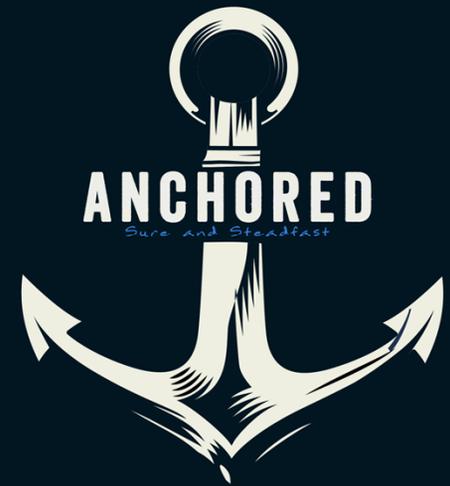


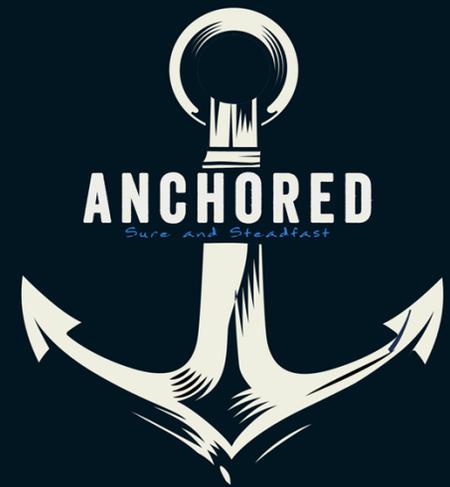
# UNIT 2: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

LESSON 1 – CAN WE BELIEVE GOD EXISTS?



# Introduction

Consider how the evidence for the existence of God still requires faith, but it is not difficult to find for those who are looking.



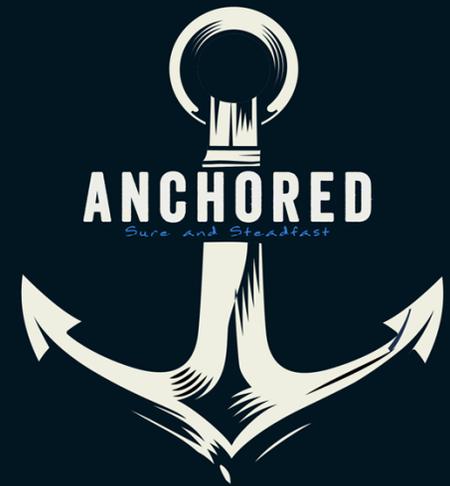
## Scripture Focus

Hebrews 11

John 1:1-18; 6:66-69

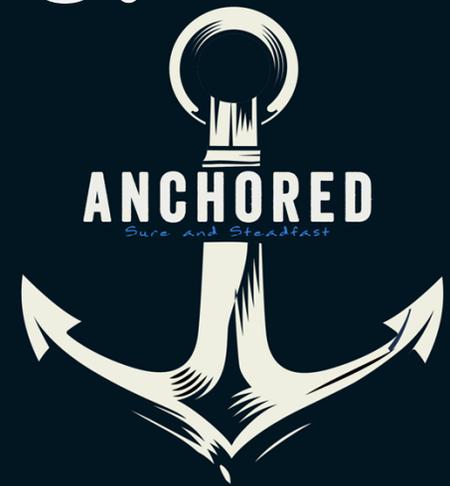
Matthew 6:26

Psalms 19:1-4

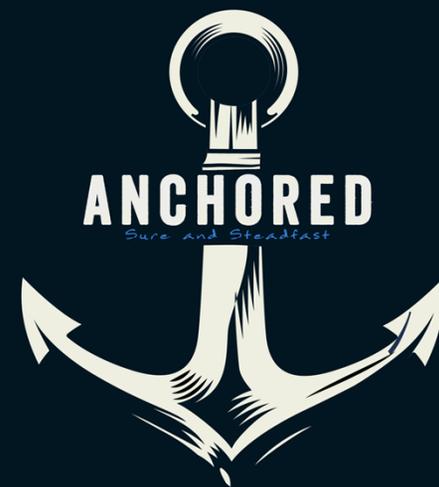


## Anchor Statement

I believe that God  
exists and He is alive.



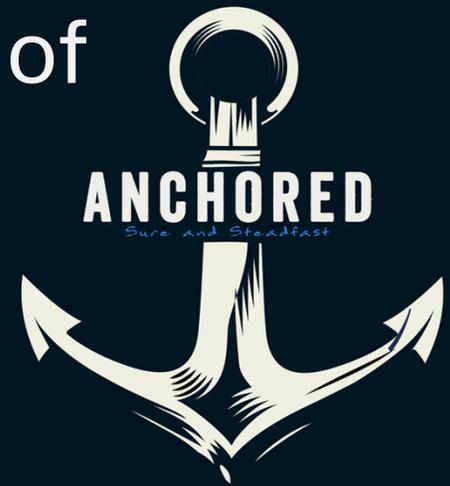
# OVERVIEW



# Overview

Does He even exist?

It is not only reasonable to believe in the existence of God but also the only option that can truly explain the existence of everything else.



# Context and Details

## Hebrews

Author: Paul? Barnabas?  
Apollos?

Time frame: before 70 AD

Purpose: to encourage  
Jewish/Hebrew converts



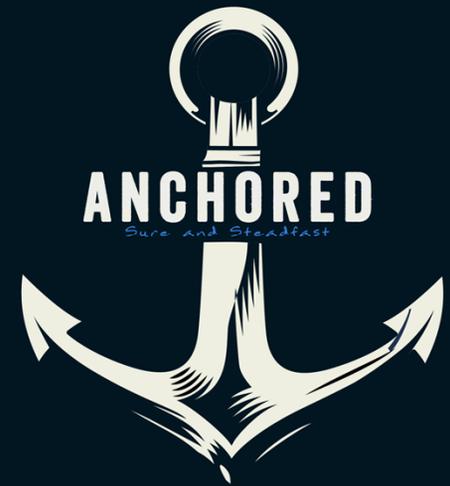
# Context and Details

## John

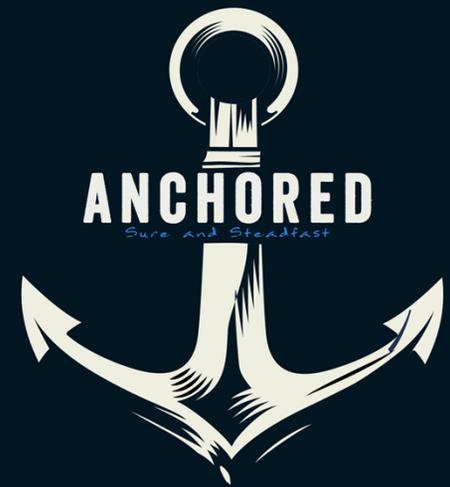
Author: John the Apostle

Time frame: 85-95 AD

Purpose: clearly communicate  
Jesus is the Messiah

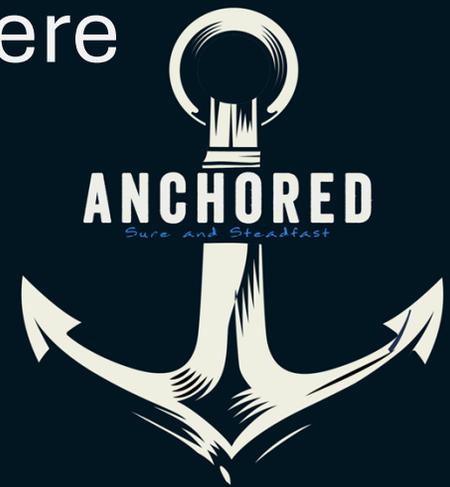


# THE SETTING

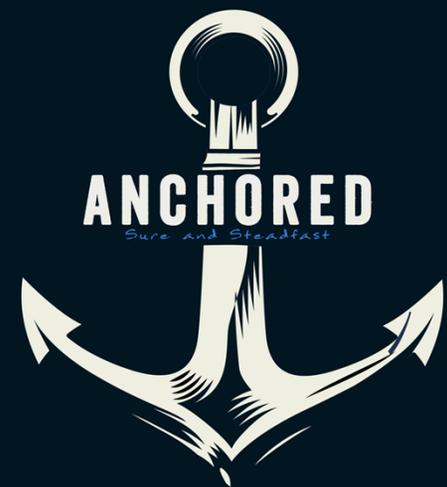


## The Setting

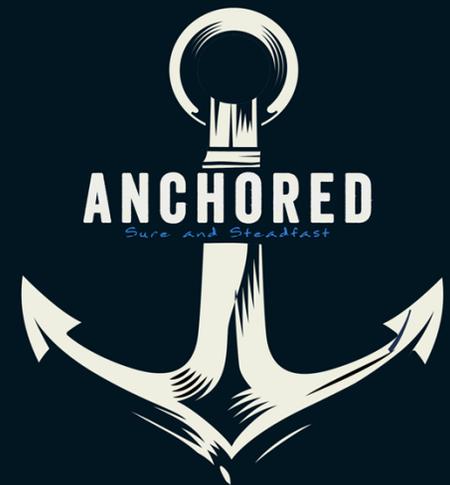
The initial audience of the book of Hebrews were Jewish converts who followed traditional Jewish law, specifically about sacrifice. They were likely having difficulty with the concept of Christ now being that sacrifice.



# THE MAIN POINT



# The Main Point

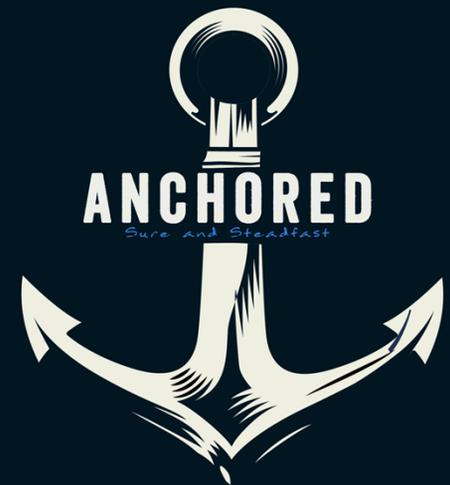


## The Main Point

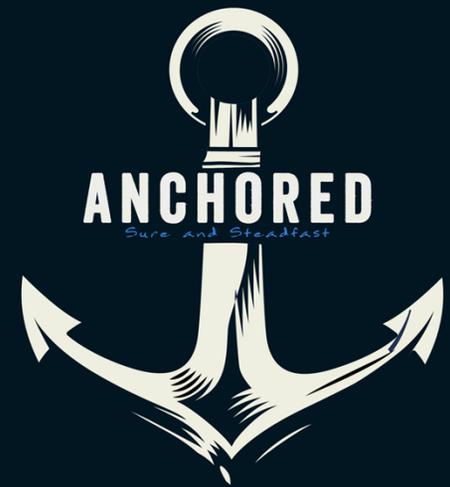
All Christian belief hinges on:

- God being real
- God being alive
- God being who He says He is

The objections of others do not  
invalidate the existence of God.

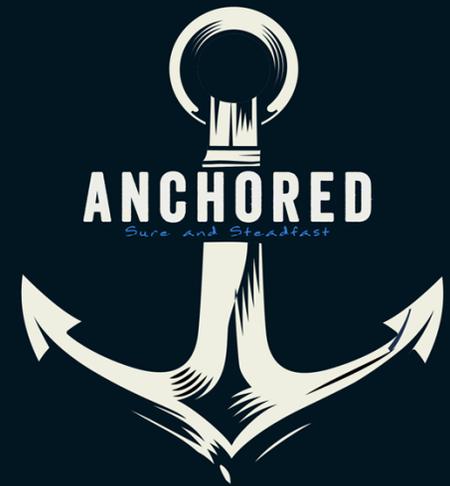


THE LEAD IN



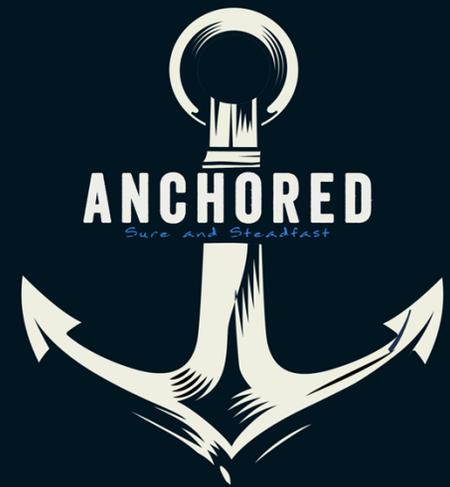
Goal

Think about what it means for something to exist, and by extension, what it means for God to exist.



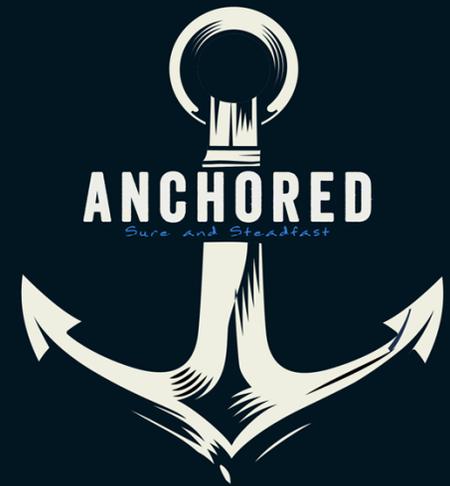
## The Lead In

How do you know that the chair  
you're sitting on exists?



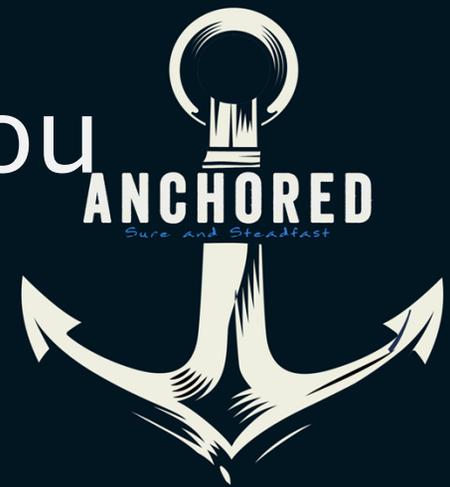
## The Lead In

How would you prove to someone that there was a chair in a room when you are somewhere else?



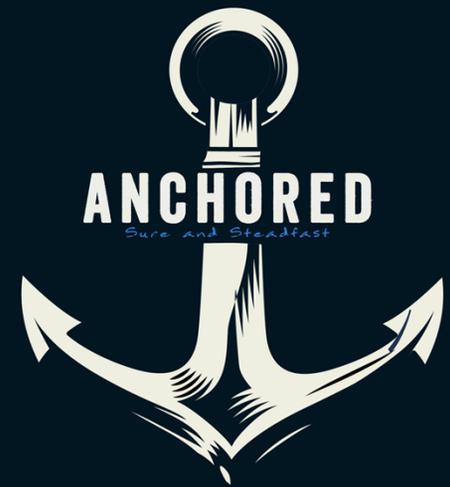
## The Lead In

- Existence is often acknowledged in how it is perceived and received.
- The chair existed **BEFORE** you sat on it.



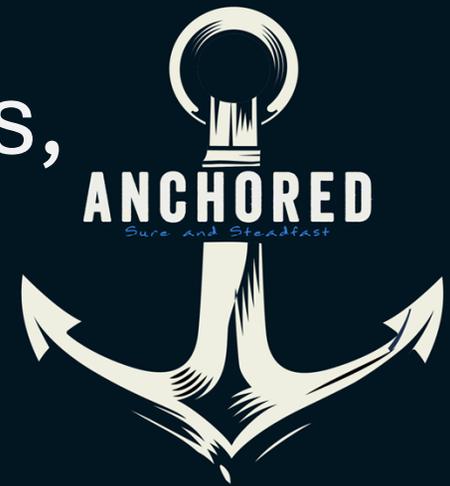
## The Lead In

Does something have to be physical and able to be touched in order to exist?



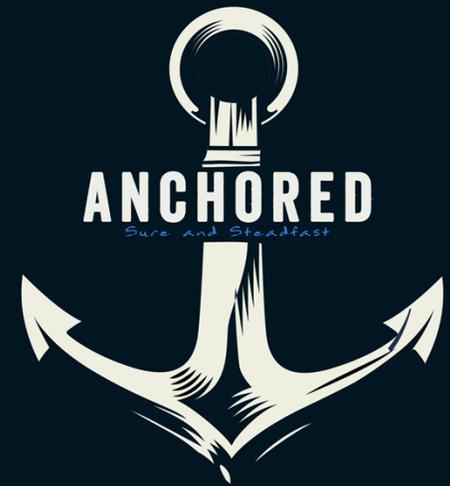
## The Lead In

- There are both visible and invisible things that we know exist:
  - Wind, matter, energy, sounds, etc.

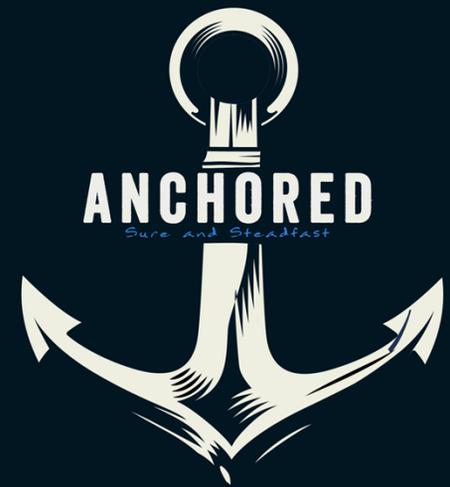


## The Lead In

- Our perspectives are often shaped by our worldview.
- However, God is in the business of reshaping worldviews.

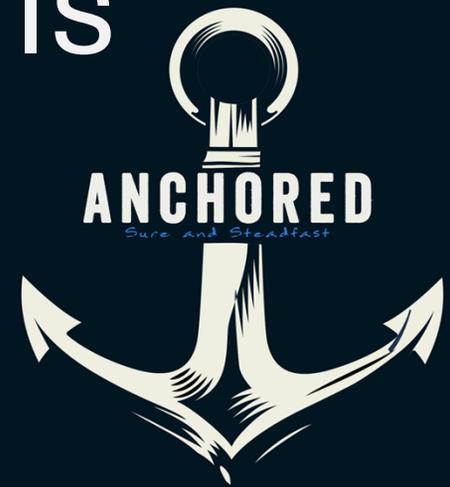


# THE MAIN EVENT



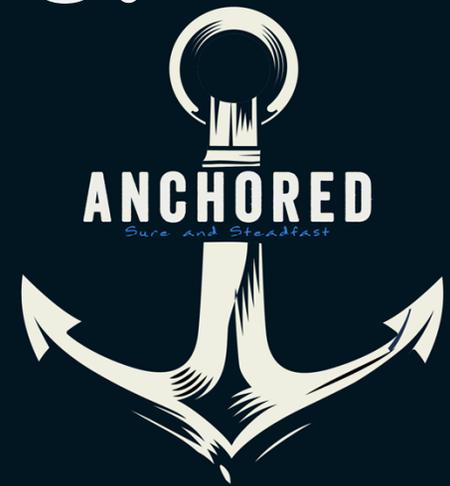
Goal

Declaring the existence of something is an act of faith, just as much as it is an acknowledgment of facts.

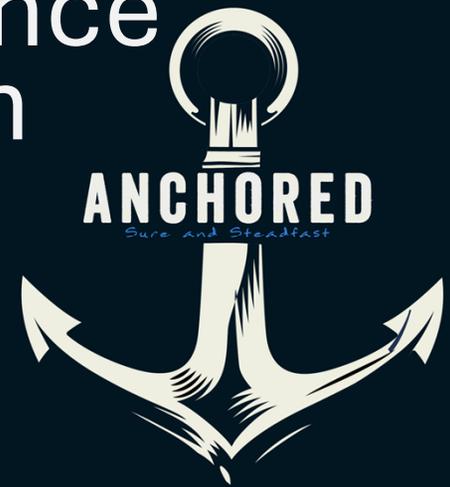


## Anchor Statement

I believe that God  
exists and He is alive.

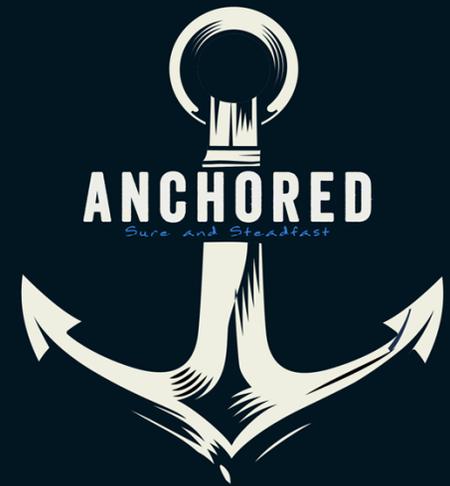


- One of the biggest attacks on ALL religions is that there is no evidence of a divine being.
- The evidence for God's existence is much more accessible than you may have thought.

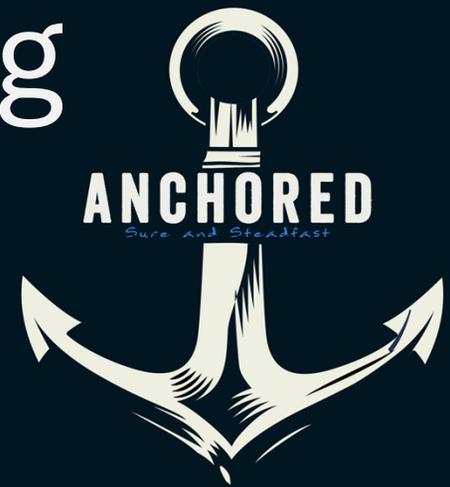


## Hebrews 11:1

- What word does the author use to describe faith in God?
- What does it mean to be assured and convicted of something?

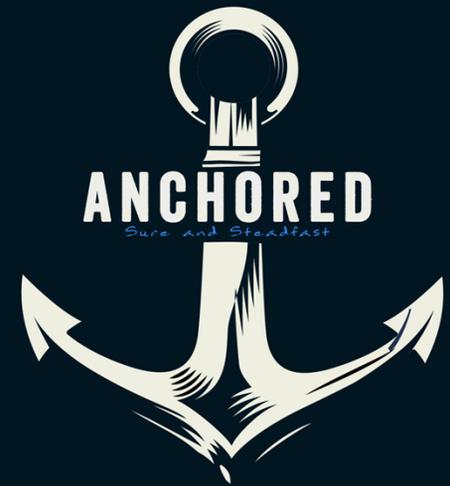


To be both assured and convicted that God exists is to have an unwavering belief in Him.

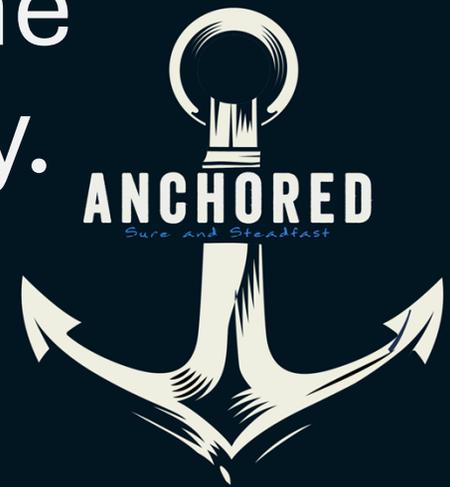


Hebrews 11:2-3

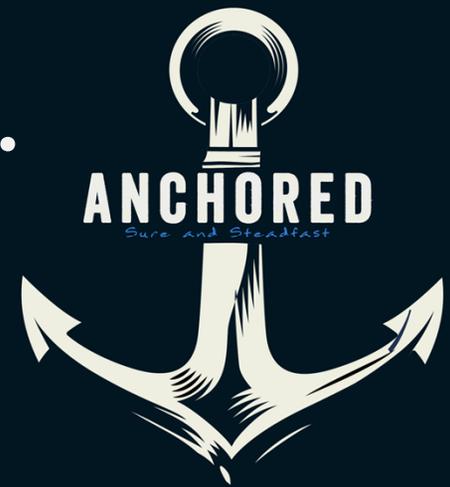
How can it help our faith in God, knowing that so many people who lived before us proclaimed the existence of God?



- It can be very reassuring.
- Inherited knowledge and faith can be more reliable than the prevailing wisdom of the day.



Society tends to put higher value on what we can discover rather than what knowledge has been passed down to us.



# Example: Olestra



## Olestra

- 25 years and 250 million dollars spent
- Fat molecules are so large that they pass through the bowel, unabsorbed by the body.
- May cause loss of vitamins, D,A,K, and E
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Potential CV problems, stroke, seizures, perhaps cancer.

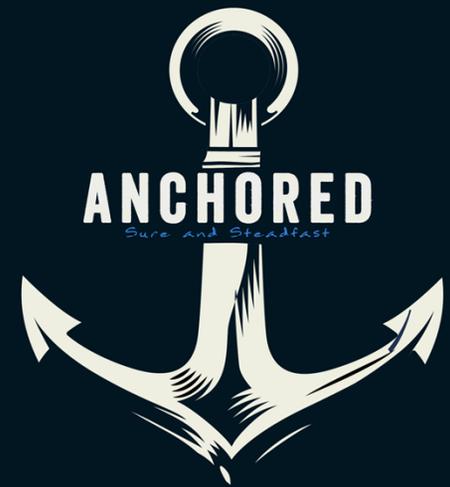


## Olestra

Scientists didn't create a healthier fat as they led the public to believe; they just created something that our bodies can't properly digest that tastes like fat. Which is a huge difference.

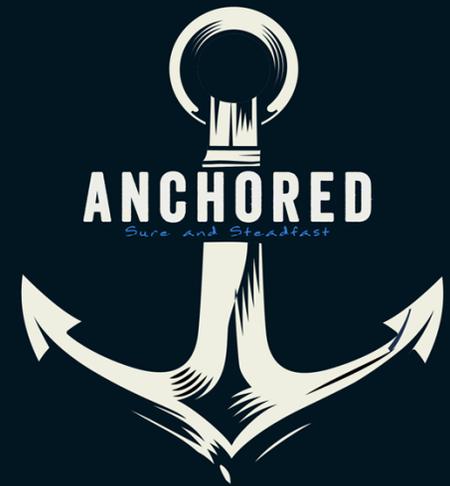


Although we need faith to believe in God, it's not blind faith. We have evidence to believe that God exists.



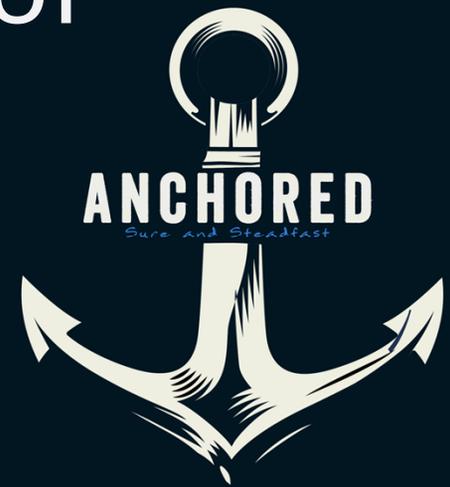
## Cosmological Existence

- The cosmos were created before there was a human to witness it.
- The existence of a Creator God is just as likely as any other explanation.



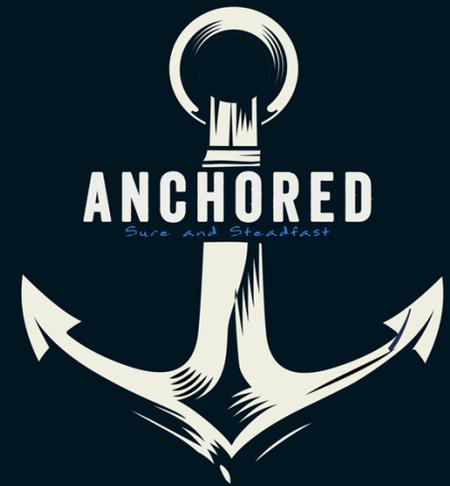
## Cosmological Existence

Why does it sometimes seem like people are so confident God wasn't at the beginning of all Creation?



## Cosmological Existence

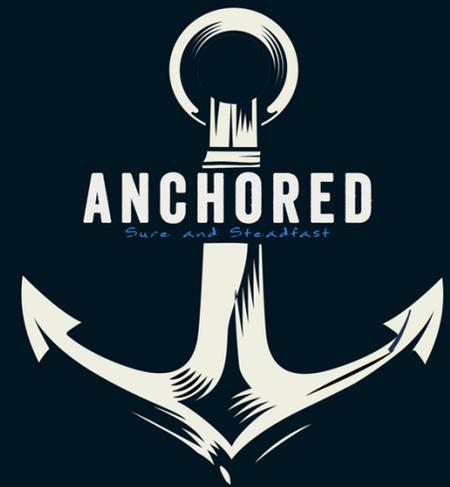
- It comes down to a matter of faith.
- It requires faith in God to believe that He is the One who created everything.



## Cosmological Existence – Bible Backing

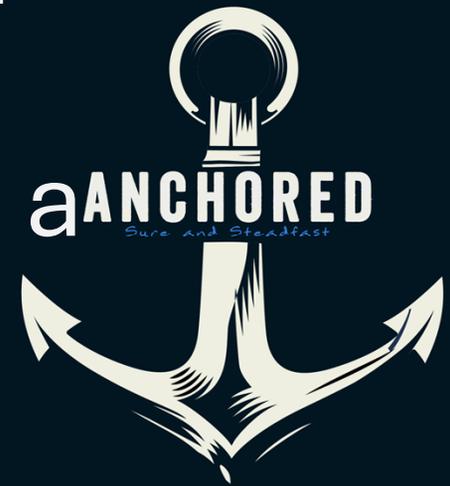
Genesis 1-2: the “creation account”

While a date is not given, it clearly communicates that God is the Creator.



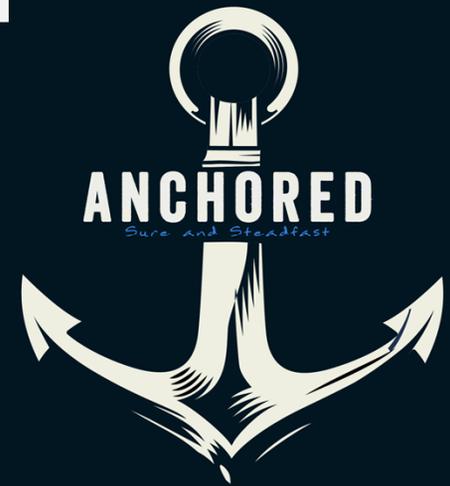
# Evidence of Intelligent Design

- Beauty of nature
- Complex systems
- Consistently function, but can be slightly unpredictable
- Points to a Creator rather than a continual process of chance



# Evidence of Intelligent Design

What purpose does  
imagination serve if we are  
only built for survival through  
years of coincidence?



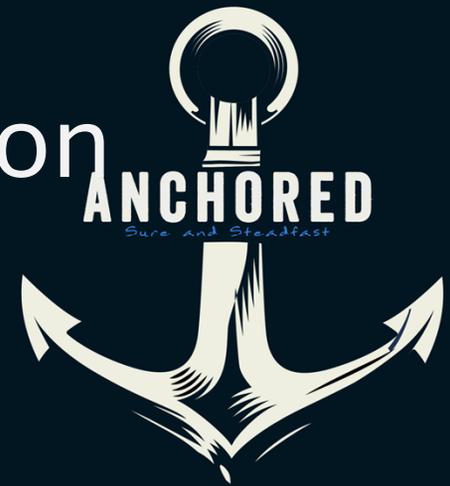
# Evidence of Intelligent Design – Bible Backing

## Hebrews 3:3-4

- God is the builder of everything

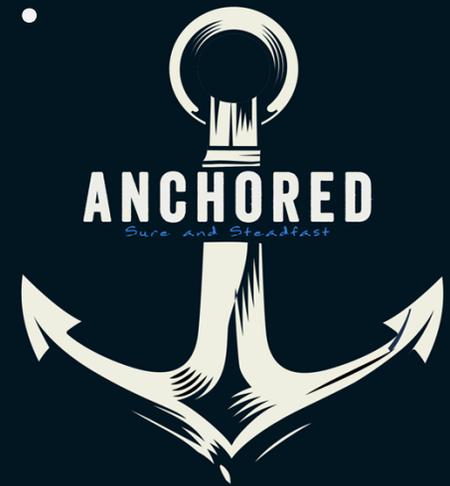
## Psalm 8:3-4

- The sky itself is a proclamation of God's handiwork



## Personal Experiences

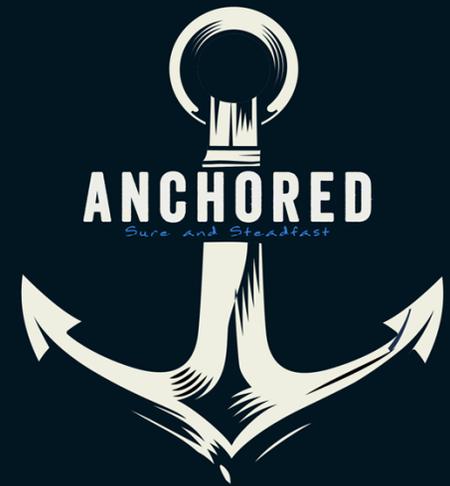
What are some ways that you have witnessed God at work in your life or the lives of others?



# Personal Experiences – Bible Backing

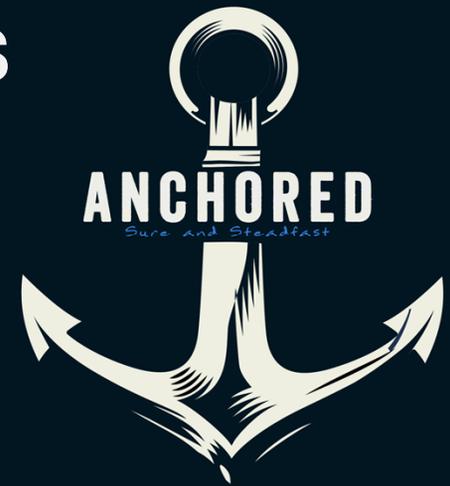
## Act 1:8

- Importance of a personal encounter
- This encounter is meant to be a witness to the rest of the world.

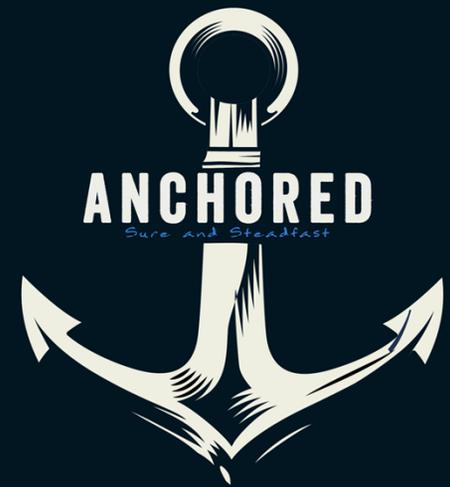


## Matthew 6:26

- Can we believe God Exists?
  - It takes more faith to believe there is not a god.
- What do we know about God's existence?
- Who is God?

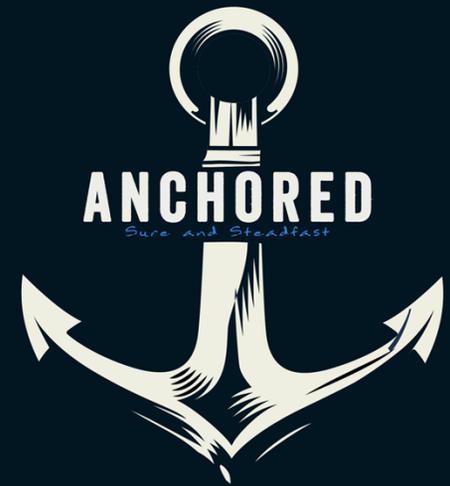


# THE LAST WORD



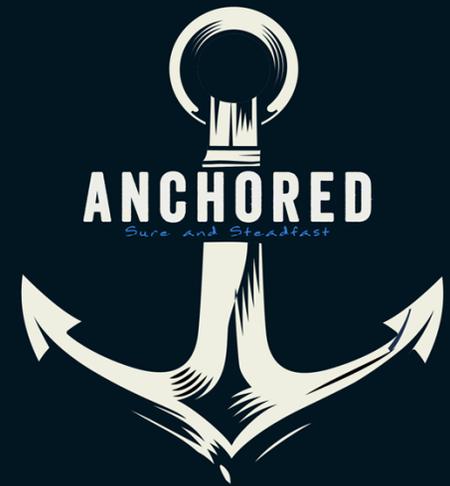
## The Last Word

When you hear the word 'evidence' what type of TV shows or movies do you think of?



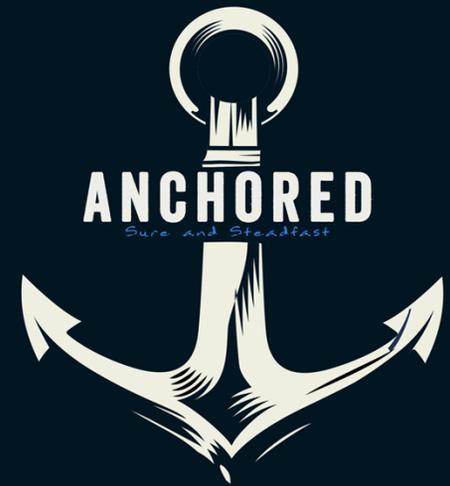
## Evidence

Aside from Creation,  
can you think of  
anything that God has  
done to show us that He  
is alive and doing big  
works?



## Psalm 19:1-4

- The evidence for God is all around us.
- But you can miss it completely.



## Evidence

- We not only have evidence of His existence...we have clues about who He is
- The stars are ready to tell you about his glory – are you ready to listen?

