



## EXCERPT



### ***How Reason Can Lead to God*** *A Philosopher's Bridge to Faith*

Available July 30, 2019 | \$20, 208 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5252-9

*"This short book contains a bold, original, and provocative argument that shows how reason can lead a person who is genuinely seeking truth to God. It is written in simple, ordinary language and makes no appeal to authority. Although Rasmussen appeals only to truths that he thinks should be universally accepted, a good deal of the force of the book stems from the personal story of Rasmussen himself; his courage and honesty draws the reader into a similar journey."*

**C. Stephen Evans**, university professor of philosophy and humanities, Baylor University

## The Reason-Faith Spectrum

I write for a specific sort of person. You value reason, science, and independent thinking. You question beliefs propped up by "faith" without sufficient evidence. Maybe you would like your life to have a deeper purpose, but you cannot believe something based on a mere wish. Whether you are a student, an academic, or just a curious person, you want one thing: the *truth*. If you can relate, this book is for you.

You might worry that this book is not about truth, not really. From the title, you might wonder whether I might be trying to use reason to rationalize a prior conclusion. Am I trying to contort "truth" to fit with my convictions? Am I interested in facing reality, even if it contradicts my desires or existing framework? Am I willing to be wrong? If you have these questions, this book is especially for you. I want you to ask these questions. They are the mark of an explorer. They are the questions that sparked my own journey, which ultimately led me to write this book.

I want this book to serve you no matter what perspective you come from. My purpose is not to knock you over with arguments or to suggest that you can only be rational if you agree with my viewpoint. Instead, I want to share with you some of the steps in my own journey in the hope that those steps may encourage you in yours.

My reason for writing this book is to mark out a pathway, step by step, that can inspire a greater vision of the ultimate *foundation* of everything. I begin with a story of my own journey. Then I begin the project of constructing a *bridge of reason* for your examination and exploration. In the final chapters, I examine common questions about evil and suffering that can present obstacles to the destination.

While our inquiry will reach to the deepest layer of reality, I aim to make this book as readable as I can. Thus, I seek to replace all technical jargon with commonsense definitions in ordinary language. I never rest an argument on scholarly authority. Instead, I use the instruments of reason and common experience to serve you in your quest.

In my effort to maximize the value of this bridge, I follow three construction rules:

*Rule 1.* Make it inclusive: use materials—reason and experience—that are accessible to a wide audience, so you can check each piece.

*Rule 2.* No guessing: build each part on principles that you can see to be true.

*Rule 3.* Aim to serve: make a bridge that you can make your own—to analyze, reorganize, and build upon further.

Enjoy the journey.

—Taken from the preface



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