



## **DR CHRIS E. STOUT**

### **BEST SELLING AUTHOR, ADVENTURER, STARTUP WHISPERER, (ACCIDENTAL) HUMANITARIAN, APA'S "ROCKSTAR" PSYCHOLOGIST, ÉMINENCE GRISE**

Dr. Chris Stout is a licensed clinical psychologist and international humanitarian with a diverse background in various domains. He is the Founding Director of the *Center for Global Initiatives* (a Top-Rated Nonprofit) and is the Executive Producer and Host of the popular "*Living a Life in Full*" a top-ranked podcast with an audience of over three million. He was a Fellow in the School of Public Health and Full Professor in the Department of Psychiatry in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois, Chicago and prior to that he held an academic appointment at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He served as a NGO Special Representative and had the honor of speaking at the United Nations; he holds the distinction of being one of only 100 world-wide leaders appointed to the *World Economic Forum's Global Leaders of Tomorrow* and was an Invited Faculty at the Annual Meeting in Davos.

Dr. Stout is a worldwide speaker, organizational consultant and startup whisperer having worked or traveled in all fifty states, over 100 countries and six continents. He was noted as being "*one of the most frequently cited psychologists in the scientific literature.*" He is a Fellow in the *American Psychological Association*, past-President of the *Illinois Psychological Association*, and is a Distinguished Practitioner in the *National Academies of Practice*. He is a Best-Selling Author, having published 38 books. His works have been translated into eight languages. He is a recipient of four Humanitarian Awards and four additional honorary doctorates. He is a popular *LinkedIn Top Voice* nearing a half-million followers and has been a guest on *CNBC, CNN, NBC, PBS, NPR, and Oprah*. He was listed in *Fast Co.'s Global Fast 50* nominees and in TED Founder Richard Saul Wurman's "*Who's Really Who.*" His professional archive was deeded to the *Smithsonian's Museum for the History of Psychology*. He balances all his academic and humanitarian efforts with time with his family, adventure sports, and mountaineering (having climbed three-and-one-half of the world's seven Summits).

Learn more at:

<https://www.DrChrisStout.org/> and <https://linktr.ee/DrChrisStout>

## **Beyond Proof: The Persistent Mystery of Belief**

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You know how, in moments of crisis or awe, people instinctively look up, reach out, or whisper a prayer—even if they've never set foot in a place of worship? That reflex fascinates me. It's as if there's a universal longing hardwired into us, a search for meaning that transcends culture, language, and even belief systems. I see that as a clue: maybe our hunger for purpose and wonder isn't just a byproduct of evolution or socialization, but a signpost pointing toward something greater.

There's something universal about our longing for purpose, our need for wonder, and our drive to make sense of suffering and beauty.

I don't claim to have an arithmetic proof for God. I'm not here to drop a philosophical argument that ties everything up in a neat bow. But I do notice that across centuries and continents, humans keep inventing language for the sacred, keep building rituals, keep returning to mystery. That persistence, that refusal to let go of the question, suggests to me that there's more to reality than what we can measure or dissect. Maybe the "proof" isn't in the data, but in the very fact that the question of God refuses to go away.

If you've ever felt moved by art, or stunned by kindness, or shaken by grief, you've brushed up against that hunger. Those moments—when the ordinary cracks open and something bigger leaks through—are where I find my own evidence. Not proof in the courtroom sense, but a kind of lived, stubborn intuition that the universe is more than atoms and algorithms. What if that longing is not a flaw, but a signpost?

When I think about the world's greatest humanitarians, I see people moved by something beyond self-interest. They act on faith—sometimes religious, sometimes just a radical hope that things can be better. That drive to serve, to love, to risk for the sake of others, feels to me like another signpost. Why do we care so much about meaning, about connection, about justice? Maybe because we're wired for something more, because the question of God is not just out there, but in us.

So my elevator pitch for God is this: the question itself, and the fact that we can't stop asking it. Our longing, our curiosity, our ache for transcendence—these are not flaws, but invitations. Maybe the "proof" is not a single answer, but the stubborn hope that keeps us searching.