

# How to Begin Believing

## A Seven-Step Search from Acts 17:16-34

Step One: Pay attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ dimension to your life.

Verse 22: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.”

This is the step of INTEGRATION

Step Two: Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

Verses 19-20: “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean.”

This is the step of OPENNESS

Step Three: Admit the insufficiency of \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 23: “I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”

This is the step of HONESTY

Step Four: Discover the reason God made you: to have a \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

Verses 26-27: “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him.”

This is the step of DISCOVERY

Step Five: Become dissatisfied with your \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 30: “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”

This is the step of DISCONTENT

Step Six: Come to terms with \_\_\_\_\_, and especially his death, resurrection, and promised return.

Verses 31-32: “When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some sneered, but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’”

This is the step of DIVISION

Step Seven: Your evaluation should result in \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 34: “A few men became followers of Paul and believed.”

This is the step of DECISION

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## Discussion Questions

Is there a spiritual “hunger” in our community and culture? How do people express it?

In Chapter One (pages 3-11), Tom listed four advantages to faith. What are they? Which one seemed most attractive to you?

The Apostle John wrote, “What we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life [Jesus] . . . we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us.” (1 John 1:1-3, NASB, emphasis added). The purpose of our Bibles, then, is that we might have a share in the experiences of those who were eyewitnesses of Jesus. However, it is fashionable in some circles to say that the Bible was written long after the events took place. As discussed in Chapter 3 (pages 21-29), the evidence shows that the Bible was actually written within the generation that would have seen these events. How can that strengthen our confidence in the Bible as a reliable guide to the actions and words of Jesus?

Have you ever tried to read the Bible? Did you find it frustrating? If so, why? What is your favorite book of the Bible and why?

French mathematician Blaise Pascal said, we have a “God-shaped void” in our soul. List “God-substitutes” people use to try to fill that void.

Mark your position on the road to “I believe. . .”

1. INTEGRATION—Aware of the spiritual dimension of life.
2. OPENNESS—Willing to listen and consider Christianity.
3. HONESTY – Admitting unanswered questions.
4. DISCOVERY – Knowing why I exist.
5. DISCONTENT – Turning away from God substitutes.
6. DIVISION – Turning toward a loving God.
7. DECISION – Taking action to trust in Jesus alone.

### This Week’s Assignment

Read Chapters 5-6 in *The Anchor Course*

# The Anchor Course



“I Believe”