

Undeterred by Closed Doors

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Our study of methodology has revealed significant affinity between Schaeffer and Lewis. Both men employed a verificational approach, though if we were to locate them on a scale we might place Schaeffer closer to the presuppositional end and Lewis more toward the evidentialist side. Yet their respective spiritual quests and subsequent apologetic writings point to firm verificationism.

We also have suggested a joint commitment to objective truth, faith founded on fact, presuppositional awareness, and a balanced arsenal of direct and indirect appeals, including the method of “subversion by surprise.” Subversion can come in both negative and positive forms. Schaeffer often pursued the negative angle, forcing people to the point of tension in their lives, while Lewis frequently took the positive route, portraying the beauty of the faith through imaginative literature. It is not surprising that Lewis pursued this avenue, since fantasy, especially McDonald's *Phantastes*, played a key role in subverting his own unbelief.

Finally, unlike many Christians, Schaeffer and Lewis were undeterred by closed doors. If no one answered the front door, they went around back. If the back door was bolted, they looked for a window. If the windows were locked, they climbed up to the chimney. Once inside, Schaeffer and Lewis both believed in the power of evidence and persuasive argument under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But which arguments are convincing? That is the question we must now explore.

(C. S. Lewis & Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of our Time by Scott R. Burson & Jerry L. Walls, Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1998, 169)