

Is a Christian to persuade people that God is real, or by Him to preach His word?

God has given infallible evidence of His existence - to every human being on earth:

1. The Evidence to each of us of God's magnificent creation, it's everywhere we look:

Rom 1:20 **Since earliest times people have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day.** TLB

Ps 19:1-3 **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no...language where their voice is not heard.** NIV

2. The Proof of our own conscience, the voice of our spirit, which God puts in all of us:

Ro 2:14-15 **When those not Jewish, being without God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts (meaning their spirits) they know right from wrong. They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, because their own conscience (which is the voice of their hearts or spirits) either accuses them or tells them they are doing what is right.** NLT

By our intelligence we should believe in God, but we can't personally know Him that way

Matt 11:25 (Jesus) **"I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to little children"** (sense and reason can't know God, He must reveal Himself). NASU

1 Cor 1:21 **For God in His wisdom made it impossible for people to know Him by means of their own wisdom. Instead, by means of the so-called "foolish" message we preach, He is pleased to save those who believe (His message).** TEV

With our brains we know God exists but He, being Spirit, reveals Himself to our spirits:

Jer 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know Me...they shall be My people, and I will be their God...** Pro 20:27 **The spirit of a person is the part that God illuminates...**

Some, even very smart people, deny God's proof that He exists; God calls them fools:

Ps 53:1-3 **Only fools say in their hearts "There is no God"** (their hearts are so hard).

Should Christians try to persuade them that God exists with the logic of apologetics, or with scientific evidence for creation and intelligent design? No, first they must stop being foolish and believe in God. Then, as the gospel is preached, their hearts can know Him.

Prov 23:9 **Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.** NIV

Prov 27:22 **You cannot separate fools from their foolishness, even though you grind them like grain with mortar and pestle.** NLT

1 Cor 2:4-5 **My speech and my preaching were not with the persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power, so that your faith should not be in human wisdom but in the power of God.** NASU