specific prophecies about the coming Jewish Messiah, written hundreds of years before His birth? An important number to consider is that there are over three hundred prophecies in the Bible concerning Jesus' first coming. Consider just eight of them:

1. Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
2. Messiah would be born in the tribe of Judah (Isaiah 37:31).
3. Messiah would be called from Egypt (Hosea 11:1).
4. Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13).
5. Messiah's clothes would be gambled away (Psalm 22:18).
6. Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16).
7. Messiah's bones would not be broken (Psalm 34:20).
8. Messiah would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9).

The probability of just these eight prophecies being fulfilled by one man is one in  $10^{17}$ . This is virtually impossible by chance alone, as previously shown with silver dollars over 268,596 square miles of Texas.

## **The Astonishing Probability of All Three Hundred Prophecies**

Jesus not only fulfilled eight prophecies, He fulfilled over three hundred! The probability of this occurring is beyond astronomical, simply incalculable. The only logical conclusion is that these events were orchestrated by a divine author who controls past, present, and future.

The God who created the universe out of nothing is in total control of all time and existence. Though difficult to comprehend, this truth is also deeply comforting, especially in an uncertain world.

## **Another Probability Example: The Powerball Lottery**

To further illustrate probability, please consider this: the odds of winning the Powerball lottery are approximately one in 200 million (1 in  $10^8$ ). Let's visualize this number.

If you took 200 million one-dollar bills and placed them end to end, they would stretch:

- From Washington, D.C., all the way to Disney World in Orlando.
- Then across the country to Disneyland in California.
- From California to Portland, Oregon.
- From Portland back to Portland, Maine.
- And finally, back to Washington, D.C. completing a full loop!

After all that, you would still have enough dollar bills to circle the country a second time! Now imagine stopping anywhere along this route, picking up one dollar bill, and having it be the winning lottery ticket. That is one in 200 million, a far smaller probability than Jesus fulfilling just eight of His prophecies, let alone all three hundred.



## **The Bible: A Divine Masterpiece**

With all these probabilities examined, from the likelihood of the universe forming randomly, to the complexity of the human body, cells, proteins, and DNA, and finally, to the fulfillment of prophecy, it is evident that the Bible is no ordinary book. It is God's revelation to humanity, a divine masterpiece filled with irrefutable evidence that points to a Creator, a Savior, and a plan for our lives.

The Bible is not just an ancient text, it is a living document that continues to transform lives today. The question remains: will you choose to believe the overwhelming evidence and take your next step toward truth? Remember Hebrews: 11:6.

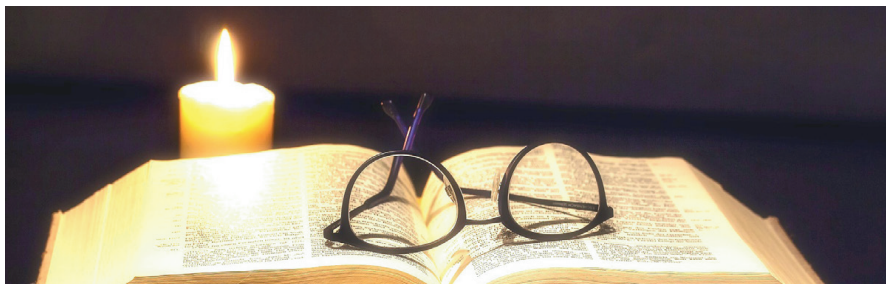
*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Hebrews 11:6*

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

# **GOD COMMUNICATES THROUGH THE BIBLE**

Having considered the overwhelming probability of the Bible's prophecies and their fulfillment, it becomes clear that a Creator is behind it all. This leads us to a logical alternative to random chance and evolutionary processes, intelligent design. A mind beyond time and space has brought into existence everything we see and know. But if such an intelligence exists, wouldn't it also have the ability to communicate with us? The answer is a resounding yes. That is exactly what the Bible is, the Creator's communication to us.

Many people look to the Bible as the ultimate authority, offering a stable foundation compared to the ever-changing opinions of the world. It provides answers to life's biggest questions, including why we are here, what went wrong, and how we can be restored.



## **What Is God Communicating to Us?**

The Bible explains that humanity is separated from God by sin:

- “Your iniquities have separated you from your God” (Isaiah 59:2).
- “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves” (1 John 1:8).
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We were created for a relationship with God, but our rebellion against Him has brought separation and consequences. The Bible states:

- “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).
- God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

This is the central message of the Bible: mankind is lost in sin, but God, in His love, has provided a way for us to be redeemed.

# The Three Barriers Between Us and God

We cannot reach God on our own. Three major barriers stand in our way:

1. Our sinful nature, Our hearts are rebellious, spiritually blind, and naturally opposed to God.

- “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9)
- “The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

2. Our self-righteousness—No matter how good we try to be, we fall short of God’s holiness.

- “All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment” (Isaiah 64:6).
- “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

3. Our unholy state—Without holiness, we cannot stand before God.

- “Without holiness, no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).
- “The tongue is a restless evil and full of deadly poison” (James 3:6, 8).

Because of these barriers, we face the just wrath of God for our sins. Our rebellion against the Creator is treason, a crime against the King of the universe.

## **The Only Solution: Jesus Christ**

When we recognize our sinfulness, the natural question is, “What must I do to be saved?” This was the same question asked in Acts 2:37 and 16:30. The answer is found in Jesus Christ.

In His mercy, God provides three saving promises that remove these barriers:

1. A new heart—“I will remove the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).
2. Cleansing from sin—“I will cleanse you from all your filthiness” (Ezekiel 36:25).
3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit—“I will put My Spirit within you” (Ezekiel 36:27).

Through Jesus, God removes His wrath and fulfills His promises. Jesus’ death and resurrection accomplished what we could never do:

- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood” (Romans 3:25).
- “He has clothed me with garments of salvation” (Isaiah 61:10).

Through faith in Christ, we are made new, washed clean, and filled with the Holy Spirit. His resurrection conquers death, giving us eternal life and righteousness before God (Romans 6:4, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

## **How Do We Receive Salvation?**

Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit, who applies what the Father has promised and the Son has provided. When we place our faith in Christ, God grants us:

- A new spiritual birth (John 3:3–6).
- Repentance and faith (Romans 2:4).
- A permanent seal of righteousness (Ephesians 1:13–14).
- The law of God written on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

This is not just an intellectual decision, it is a supernatural transformation.

## The Work of the Triune God

Salvation is a work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all working together to remove the barriers of sin. It is an all-or-nothing package deal. The Triune God rescues us completely, leaving nothing undone.



The question you must consider is: Will you respond to His call?

## CHAPTER TWELVE

# MAKING IT PERSONAL

At this point, two essential questions should arise: How do I personally receive the three solutions? and How can I be assured that I have received them?

### **Receiving the Three Solutions**

The answer is simple yet profound: Call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus from a sincere and broken heart.

- “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Acts 2:21)

To receive salvation, one must approach God in sorrowful repentance, acknowledging the barriers of rebellion, sin, and an unholy life. By faith, ask Jesus Christ to apply the three glorious solutions provided through His resurrection:

1. A spiritual “heart transplant”—God replaces the heart of stone with a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).
2. Cleansing from sin—Jesus washes away our filthiness (1 John 1:9).
3. The indwelling Holy Spirit—He guides and directs us (John 16:13).

When you sincerely make this request, God will not turn you away:

- “Whoever comes to Me, I will never cast out.” (John 6:37)

## **Assurance of Salvation**

Once you have genuinely repented and believed, God’s grace assures you of forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit:

- “By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

As you abide in Christ, obey His teachings, and grow in faith, your life will bear fruit, visible evidence that you are a new creation. The Bible describes these as the Fruit of the Spirit:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)

## **Growing in Faith**

Our spiritual lives flourish through consistent participation in fellowship with other believers. The Church is not just a building; it is a community where we are trained as disciples of Christ.

## **The Unshakable Benefits of Faith**

Taking this step of faith comes with eternal blessings that cannot be taken away:

- An acceptance that can never be questioned (Ephesians 1:6)
- An inheritance that can never be lost (1 Peter 1:3-5)

- A deliverance that can never be lost (2 Corinthians 1:10)
- A grace that can never be limited (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- A hope that can never be disappointed (Hebrews 6:18–19)
- A bounty that can never be withdrawn (1 Corinthians 3:21–23)
- A joy that can never be diminished (John 15:11)
- A nearness to God that can never be reversed (Ephesians 2:13)
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- A salvation that can never be canceled (Hebrews 5:9)
- A peace that can never be disturbed (John 14:27)
- A peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7)

By accepting Christ and walking in faith, you gain a new identity, eternal security, and a relationship with the Creator. This is not just a belief system, it is a transformed way of living.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# FROM THIS POINT ONWARD

This has been quite a journey. We have covered some complex subjects, but as you can see, being “born again” or becoming a Christian takes very little effort. God knows your heart—He created it—so there’s no faking it with Him. The Christian life is not a puzzle to solve but a mystery to live, once you have received new life in Christ.

Even with overwhelming mathematical probabilities against a self-existing universe and in favor of intelligent design, belief in God ultimately requires a spiritual decision. It is a matter of both heart and mind, as Jesus reminds us:

- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

All people must overcome their natural resistance with a willingness to seek God on His terms:

- “Seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”  
(Acts 17:27)

## **The Challenge Moving Forward**

What’s the next step? You must put in the work and seek the deepest relationship possible with the Lord. But take heart—God does the heavy lifting. Here are some suggestions to begin walking with Christ:

- Find a church that properly teaches the Word of God.
- Get a Bible and read it daily.
- Study solid Christian materials to build a strong foundation in faith.
- Pray about whatever concerns you in life.
- Join a small group to share your experiences and encourage others.
- Seek a mature Christian mentor to guide and support your growth.

## **Growing in Your Faith**

As you walk with Christ, continue to:

- Discover your God-given abilities and use them to serve others.
- Share God's love with those around you as He opens opportunities.
- Teach others what you have learned about honoring God.
- Strengthen your relationship with Christ while avoiding distractions that pull you away from Him.

## **Trusting God with Your Life**

One of the greatest truths of the Christian life is that it's not up to you to figure it all out. Life's personal questions—about marriage, career, family, and decisions—are not yours to solve alone. You don't have that kind of power. You have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit within you and the Word of God will guide you into all truth and wisdom for life's decisions.

You won't always like the situations you may find yourself in. Sometimes you may feel that your prayers seem unanswered, but looking back, you may find that God knew better than you did. As someone once said:

- “God will always answer our prayers the way we would have wanted if we knew as much as He knows.”

## **A Peace That Surpasses Understanding**

As your relationship with God deepens, you will find peace and contentment, no matter the circumstances. We can experience peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7). No matter what challenges come, your faith in Christ will sustain you.

## **Praise the Lord for that!**

MAY THE LORD RICHLY BLESS YOU IN THIS JOURNEY  
WE CALL LIFE!

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

# HOW TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY

### God's Design for Us

God created us to be with Him.

- So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. (Genesis 1:27-28)
- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.(John 3:16)
- For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:36)

# The Problem of Sin

Our sin separates us from God.

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.; (Romans 3:23)
- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
- So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. (Genesis 3:23)



**SIN**



Sin cannot be removed by good deeds.

- But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. (Titus 3:4-5)
- All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags(Isaiah 4:6)
- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

## **Jesus: The Only Solution**

Jesus paid the price for sin by dying and rising again.

- But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

# He is the only way to God.

- Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’ (John 14:6)



**HE DIED IN OUR PLACE**

Romans 5:8

**GOD**

**JESUS**

**HE ROSE FROM  
THE DEAD**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

**HE IS THE ONLY  
WAY TO GOD**

john 14:6

## Our Response: Trust in Jesus

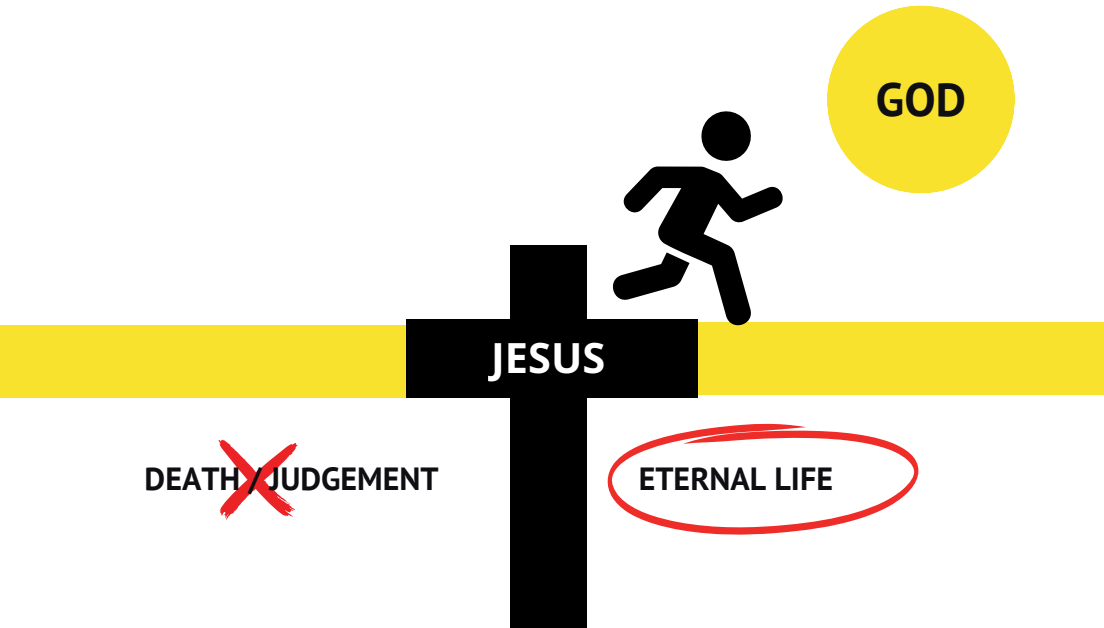
Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
- If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

- Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.( John 1:12)

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

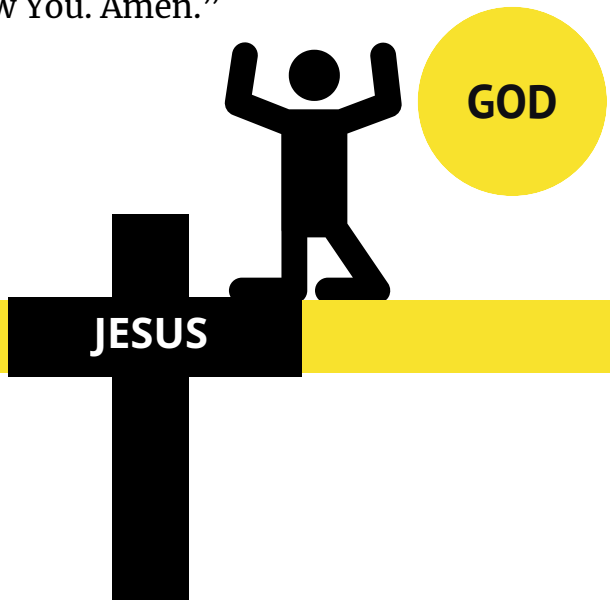
- And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-13)



## Ready to Accept the Gift Jesus Offers You?

If you are ready to put your faith in Jesus and accept the free gift of salvation, you can pray this prayer:

“God, I recognize my need for Jesus and the salvation He freely offers. I humbly admit that I have sinned and have tried to live life on my own terms. Today, I ask for Your forgiveness, trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus on my behalf. I accept You, Jesus, as my Savior, and I acknowledge You as the Lord of my life. I choose now to live in a personal relationship with You, surrendering to Your plan and purpose for me. Thank You for giving Your life in exchange for mine, for saving me from my sins, and for the hope of eternal life with You. Thank You for the gift of Your presence through the Holy Spirit and for all You have done and will continue to do to guide me as I follow You. Amen.”



# OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

One of the greatest truths in the Christian life is knowing who we are in Christ. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are given a new identity, secured in His love, grace, and promises. The Bible provides countless affirmations of our true identity in Him, reminding us of the security, power, and purpose we have as children of God.

## Who We Are in Christ

- I am a child of God (John 1:12).
- I have peace with God (Romans 5:1).
- I am justified (Romans 5:1).
- The Holy Spirit lives in me (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- I have access to God's wisdom (James 1:5).
- I am helped by God (Hebrews 4:16).
- I am reconciled to God (Romans 5:11).
- I am not condemned by God (Romans 8:1).
- I am Christ's ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20).

- I am completely forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
- I am tenderly loved by God (Jeremiah 31:3).
- I am a temple in which God dwells (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- I am blameless and beyond reproach (Colossians 1:22).
- I am the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).
- I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).
- I am a branch on Christ's vine (John 15:1-5).
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).
- I am chosen by Christ to bear fruit (John 15:16).
- I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance (Romans 8:17).
- I am united to the Lord, one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17).
- I am a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1).

- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).
- I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12).
- I am a child of light (1 Thessalonians 5:5).
- I am sanctified (Hebrews 2:11).
- I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).
- I am firmly rooted and built up in Christ (Colossians 2:7).
- I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
- I have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).
- I may approach God with boldness, freedom, and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).
- I have been rescued from satan's domain and transferred to the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13).
- I have been made complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).

- I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).
- I have been given great and precious promises by God (2 Peter 1:4).
- My needs are met by God (Philippians 4:19).

## **Our Royal Identity**

- I am a prince in God's kingdom (John 1:12; 1 Timothy 6:15).
- I have been bought with a price and belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- I have been adopted as God's child (Ephesians 1:5).
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
- I am assured that all things are working together for good (Romans 8:28).
- I am free from any condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31).
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:35).

- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1:6).
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8).
- I am God's co-worker (2 Corinthians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 3:9).
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 2:6).
- I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).
- I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).

## Living in Our Identity

When we fully embrace who we are in Christ, it transforms how we live. Our identity is not based on our past, our failures, or our circumstances—it is based on God’s truth. He calls us His children, His heirs, His workmanship, and His beloved. No matter what the world says, our identity is secure in Him.

Let these truths shape your heart and mind as you grow in faith, knowing that you are loved, redeemed, and empowered in Christ.





# **ABOUT THE AUTHOR: JOHN DISTERDICK**



John Disterdick is a top competitor in every sense of the word, excelling in both business and athletics. His drive and dedication have led him to achievements in multiple disciplines, showcasing his relentless pursuit of excellence.

## **A Life of Achievement**

John has been an actor, director, and writer in over three hundred productions. His talents extend beyond the arts into the world of competitive sports, where he has competed at both the state, national and world levels in twenty five diverse events spanning eleven different sports. In masters athletics John has received two hundred and thirty four Gold medals, one hundred and sixty one silver medals, and sixty nine bronze medals totaling four hundred and sixty three appearances on the winners podium.

One of John's most remarkable achievements is his dominance in the world of boxing. He was named Master Athlete Magazine's 2007 Master Athlete of the Year and has held the World Masters Boxing title for over ten years. Undefeated with ten world titles and a total of twelve boxing bouts.

## **Olympic and Hall of Fame Recognition**

His remarkable contributions to athletics have earned him induction into three prestigious Halls of Fame:

1. Tennessee State Senior Olympics Hall of Fame
2. Master Boxing Hall of Fame
3. Chattanooga Boxing Hall of Fame

## **A Life of Faith**

Despite his incredible accomplishments, John attributes all his success and blessings to his faith in Jesus Christ. He firmly believes that his journey has been guided by God's hand, and he gives all glory and honor to Christ for every achievement.

For those interested in learning more about his personal journey and faith, John invites you to watch his personal testimony at: [www.johndisterdick.com](http://www.johndisterdick.com)

Discover real-life stories of perseverance and faith.

## **A Legacy of Excellence and Faith**

John Disterdick's life stands as a testament to perseverance, dedication, and faith. Whether in the ring, the boardroom, or the theater, he has demonstrated what it means to pursue greatness while staying grounded in God's purpose.

# ABOUT REDEFINING AGING

Redefining Aging is a movement dedicated to challenging the cultural narrative around aging and inspiring people to live with greater health, strength, and purpose—no matter their age.

Founded by Christian athlete and motivator John Disterdick, Redefining Aging exists to encourage men and women to live intentionally—body, soul, and spirit.

Through uplifting video content, practical health and fitness tips, inspiring testimonies, and faith-filled resources, we help people take control of their wellness journey and rediscover what's possible.

We believe growing older doesn't mean slowing down—it means getting stronger, wiser, and more impactful.

Visit us online at [www.RedefiningAging.us](http://www.RedefiningAging.us) to:

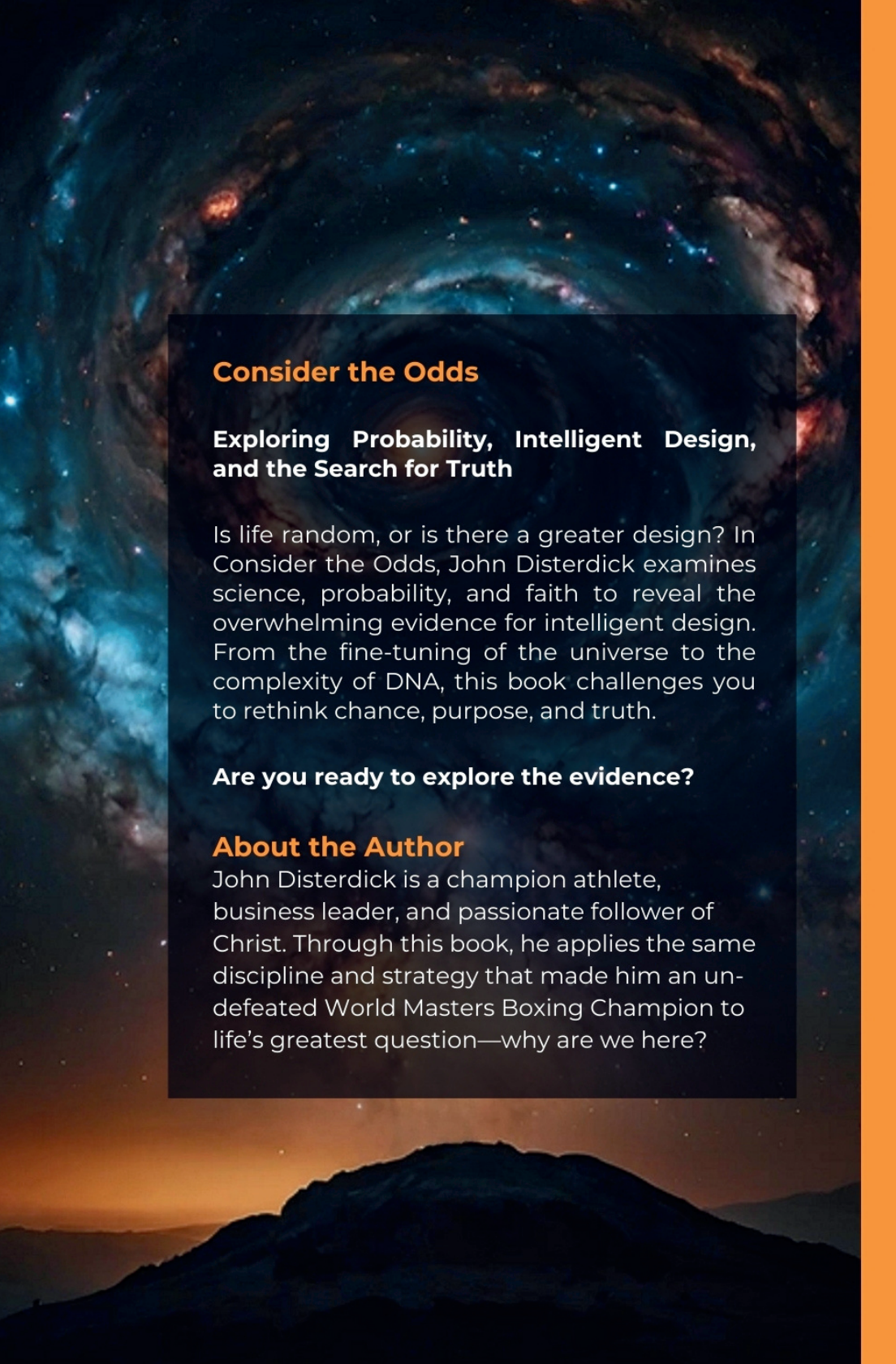
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## **Consider the Odds**

### **Exploring Probability, Intelligent Design, and the Search for Truth**

Is life random, or is there a greater design? In *Consider the Odds*, John Disterdick examines science, probability, and faith to reveal the overwhelming evidence for intelligent design. From the fine-tuning of the universe to the complexity of DNA, this book challenges you to rethink chance, purpose, and truth.

**Are you ready to explore the evidence?**

### **About the Author**

John Disterdick is a champion athlete, business leader, and passionate follower of Christ. Through this book, he applies the same discipline and strategy that made him an undefeated World Masters Boxing Champion to life's greatest question—why are we here?