

Solid Faith

- There is no such thing as blind faith, at least, not in the good or useful sense of the phrase.
- God has always provided enough evidence for you to put your faith in something: his actions, his existence, his word, Jesus' miracles, etc.
- An unexamined faith is not worth keeping. When opposition comes an unexamined belief system or blind faith will quickly collapse and be replaced by something that seems more defensible.
- Evidence of the truth will produce faith. Romans 10:17 says "*faith comes from hearing the message.*"
- A rational person needs evidence that God exists before he believes that God exists.

"What may be known about God is plain to them because God has made it plain to them . . . God's invisible qualities . . . have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse." (Rom. 1:19-20)

- Jesus said, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" (Matt. 22:37)
- Point: The heart cannot truly believe what the mind rejects.
- The Christian faith goes beyond reason but never against it.
*"I **KNOW** whom I have **BELIEVED.**" (2 Timothy 1:12)*

Some Misconceptions Concerning Faith and Their Corrections

Blind Faith:

False Statement: Christianity is blind faith or intellectual suicide.

Truth: The Christian faith is based on evidence and God has always intended it to be that way.

Consider: creation, the Red Sea, Jesus' miracles, etc.

Objective Faith:

False Statement:

- If you believe something then it is true to you. That is your faith.

Truth:

- It is not how great you believe something that makes it true, but believing something that is true that makes your faith great.
- The value of the Christian faith is not in the one believing, but in the one who is believed in. Jesus is the object of our faith.

Ancient Myths:

False Statement:

- There is virtually no difference between Greek mythology and the Christian stories.

Truth:

- All ancient myths have been exposed long ago, but it is common to see the secular world still trying to undermine Christianity even today.

- After all the ancient religions have fallen to the skeptics, Christianity is still alive and still under attack.
- Myths never claim to have eyewitnesses as Christianity does in 2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:1-3, Luke 1:1-3, Acts 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:5,6.
- The Apostles did not try to convince the public of Jesus' life and death but appealed to them by asking them to recall what they themselves had seen as in Acts 2:22 and Acts 26:24-28.

Philosophical Presuppositions

- One of our challenges today is that the modern historical approach to history is rooted in the philosophical presupposition that there is no God.
- A presupposition is what a person believes before the evidence is looked at.
- Often a person's presupposition does not allow them to accept the clear evidence or the truth they are being presented.
- This applies not only to non-believers but is an issue for all people including Christians who have presuppositions concerning the interpretation of scripture.
- Modern historians who presume there is no God consider the gospel account of Jesus and his life as inaccurate because of the miracles and supernatural events.
- The modern philosophical presupposition is that we live in a closed system with no supernatural.
- So the modern world begins its "fair and open-minded" investigation of Biblical history by having to reject any reference to God or to the supernatural.
- The result is that many times modern skeptics are not debating the Christian from a position of knowledge or evidence but from a presupposed position of assumptions they refuse to give up.
- Much of the time this is a reflection of their heart and not their mind.

Faith and Reason

- Reason moves our wills from the outside.
- Faith is our hearts giving assent to the evidence.
- Faith then moves our wills from the inside.
- This is why demons can see the evidence but they will not be moved by it.
- They are against the evidence.
- Reason can prove that God exists but cannot convince the unbeliever to believe in God.
- Reason allows us to confront the unbeliever with the evidence of truth.
 - Reason is like describing the sun to a blind man. He feels the warmth, eats the crops, but can't see the sun.
 - Faith (or, revelation) is like the blind man receiving sight and seeing the sun for himself.

Uniqueness of Christianity

Christianity is the only true religion among many religions.

The Bible Claims Uniqueness

- ONLY GOD: The God of the Bible is the only true God (Jeremiah 10:10-2)
- ONLY WAY: Christ is the only way to God (John 14:6)
- ONLY WORD: The Bible is the only true revelation from God (Isaiah 8:20)
- ONLY HOPE: Faith in Jesus is the only way of salvation (Acts 4:12; Gal. 1:9)

Christianity Has Unique Historical Basis

- Christianity is not based on Jesus teachings but on Jesus, who he is, the person Christ, the Son of God. Salvation is not in the teachings of Jesus but in Jesus.
- Islam is based on the teachings of a man, Mohammed, not on Mohammed himself.
- Buddhism is based on the teachings of Buddha
- Confucianism is based on the teachings of Confucius

Christianity Has Unique Account of Origins

- Christianity describes the origin of the universe as a special creation by an eternal, omnipotent, personal God. In comparison other religions are impotent in discussing the topic of origins. No other religion goes back to the absolute beginning before anything existed. All other religions merely discuss the reforming of pre-existent material.
- Babylonian religions began with a primeval chaotic mixture of three waters
- Egyptian religion assumes initial watery chaos from which everything evolved
- Greek mythology have a chaos of water at the beginning
- Roman writers describe a beginning from a universal blind interplay of atoms
- Secular Humanism supports a sophisticated process of evolution of pre-existing material

No other cosmogony (theory of creation) goes beyond what currently exists back to the First Cause. All other cosmogonies begin with space, matter and time already in existence. No can answer the question, "Where did these come from?" The Bible gives a reasonable explanation: These vast and complex physical things came from an eternal, omnipotent and personal God:

- Eternal God explains the concept of time
- Infinite God is the adequate cause of space
- Omnipotent God accounts for the existence of power and matter
- Omniscient God explains intelligence and order of creation
- Personal God is why there is life, personality and freewill within creation

Evolution or primeval chaos with colliding atoms cannot explain any of these things: time, space, power, matter, intelligence, order, life, personality and freewill.