* Having a child who was being led astray by Bart Ehrman books Wanting to be more confident in evangelism
* \* My brother's an atheist. \* An intelligent Christian Faith demands it \* It's integral to discipleship and evangelism
* -Being a Jewish believer in Jesus and looking for answers to give other Jewish people and Chrstians who asked about Judaism. -Finding out about Ratio Christi.
* -Having an atheist family member challenge my faith. -The movie 'Gods Not Dead' and learning there was evidence for God.
* 1) Getting saved through a non-denominational para church ministry that emphasized a solid statement of faith. 2) My wife coming out of a cult. 3) Working in full time ministry for another non-denominational para church ministry that also emphasized a solid statement of faith.
* 1. Passion to know- Internal drive to know the answers to questions. 2. Faith stability- And also seeking answers to common questions so that my faith doesn't get rocked every time an intelligent non-believer challenges me
* 1. Apologetics provided answers to the questions people were asking me when I spoke to them about Jesus. 2. Answers to my own questions. 3. Helped me to think deeply about my faith
* 1. The discussion of pre-trib verses post. 2. Our political position in today’s world. 3. How to explain our position to non-believers.
* 1Peter 3:15 Personal interest Strong influx of atheist thought
* A crisis of faith in college as I encountered biblical criticism, other religions and evolution for the first time.
* As a freshman in college I was presented with arguments from liberal "Christian" professors in an Honors Program that was designed to destroy the faith of the few evangelical kids who weren't too scared to speak up. I discovered a ton of apologetics resources at that time including stuff by Josh McDowell, and my faith came through that trial stronger than ever. Since then I've almost completed my master's in Christian Apologetics through Biola and I am passionate about sharing why we need apologetics with anyone who will listen!
* Atheists and Bible difficulties
* Being introduced to apologetic writings and being confronted by arguments against Christianity.
* Continuing education for ministry. Friends who were unbelievers/atheist.
* Conversations with friends, personal experiences that caused me to doubt
* Creation vs Evolution as I prepared for college in biology Exposure to atheistic worldviews online Comparative religion and cults
* Douglas Groothuis’ class, “Defending the Faith” at Denver Seminary. A believing friend became an atheist and opponent to Christianity. Skeptics often come to my church.
* Francis Schaeffer, Nancy Pearcey, Atheists on twitter!
* Having been a Christian all my life, I was challenged at age 31 by a fellow (atheist) pilot during a redeye flight. He asked me "why" I believed in God. No one had ever asked me that before. It was a life-changing moment that led me to wonder if I really did believe. I soon discovered C. S. Lewis, Hugh Ross (and others) and I was off to the races, eventually earning my M.A., Christian Apologetics from Biola in 2006.
* I was saved out of Christian Science, so started studying the major cults to witness to them, and expanded to defending the faith with other hard cases, such as secular humanists, materialists, and atheists.
* Interactions with non-Christians Strength of the Christian world view Loss of the faith of young Christians
* Living in a Muslim community as a christian
* Mormonism or Classic Christianity? Young earth or old earth?
* My brother is an atheist and he challenged my faith. I sought out to answer the questions he engaged me with and found WLC initially and became completely overwhelmed with my love for apologetics. My brother is somewhat unsure of his atheism now and I’m a more passionate Christian than ever before committing my heart but just as importantly now my mind to Christ and spreading the truth.
* my personal questions about God and disbelievers attacking my faith combining my interest in faith with my interest in science it feels good to have a well based intellectual worldview
* Personal discussions concerning faith and religion with family, friends, acquaintances, working associates, and total strangers.
* Talking with prisoners in a Bible study class where I meet with a small group weekly.
* Wanting to know the truth and a very strong desire to share the truth with others especially those ensnared by false christian cults.
* #1: My faith; #2: my training as a scientist; #3: the apparent conflict between my faith and my training.
* (1) personally Verifying God's Word is absolute truth ! (2) primary tool in winning souls by proving heaven and hell are truth and there is a judgement day,,, choose your eternity (3) God is Love, no one else could of paid the price and no one else would of paid the price.
* I love books and came across Lee Strobel’s books (I was running anchurch bookstall) - The Unbelievable? radio show and podcast, which led me to William Lane Craig and John Lennox, among others - YouTube videos from Acts 17 Apologetics and others
* 1) I like being right. 2) I like arguing. 3) It's nice finding new things to feel smart about. Wow, these are terrible reasons haha.
* 1. Weaknesses in churches. 2. The desire to bring glory to God. 3. To share Christ with others.
* 1. Fides quaerens intellectum 2. Discipleship of believers 3. Better equipped to evangelize
* 1. Teaching High School Senior Sunday School class. 2. Discovering the wealth of information from reputable scholars in podcasts and internet (Unbelievable? and Reasonable Faith to start). 3. Reading and thinking about the boundaries of my own faith -- pressing to understand more completely God's comprehensive involvement with the world and people around me.
* 1. The sensed need for good answers to help persuade non-Christians evangelistically. 2. The need to be fully convinced myself; to have answers when confronting doubt.
* A continual experience of being led to utilize apologetics to grow in my understanding of God and to love my neighbor.
* A friend who owned a bookstore, active in the field, gave me books, including McDowell's Evidence, etc. Friends who are Rx-JW's Science trying, origins issues, from University days; worked with Campus Crusade for Christ, introduced to Francis Schaeffer "Whatever Happened to the Human Race".
* A personal desire to know what I believed and why I believed it.
* Actuality (Science, percentage of atheism, etc). Racionality (Has the cristianism evidence to consider it real?) Evangelism (What happen with people who wants believe, but their knowledge and common sense do not allow them?)
* Apparent conflict between science and religion.
* At first, it was mainly a desire to be able to know how to answer questions and doubts that were expressed to me. It became more of way for me to know for sure that Christianity was true, and important.
* Being involved with members of Bible-based cult groups.
* Cancer survivor Seeing youth walk away from church/God
* Connection with a professor
* Craved historical evidence of biblical accuracy. Had unanswered age of earth questions. Growing passion for youth evangelism.
* CS Lewis Anti-intellectualism Friends asking questions
* Curiosity, hope
* Deep commitment to the Truth Realizing Christianity’s historical basis Listening to podcasts
* Desire for the next generation to know why they believe and that the Christian worldview is rational.
* Doubting my faith as a new believer. I thought my intellectual questions were sinful doubts. However when I was introduced to Apologetics, my doubts started to fade away.
* Firstly, I would say my truth crisis in between my first and second years of college was what initially sparked my journey into apologetics. I began to ask the question, "Is anything true at all?" which out of necessity, propelled me forward into the realm of apologetics and philosophy in order to see if what I had believed for so many years was indeed true. Secondly, I continue to pursue and spread apologetic material because of my love for the subject(s) and because i want to help those who were in the same dark place that I was years ago. I want to give them a light in that post modern place that will help them find The Light for the first time or once again.
* Giving my belief a solid rock of reason, influencing others the same way (discipleship), answering the world.
* God telling us to always be ready with answers for the hope that is in us
* Hearing a speaker (Josh McDowell) raise apologetic questions and answers that were relevant to me personally as well as our culture at large. Having friends who were passionate about learning, defending the faith Sharing my faith with others.
* I am a teacher who loves the faith, but lives in an unchurched community and also write to prisoners new to the faith. I need to explain what we believe in non-theological terms. For me to begin throwing around terms such as atonement and sanctification causes my new searchers to go glassy-eyed. I need to reduce the complexity of my faith to simple terms for the new searcher.
* I became an atheist in late high school because there didn’t seem to be answers to the challenges I had heard. I met my now husband in college and spent a few years having conversations with him. He was well versed in apologetics and I realized bit by bit that atheism didn’t have the answers I was looking for. I eventually made an intellectual decision to convert to Christianity and got involved in apologetics a few years later as a graduate student in Ratio Christi.
* I had a crisis of faith and extensively researched the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
* I had a crisis of faith while preparing to be a pastor and was close to giving up on it all when a friend (who didn't even know about my doubts) suggested I check out Reasonable Faith. I did, and my faith was restored. I went on to keep studying and found my mind so engaged. I continue to keep studying because I want to use it in preaching and evangelism to reach the lost and strengthen the saved against the attacks of the culture.
* I had questions for which I wanted answers. I had a friend that was interested in apologetics.
* I have a natural inclination toward intellectual things, and I was inspired by the persuasive and gentle ways I saw leading apologists speak and write (e.g. C.S. Lewis, Ravi Zacharias, and John Lennox).
* I was afraid of being deceived by a false prophet.
* I was doubting my faith and wanted to know my faith want against historical knowledge.
* In high school, my youth group did some things with Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis, which I found to be really interesting. In college, I am majoring in biology so the conversations involving science and faith have always intrigued me, particularly since some academics in science are very strongly against faith. In college, I also got connected with the campus ministries, The Navigators and Ratio Christi, who hosted an apologetics boot camp, which I found to be very helpful.
* Inability to answer questions from unbelievers while evangelizing A desire to know why Christianity is objectively true A desire to help Christians grow intellectually
* Initially, doubt about biblical reliability. Then doubt about whether the resurrection was true or not.
* Intellectualism.
* It increased my personal faith and opened my eyes to the need to help others in the faith as well.
* It led be to become a Christian because it showed religion is more than just opinion.
* It was driven by a need to receive an education on Christianity during a time (the 1980s) when such information and resources were scarce. I wanted to know about God, Scripture, and everything I could. Our local bookstore just happened to be stocked with apologetics resources which was an optimal way to expose myself to Christianity in contrast to other worldview systems. Secondly, I had (and have) a heart for evangelism. But most of those I had encountered had questions that manifested obstacles to the Gospel in their lives. Learning about defending the faith became important for evangelism.
* Josh McDowell about 30 years ago. My own nerdiness and desire to know. The Bible Answer Man broadcast.
* Knowing more about the Christian faith Being able to respond to answers/objections. Being able to evangelize better
* Knowing that my faith is rational. It’s troublesome that so many think that faith is somehow detached from reason. We will never remove the need for faith. But faith isn’t irrational either.
* Men's Bible study ministry at our local homeless shelter showed I was not prepared to answer tough questions about faith. This prompted me to research and apologetics is where I found most of the answers.
* Much of what I see in Christianity is shallow feelings-based and an "add-on" to their lifestyle instead of an integral part to life. I felt if I could help people understand that the Bible stories are actual, true accounts with scientific and archaeological evidence to back them up they would become more serious about God.
* My conversion had evidences pointing me to the gospel Apologetics helps solidify the Christian faith and strengthen the Christian mind. And it also helps solidify the truth of Christian faith against deceptive teachings and ideologies.
* My dad getting his masters in Apologetics, summit ministries, personal connections with apologists.
* My desire to know not only what I believed, but why I believed it. Did I have good, logical reasons to believe or was I falling victim again to another false belief system
* My faith was challenged severely during college. My being in physical pain due to sickness also led me to question whether God exists and if Christianity is true.
* My father had a strong interest in apologetics when I was growing up, and that wore off on me. Also, since I grew up as a Christian, I first began to wonder about differences between Christian denominations, and I wanted to know why I was part of the denomination I was raised in. That later generalized to wanting to understand why I was a Christian at all, why did I actually believe this stuff? Was it believable? That was where my interest came from.
* My husband is extremely involved and I often go with him to meetings at Reasons To Believe, Stand To Reason, the meetings at church, podcasts
* My husband's interest, the availability of a discount for an apologetics degree, and my desire to know more about why I believe what I believe.
* My own bentness toward reason and integrity, hearing Ravi zacharias, the call to evangelism.
* My own desire to know the truth in a reasoned way. Personal experience of God and interactions in prayer don’t happen with me or atleast in ways the churches seem to say.
* My own faith,the teachings of others, what the bible teaches
* My personal faith has been confirmed through studying apologetics. I have become much more passionate and confident about sharing my faith with others.
* My son telling me about Tactics book and STR
* Need to answer questions that family and friends were raising about Christianity and its teachings. Personal need to better understand and reinforce my faith.
* Our church organised a Q&A evening some years ago and though much good resulted from the evening, lots of opportunities were missed because those on the panel were unable to answer the questions posed. I knew the answers to some but not all. Also my children abandoning the faith as young adults.
* Philosophical arguments on God and the Christian God; Biblical studies that include ancient history, archaeology, textual criticism; and, as a STEM student, the relationship between Physics (or Science) and the Divine.
* Reactions/responses of believers to cultural issues (life, homosexuality, etc); believers reactions/responses to “scary” topics like doubts, evolution, age of the eart, etc.; and personal desire to understand these areas and give better answers.
* Reassurance of my faith and the trustworthiness of the Bible Being able to explain to others that Christianity is true Learn more about God and the Universe He created
* Recognizing that Christianity is neither personal nor private, but legitimately based on a serious historical event that either is true or invalidates all of Christianity.
* Seeing the number of people who get their faith in a muddle with easily solved questions.
* Seeing the students in my third-grade class on a trajectory of losing their faith in high school. I knew I needed to equip them to critically think through the Christian worldview.
* Spiritual growth/maturity. Greg Koukl's work on relativism. Gary Habermas's minimal facts approach.
* Stirred up interest when one of our doctors mentioned God had a reason for circumcision on the 8th day (Vitamin K @ peak).
* Teaching my own kids about the Christian faith
* The church - blind faith The truth Sharing
* The desire to understand my commitment and wanting to explain it to others, who inevitably raised questions.
* The need for it.
* The need to be prepared to share Jesus with others, and to be able to explain why. A great Sunday School teacher I had taught the importance of apologetics.
* The realization that a pluralistic appeal to subjective belief was an insufficient foundation to base my religious beliefs upon. I began reading C.S. Lewis.
* The truth and interpretation of the Word.
* The works of Hugh Ross and Reasons to believe and J.P. Moreland.
* To be better equipped to defend my faith To better share my faith.
* To understand the rational fountains for my faith To know God more fully Understand the intersection of science and faith
* Vanderbilt Divinity School UMC church Abortion
* Watching the first God’s Not Dead.