



**What Kind of God?**  
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**The Crossing Church**  
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### **OPENING**

What are we allowing to be dismantled around us today? Our houses, our families, our friendships – our FAITH? We’re beginning a new series this week called Dismantled. It’s all about reconstructing our faith. We are in a time of deconstruction as many people have been disillusioned by the church or by Christianity and they are deconstructing their faith. A simple definition of the word deconstruction is the process of examining, questioning, and possibly rejecting of our faith. In this series we’re going to look at the different reasons people give for deconstructing their faith and then discuss how to reconstruct it on a firm foundation. Then we will have reasons to give those who ask us why we believe what we believe.

### **SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>**

**Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “*Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’*”

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is *alive and active*. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Mark 13:31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but *my words will never pass away*.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is *God-breathed* and is useful for *teaching, rebuking, correcting and training* in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly *equipped for every good work*.

**Mark 4:20** Others, like seed sown on good soil, *hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.*”

### **OBSERVATION**

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that He deconstructed the religious system of His day and reconstructed it on the Word of God. Today we can use God’s truth to deconstruct worldviews and the false ideologies around us – or we can apply another form of deconstruction when we use the world’s ideologies and worldviews to attack the Word of God. This is where many people are today – they doubt their faith. But these ideologies change all of the time.

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<sup>1</sup> The NIV translation unless otherwise indicated.

What used to be wrong is now right; what used to be right is now wrong, but God's Word is a firm foundation that can be trusted to illuminate God's righteousness and His will for our lives.

**QUESTION: When have you realized that doubt about God's Word was affecting your faith?**

One of Satan's greatest tactics is to get people to doubt God's Word so that it will deconstruct their faith. This is what he did in the Garden of Eden. This has been his playbook since the beginning of time as he encourages us to discount the Bible and justify our disobedience to God's will. Deconstruction becomes destructive the moment we abandon God's truth for "human wisdom."

**QUESTION: When have you allowed Satan to lie to you about the trustworthiness of God?**

#### **APPLICATION**

This process of examining, questioning and rejecting our faith can be seen throughout our society today. Developmental psychologists tell us that we go through three phases of maturity: **1) Construction; 2) Deconstruction; and 3) Reconstruction.** These three phases describe also the drifting that can occur between us and our faith. It often begins when we go to college. We question everything we've been taught and believed; and sometimes we get stuck in the deconstruction phase and never move on.

**QUESTION: For those of you who trust God's Word, what do you tell others about the Bible?**

**QUESTION: What events in the Bible do you wonder if they really happened?**

**QUESTION: What evidence have others shared with you about why they believe that those events actually happened?**

There are some big objections people have with the veracity of the Bible: **1) They say it is full of contradictions.** For example, the Gospel accounts aren't always exactly the same. That's because the four authors emphasized different events and their details, however the basic story is the same. Also, their audiences had different perspectives and purposes. **2) What about the errors in the Bible?** Throughout the Bible are mentioned thousands of people groups, mountains, rivers and cities. Not once has there been any evidence that it is wrong about them. If what the Bible says about history is true, then we can be confident that what it says about God is true as well. The Jewish scribes diligently transcribed scripture copies letter by letter – if there was one mistake in copying a book of the Bible, they would throw it away and begin again. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found at Qumran in 1947, the newly discovered documents were 1000 years older than the Bible copies we previously had, yet they were completely the same. The entire complete book of Isaiah is an example. **3) How can we know if the Bible is really true?** Christianity does not exist because the Bible says so – the Bible exists because of the Christian faith. The entire Christian faith is based on a single event - the resurrection of Jesus. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then our faith is useless - but He did. No other religious leader in history can say this – because they are all dead!!!

**QUESTION: What objections have others shared with you about Bible? How did you answer them?**

The Bible is not just an historical book – it is alive and active and judges our thoughts and attitudes. It is useful for teaching and correcting and is God-breathed, coming directly from the mouth of God Himself. So, how do we reconstruct our faith on God's Word? (Read the parable of the Sower in **Mark 4**) **1) We hear it.** We gather in church where fellowship and spiritual growth occur. Then we read God's Word in daily devotions that strengthen our knowledge of

God's truth. **2) We accept it.** Satan's tactic is to get us to question what God says. But Satan is the liar in this scenario – he hates us and wants only our destruction. How can we possibly depend on him for our eternal destiny? **3) It produces fruit.** When we hear and accept God's Word, it will produce fruit in our lives. We will be more joyful and loving and peaceful and patient and kind and gentle and faithful and self-controlled. The fruits of the Spirit will be evident in everything we do!<sup>2</sup>

**QUESTION: What Bible verses have you memorized? In what ways have they transformed your life this past year?**

**QUESTION: What plans do you have to consistently include devotions in your daily life in 2023?**

Here at The Crossing, we believe that God's Word can change our lives – that Jesus has come to bring us new life. We have a program that can help us increase our knowledge of the Bible called **Read It** where participants spend seven weeks gaining the tools needed to better understand and share the Bible with others. Check on-line for registration.

**QUESTION: What other commitments have you made for yourself regarding the strengthening of your faith in 2023?**

#### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, doubts about our faith sometimes creep in, especially when our lives become difficult or painful. We are going to dedicate this new year to learning more about Your Word through studying it, through increased fellowship with other Christians and through consistent service to others. Guide us, Almighty God, as we step out on this journey toward becoming more like Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### **QUESTIONS**

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<sup>2</sup> Galatians 5:22

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