

A few suggestions regarding how to answer someone who says...

“I DON’T BELIEVE THE BIBLE”
or
“THE BIBLE IS FULL OF ERRORS.”¹

- 1) **“SHOW ME THE ERRORS.”** You might explain that you’ve been reading the Bible for a long time and you haven’t seen errors. Then hand them your Bible and ask them to show you a few of them. Probably ninety percent of the individuals who tell you that the Bible is full of errors and myths, don’t know of a single one-nor even how to find their way around in the Bible. They are simply parroting something they have heard others say.

That leads to an important observation: There *are* a few folks who have read the Bible and actually do have problems or questions relating to something they have read in it.² **However, for the vast majority of skeptics and Bible deniers, the problem is a moral one, not an intellectual one.** When everything is stripped away, most people who have dismissed and discarded the Bible and what it says, have done so because they have moral problems in their life. To relieve the guilt feelings caused by the violating of their conscience (something which God puts inside every person-**Rom. 2:14-16**), they simply dismiss the Bible with a casual wave of their hand, claiming that it’s “*full of errors.*” That helps to get rid of their guilt feelings-though it’s usually just temporary relief. **Romans 1:18-32** vividly describes the downward moral progression of individuals who instead of repenting when convicted of their sinful behavior, choose to deny God’s existence, the reality of eternal judgment, etc. So remember, most of the time, the issue is moral, not intellectual!

- 2) **“I DIDN’T ASK YOU IF YOU BELIEVE IT!”** Another way of answering someone who says “*I don’t believe the Bible*” is to tell them: “***I didn’t ask you if you believe it (i.e. the Bible). I do, and I just want to share with you what it says!***” Never forget that the Bible is God’s Word and is described as a sword (**Heb. 4:12-13**). A sword cuts, whether you believe it’s a sword or not! **Isaiah 55:8-9** says that God’s Word will not return void. So use it, praying earnestly as you do, asking that God’s Holy Spirit will do a powerful work in the life of the person you are witnessing to! After all, if you own a man-eating lion but someone standing by him doesn’t believe it, the simplest thing to do is to just turn him loose. They’ll become believers soon enough!
- 3) **THE “JUDO” TECHNIQUE.** This is an alternative way of dealing with a skeptic. Dr. D. James Kennedy once observed that “The apostle Paul, as he preached in the Greek cities, appealed to the Scriptures even though the people listening to him did not believe in the Scriptures. He did not try to convince his audience of the veracity and authority of the Scriptures. Rather, he proclaimed them, and the Holy Spirit worked and used the proclamation to save some who then came to believe the bible to be true. In witnessing, our primary function is *proclamation, not defense.*”³ [Whereas in apologetics our purpose is to give an intellectual defense of Christianity, the Bible, etc, against attacks by skeptics. Both have their place if we are to effectively minister to others-*mwe*] Kennedy then went on to recommend the following:

¹ Compiled by Rev. Mike Edwards, revised, January, 2006, St. Vincent, West Indies, & Jan., 2010, Panama City, Florida (rev. 1/2012).

² Or alternatively, have read one of several bombastic, anti-Christian diatribes recently published by a number of well known atheists.

³ Dr. D. James Kennedy, “*Evangelism Explosion*” (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 4th edition-1996), pp. 149-150.

“I would suggest that a person not use the approach of a boxer who would meet the blow head-on and try to overwhelm his opponent with counterpunches, but rather that he use the technique of the judo expert, wherein the force of his opponent’s blow is used to throw him.

“Often, as you begin presenting the Gospel, your prospect will say, *‘I don’t believe the Bible, you’ll have to convince me some other way than referring to the Scriptures.’* ...The person who uses this objection is usually a person who has had at least some college education and exposure to some course on the bible, biblical criticism, or something of this sort. And there is usually an accompanying intellectual pride that says something like this: *‘I used to believe those fairy tales when I was in kindergarten, but now I am an educated man and am far above believing such things.’* **It is this intellectual pride that can be used to turn this objection into an opportunity for presenting the Gospel**, somewhat as the following illustration:

‘You don’t believe the Bible John? That’s very interesting, and it certainly is your privilege not to believe it, and I would fight for that right on your part. However, if the Bible is true, then obviously you must accept the consequences. But I would like to ask you a question. **The main message of the Bible**, which has been unquestionably the most important literary work in human history, **is how a person may have eternal life**. So what I would like to know is, what do you understand that the Bible teaches about how a person may have eternal life and go to heaven?’

He may reply that he does not believe in eternal life, to which you may respond, **‘I’m not asking you what you believe, but I am asking you what you understand. It would be a rather unintellectual approach to reject the world’s most important book without understanding even its main message, would it not? What do you understand that the Bible teaches as to how a person may have eternal life? What is your understanding about what the Bible teaches on this subject?’**

In about 98 percent of the cases, the response will be that it is by keeping the Ten Commandments or following the Golden Rule or imitating the example of Christ, etc. You may then respond, ***‘That is just what I was afraid of, John. You have rejected the bible without even understanding its main message, for your answer is not only incorrect, it is diametrically opposite to what the bible teaches.*** Now, don’t you think that the more intellectual approach would be to let me share with you what the Scriptures teach on this subject, and then you can make an intelligent decision whether to reject or accept it?’

Now the tables have been completely turned. Instead of being superior to the Scriptures and above even listening to them, he now finds himself ignorant of even their basic message, and he must decide whether to listen to the message of the Scriptures or be found to be not only ignorant but also an obscurantist who desires to remain in his ignorance. This is the last thing in the world his intellectual pride will allow him to be; therefore, he will almost invariably give you permission to tell him the Gospel. At this point you pray mightily that the Holy Spirit will take the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (**Rom. 1:16**), and use it to quicken him from the deadness of his sins.”⁴

⁴ Ibid.