

I found faith in God by studying alone

Remarkably, **Rob Bond** was convinced the Christian story was true by studying and reading the Bible by himself

IT was when Rob Bond decided to read the Bible that he had a moment that defined him.

As he read about Christ in the New Testament, everything suddenly made sense. It was the culmination of years spent reading and reflecting on science, creation and morality, which ultimately led to a conviction that the Christian faith was true. And this journey took place almost entirely by himself.

“There was a defining moment when everything made sense as I read the Gospels,” said Rob. “I found myself assenting to belief, at a point where everything I had studied coincided in the person of Jesus Christ. It was like a veil being removed.”

Finding faith alone might sound unusual, but these experiences seem to be happening more frequently. It’s perhaps part of what is being described as the ‘Quiet Revival’ - where God appears to be working independently to bring people to faith.

Rob, who is now 32, hadn’t grown up in a Christian family. His background was in science, and he studied elements of various sciences



Rob Bond with his wife Georgia and their son Tommy

when he was younger, and this continued and developed as time went on.

His journey towards faith began roughly six years ago, as he began to study science history in more depth, and noticed how the development of science and religion coincided together. A more intense

study into this relationship began when he left his position as a science teacher in 2024.

“A lot of people say that science and faith are in conflict, but that wasn’t what the study of history reveals,” he said. “They seem to depend on each other. There was a real logic in the idea that there must be a Creator - existence makes little or no sense without one.

“I looked into morality, into what our consciences are pointing us towards, and there are certain things that are unexplainable without a God - such as true love, which is something that you can’t touch or feel, but is absolutely real.

“I decided to study the Bible, and first picked it up last year. And everything that I was feeling was true seemed to be confirmed when I was reading the Scriptures.

“The conviction that this was true became stronger, and there was this real moment of something awakening in me. I read Mark 4:39, where Jesus says ‘Peace, Be still’ to the storm, and it felt as if all the separate elements I had been studying all came together, a

Reading Bible led to pilgrimage idea

MIKE Walker had never been brought up as a Christian - but he also came to embrace faith after working things out for himself.

He started reading the Bible and realised that it made sense. He joined St Peter’s Church in Bishop’s Waltham, and joined a regular discussion group with the vicar, the Rev James Hunt.

Mike (pictured right) and a friend have now started a monthly pilgrimage group. Mike and Matt Barker encourage people to join them for a half-day walk that includes readings, reflections and pub visits.

“I was never brought up with faith,” said Mike. “It was something I came to a conclusion about out of my

own convictions. I’d been struggling with feeling lost and having no sense of direction.

“I started reading the Bible. It just started to make more sense in terms of the purpose of life. So a year or so ago, I went to church, and things started to click for me. I met James and a group of us meet regularly to talk to him.

“And then I chose to get baptised last June. Church has given a more solid foundation to my faith in terms of morals, and where I see myself going.

“I’ve always been interested in pilgrimage, and I do believe that the whole of our life is like a journey. So we set up this pilgrimage walking group.

“It’s a way of bringing

people together, and developing relationships. Exercise is also a good way of clearing your thoughts and making sense of life’s trials and tribulations.

“It’s on the first Saturday of each month. We might walk to a local church or along a certain path.

“It’s not just for those who are already Christians, but we do have readings, reflections and chats as we go, and we do hope to bring ourselves closer to Christ.”

Anyone who would like to come can turn up, or can ring Mike on 07563-678084.



moment of real clarity.

“As I’m someone who tries to be as objective and reasoned as I can with these sorts of things, it required a long period of self-study, and from that, it became clear that everything I’d previously studied in the various sciences, history, and morality, all came together in the Christian faith.

“Theology has been referred to as the Science of God, and I certainly feel this to be the case. Absolutely nothing that I’d studied previously seemed to be in conflict with the Christian faith.”

Once he found faith, Rob went on to be baptised at St James Church, and applied to become one of the vergers at Chichester Cathedral, a role which involves preparing the building for worship and leading liturgical processions with a ceremonial rod, called a verge.

“I’m part of a brilliant team there and learning more about Church life and operations every day,” he said.

Throughout this entire time of development Rob’s wife Georgia has been nothing but incredibly supportive, and they regularly have discussions about various aspects that he has been studying. Rob is incredibly grateful to always have Georgia and their son, Tommy, at his side.

‘There was this real moment of something awakening in me’

Rob also has regular meetings with the rector of Warblington-with-Emsworth parish, the Rev Andrew Sheard, who helped prepare him both for his baptism last April, and confirmation in November. Bishop Jonathan confirmed Rob at St James Church along with eight other adults and four young people.

Rob understood this to mark his commitment to being part of the Church of England.

“I felt drawn to be in church, to feel bonded to others in the Body of Christ,” he said. “Being baptised at the font was a special moment, and I see confirmation to be a real moment of public declaration and belief in the Church of England.

“Prior to confirmation I felt it very important to know and understand, not only why I was being confirmed, but why I was being confirmed in the Church of England.

“Though only being able to touch on subjects such as church history, church formularies, and church doctrine over the past year, through study I discovered that the Church of England - despite all her controversies, blemishes, and various schools of thought - at her heart, she holds, professes, and teaches, the true faith of Christ.

“I shall end with the words I uttered to myself moments after being confirmed by the bishop: ‘Now, truly am I a Son, of the Church of England!’”