

# The Argument from Bach

*(Something moves your soul so much that you experience God through it)*

Peter Kreeft summarizes the argument in this way:

1. *There is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.*
2. *Therefore there must be a God.*

He then says: You either get this one or you don't.

In a number of Kreeft's books and talks he mentions that he personally knows three former atheists who came to believe in God after hearing Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" in concert. This is an example of how the power of Goodness, Truth, and/or Beauty can touch a person so deeply that they experience a "small slice of Heaven".

This taste of Heaven is not just reserved for the music of Bach. Here are just a few more examples:

1. **The deep joy and freedom that you feel at the start of summer vacation**
2. **Being so wrapped up in a book that you lose all track of time** (A number of students have shared that they were devastated after reading through the last Harry Potter book. They didn't want the story to ever end.)
3. **Being deeply moved by a movie** (In kind of a weird way I almost felt like I was friends with the characters in the Lord of the Rings movies as I watched them.)
4. **Being completely "in the zone" while playing sports** (There's something magical about sports that allows you to forget about everything else and instead thrive from the competition and the challenge of the game itself. You can even experience this a bit when watching great games on TV.)
5. **Being on vacation with family/friends** (At the end of some of my favorite vacations I remember saying to myself, "Where did the time go? It feels like we just got here.")

## **Extra from Kreeft:**

Peter Kreeft talks often about how surfing is almost a mystical experience for him at times. The power of the ocean and the thrill of "becoming one with the wave" cause him to completely forget about himself and only exist in "the moment". Furthermore, the challenge and danger of surfing make it all the more exciting:

*The danger is of course part of the thrill in both surfing and mystical experience. Both the sea and God are dangerous; if you don't know that, you don't know either one. For millions of years, not a single human being even dared to think of riding those monsters. Waves can kill you, even if you are a good swimmer. Failure doesn't mean death in golf, or baseball, or basketball, but it can mean instant death in surfing.*