



What Do YOU Have Faith In?

James 2:18: (NASB) *But someone may well say, You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*



Faith is a part of life. Faith is not reserved for those of us who claim religion. On the contrary, faith is an integral part of human life, no matter what perspective you come from. We have faith in the people in our lives that they will be there for us. To varying degrees we have faith in our doctor's ability to take care of us, our employer's responsibility to be fair to us and our co-workers' sensibility to do their fair share with us. We have faith in the Internet as a window to the world, and we have faith in the antivirus software we use to protect that window. How does the faith we find everywhere in life compare to

religious faith? Is one kind of faith reasonable while the other is sensational or are they the same?

 **This has got to stop, *Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel***

- *(First speaker) Science has required, requires and will require faith. Furthermore, science requires faith because assumptions are made all the time and they are usually assumptions that scientists can't prove. Science can't tell you the difference between good and evil. Science can't tell us that rape is wrong. Sure, we accept that as a value judgment but science can only tell us what is observable and testable. And even then a degree of faith and assumption making is required.*
- *(Second speaker) Okay, this has got to stop. So, we've all heard this statement before.*
- *(Dr. Ben Carson) Well, first of all, I think it is quite evident from what you've seen tonight, it takes faith to believe in God. It takes faith to believe in evolution. I think it takes a lot more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in God, but they both require faith.*

There is a great debate about faith. What is faith?

A biblical definition:

Hebrews 11:1: (NIV) *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Hebrews 11:1: (Rotherham) *But faith is, of things hoped for, a confidence, of facts, a conviction, when they are not seen.*

Faith is always from the same Greek word <4102> in the entire New Testament.

Faith: Strong's #4102 persuasion, credence, conviction, reliance, constancy

When something has credence, it has something to hold it together. Faith is built upon something.

Sometimes faith gets confused with credulity.



Credulity: noun

readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (gullibility)

Real, sound and biblical faith is NOT credulity.

True, deep and powerful faith must be built and developed as any muscle must be built and developed - in degrees and stages:

James 2:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and be filled, and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.



Faith *by itself* - if not put into practice and expressed - is dead, useless. Christian faith can die because of inactivity.

A lot of people who do not have faith in the Bible look at people like us as foolish children having a fantasy faith in something we made up and want to believe in, like unicorns.

To further define faith:

(Source: McClintock and Strong Biblical Cyclopedia) Faith...is essentially trust. The various uses of the word (both objective and subjective) may be summed up as follows:
1. an objective body of truth: 2. a rule of thought, 3. a personal quality, act, or habit of the individual man. ...Psychologically, faith is the faculty of grasping evidence, with a propensity to admit it when duly presented to the mind.

"The faculty of grasping evidence." Christian faith must be built on grasping evidence.

Biblical faith has surety and conviction behind it, whereas credulity has only a willingness and feeling. The first problem we encounter is this: many who say they "believe" in the Bible are merely being credulous or gullible.



Observations so far about faith:

- Faith is NOT science, though the principles of searching and testing are present.
- Faith is NOT credulity.
- Faith is acquired by listening and considering, not by feeling.
- Faith is maintained by study, proving and experience.
- Faith is spread by repeating the last two steps above.

If we look at faith through these observations, we can now talk about the kind of faith in the Bible.



Is there a difference between faith and feeling? How do they relate to each other and work together?



Two faith definitions, *Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel*

- *Given the only thing anyone can be absolutely certain of is they exist and you can't be absolutely certain that you aren't in the matrix right now. And it's unrealistic to watch every single scientific experiment being conducted before accepting its conclusions. Most intellectually honest people will admit they can't be absolutely certain of anything but have formed reasonable beliefs based on a system that is self-correcting and constantly following the evidence. As soon as they do this, our residential theist calls this "faith" and proceeds to claim that this justifies his or her faith in the supernatural, because by definition, both require faith. So, let's examine the word "faith" in a bit more depth.*
- *There are two definitions of faith. The first being confidence in a person or thing, and the second being holding the belief that is not based on proof. Now we can begin to see how this fits into the "equivocation fallacy."*

The two definitions spoken of here do fit into the true definition of faith versus credulity/gullibility comparison we made earlier. We cannot prove to an Atheist that God exists; all we can do is present what we think are mountains of evidence to show incredible intelligence that we do not believe could happen by chance.

It seems as though those outside of Christianity assume all Christians to have credulity and not faith. We will examine these as a "faith versus feeling" comparison.

feelings

Deep emotions, when experienced and dwelt upon, can and most often lead us to credulity, for emotions need and seek to be validated simply because they exist.

When we lead with our emotion, it more often leads to credulity because we just want something to be true.

Philippians 3:17-21: (NASB) ¹⁷Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. ¹⁸For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

These false Christians were not described as having true faith; rather, they seem to have had a sense of greed and ego towards Christianity as an opportunity for worldly gain...no faith, just feeling! They were using Christianity as a means to an end. Their validation came only in worldly forms.

However, this is where our validation comes from:

²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of his glory, by the exertion of the power that he has even to subject all things to himself.

Our validation is a long-term proposition we need to wait for with patience and humility.



FAITH

**True faith absolutely can
and should lead to feeling,
to strong emotion that will back it up
and keep us reminded
of the "why" of our faith.**

**"Feel" the strength of the
direction of this next text:**

1 Peter 1:13-16: (NASB) ¹³Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Prepare your mind for action. Get yourself ready.) ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy.

True faith provokes excitement, enthusiasm, passion and a feeling of direction. *Be holy yourselves also in all your behavior* - You cannot conform to your former feelings; you have a new set of guidelines. Faith brings out our heart so we can be holy in our emotions. There is strength in emotion.



A caller from California suggests one of the Scriptures we covered initially but from the King James Version - Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.* Substance = sub (under) + stance (standing), so substance = understanding. So, faith is the understanding of things that are hoped for and evidence of things that are unseen. There is more to faith than feelings.



We exercise faith in different things every day. Here is a practical example: Magnets have "magnetic flux lines." That is the draw from the north to south poles. They cannot be seen, heard, tasted or felt, but if you put a magnet under a table and a piece of metal on top, those flux lines go through the table and moving the magnet below the table moves the magnet on top. That is an understanding of something we cannot see. We have faith in them and there is evidence of them by the fact that they move the metal every time.

Faith and trust in full action:

Faith can and should use feeling to draw inspiration!

Romans 8:35-39: (NASB) ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?



**Inspiration is an important
element, because the tasks
of our faith are difficult and
require conviction:**

³⁶Just as it is written, for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through him who loved us.

Conviction requires feeling to back up our faith.



Our Scripture-based conviction empowers us to stand:

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That is how faith puts feeling into action, not the other way around.

**Faith and feeling:
How well or poorly do they operate without each other?**

feelings

**cannot stand in the absence of faith,
as strong and persuasive emotions
are much more of a sprint
than a marathon.**

**Feelings can inspire for a time but
ultimately need a deeper and stronger
conviction to even survive long term.**

 **Ham or unicorn, *Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel***



- *One definition caters to the inability to ascertain absolute certainty of concepts or facts presented in everyday life. This is an unavoidable scenario as previously mentioned. So, how do we manage to make sense of the world if we can't be certain that it's real? Every day people make claims about relatively mundane things, and we accept these claims without hesitation and we do so on faith. This is because when someone tells you they had a ham sandwich for lunch the implications for the truth of this statement aren't very important, and it's a realistic scenario. However, if someone claims to have had a unicorn sandwich for lunch you would have some questions before accepting the validity of that statement. This is an important concept because accepting the second scenario in faith would have significant outcomes to your concept of reality.*

FAITH

**can and needs to be able to stand
and endure in the absence of feelings,
as true and abiding faith
is far deeper and stronger than
any feeling we might have.**



A listener comments: Faith without works - the purpose of having faith in God and Christ's plan is to become godly, righteous and to act, think and reflect who they are. We were created in their image, we want to get back to that image lost by sin. Faith is NOT a self-saving thing: "I'm all set, too bad for the rest of you." Faith is an inward journey whose purpose is an outward life that honors and reflects our God.

Faith is a journey with a grand purpose.

True faith CAN stand because it has a concrete base of truth on which it is built. Remember the caller's comment about believing the power of the magnet because of the result? We can apply that principle to several Scriptures written thousands of years ago.

Here are some things the Bible said about science long before these were known about:

Meteorology: Water is recycled in the earth's water cycle:

Job 36:27-29: (NRSV) ²⁷For he draws up the drops of water; he distills his mist in rain, ²⁸which the skies pour down and drop upon mortals abundantly. ²⁹Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?



How was Job able to write this? He was inspired by God to do so.

Oceanography: The ocean currents:

Psalms 8:8: (NRSV) *the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

Paths of the seas - There are invisible ocean currents underneath the water. David wrote the Psalms but probably had never been to an ocean. How would he know about ocean currents, a verifiable fact today?

In the early 1800's, Commodore Matthew Maury, an American astronomer, historian, oceanographer, meteorologist, cartographer, author, geologist, and educator discovered *the paths of the seas* based on this text. He discovered ocean currents because the Bible told him they were there.

(See Bonus Material for more on this.)

Birds of the air - we now know air streams are used for bird migration.

Just luck? Let us continue...

Astronomy: The sun moves around in an orbit:

Psalms 19:4-6: (NRSV) ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

A tent for the sun/it runs its course - it has a set boundary where it can move.

Man historically believed the sun moved around the earth, but the Bible said otherwise.



The earth is round - and it has an atmosphere:

Isaiah 40:22: (NRSV) *It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;*

He who sits above the circle of the earth - If you are in space looking down, the earth appears as a circle. How could Isaiah have known this?

Spreads them like a tent to live in - Describing our atmosphere - our earth lives inside the "tent" of the atmosphere.

The Pleiades - only six stars are visible, yet seven are mentioned:

Amos 5:8: (KJV) *Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:*

The seventh star can only be seen with a telescope.

We say we have faith in the Bible, but it is not because of some fantastical, imaginary idea. We can prove it with Scripture and use science to back up that proof.



recap
recap

feelings

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Take this on faith, *Jodie Foster at the Final Hearing, Contact Movie (1997)*

(This is a scene from the movie "Contact." The scientist, played by Jodie Foster, has gone through a journey in which she experienced traveling through a wormhole to somewhere light years away and spent nearly 18 hours away from earth. On earth, it appeared that the pod she was in never left or went anywhere. In this scene, she is on trial to try to explain her account of what actually happened versus what the data shows.)



- (Dr. Arroway) *There is no evidence, no.*
- (Mr. Kitz) *Tell me something, Doctor. Why do you think these aliens would go to all this trouble? Bring you tens of thousands of light years and then just send you home without a single shred of proof?*
- (Dr. Arroway) *They said that's how it's been done for millions of years.*
- (Mr. Kitz) *That's very neat, Doctor. You have no proof because they didn't want you to have any - a phenomenon known in psychiatric circles, I believe, as a self-reinforcing delusion.*
- (Dr. Arroway) *Is that what you think? That I was delusional?*
- (Mr. Kitz) *Well, I do think you may have suffered some sort of an episode. Yeah, I do.*
- (Dr. Arroway) *You're implying that this was all some kind of a hoax. That he engineered this.*
- (Another actor) *Dr. Arroway, you come to us with no evidence, no records, no artifacts; only a story that, to put it mildly, strains credibility. Over half a trillion dollars was spent. Dozens of lives were lost. Are you really going to sit there and tell us we should just take this all on faith?*

Faith and Feelings:

How do they contribute to positive changes in our lives?

feelings

Feelings at best can help us want
to change and perhaps even help us take
steps towards change, but they lack
the depth of conviction to see true
and lasting change all the way through.

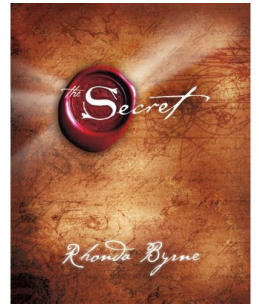
New Year's Resolutions are a great
example of this. Most of the time they are
based on feelings and end up crumbling.



A few years ago, the book "The Secret" became popular.

The Secret is the Law of Attraction. This idea, simply put, states that "everything coming into your life is the result of what you have been attracting to your life."

This idea (broadly discussed in the book "The Secret," by Rhonda Byrne) claims that your destiny is in your hands and that as you master the art of visualization, you will command the universe to fulfill that which you desire.... Thoughts become things. As long as you are thinking, the law of attraction is working. "Like" attracts "like." Your feelings/emotions let you know what you are thinking. It is the story of Aladdin and the Lamp, "Your wish is my command."



If we are following in Jesus' footsteps and doing our Father's will, we are not to "command the universe" to do anything. This is selfish and not sacrificial - the two do not work together.

To an extent you get back what you put out - this is true:

Galatians 6:7: (NKJV) *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

See? The Bible says what you sow you shall reap, so if you sow thoughts of riches, glory and honor, you will reap those same benefits! We see that in the so-called "Prosperity Gospel" but it is despicable to take the goodness and sacrifice of the Gospel and turn it into selfishness.

We are not God, but His creation and should seek to be recipients of His divine mercy and NOT our fallen desires:

Matthew 6:27-30: (NASB) ²⁷And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

Our "secret" is not to focus on what we want but it is to lock on to the will of God for us. I will be given, by the grace of God, what He sees as beneficial for me.

 **Scientific process, Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel**

- (First speaker) Accepting that your friend had a unicorn for lunch now requires you to accept the existence of a mythical creature with no previous evidence for its existence. Let's see how this relates to science.
- (Second speaker) Accepting a scientific claim requires trust in both the scientist doing the research and the scientific process. So, is this a reasonable thing to place faith into? The scientific process for evaluating evidence is a conglomeration of individuals working together and to conduct research as well as assess and review the research of others in order to produce consistent evidence, which can be applied to reality with equally consistent results. Any claims made within the scientific community undergo rigorous screening by a multinational community of individually motivated scientists.

Biblical faith is similar but does not have to be corroborated by the masses.



FAITH

**can and will drive us to make changes
in our lives that are clear, sweeping
and abiding, for real faith can actually
be identified by the real effects
it has on our every day.**

A living faith requires action. We want to use it so it can develop and have an influence on those around us.

We cannot think that we are locked on to God's will for us without severe tests of our resolve:

James 1:2-6,8: (NRSV) ²*My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. ⁶But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; ⁸for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

Expect trials and receive them with joy, because it means your faith is being tested. What better way to live than have your faith tested every day?

Faith and feeling: What role do they play in the everyday moments of life?



No evidence, Jodie Foster at the Final Hearing, Contact Movie (1997)

- (Mr. Kitz) Please answer the question, Doctor.
- (Dr. Arroway) Is it possible that it didn't happen? Yes. As a scientist I must concede that. I must volunteer that.
- (Mr. Kitz) Wait a minute. Let me get this straight. You admit that you have absolutely no physical evidence to back up your story.
- (Dr. Arroway) Yes.
- (Dr. Kitz) You admit that you very well may have hallucinated this whole thing?
- (Dr. Arroway) Yes.
- (Dr. Kitz) You admit that if you were in our position you would respond with exactly the same degree of incredulity and skepticism?
- (Dr. Arroway) Yes.
- (Dr. Kitz) Then why don't you simply withdraw your testimony and concede that this journey to the center of the galaxy in fact never took place?
- (Dr. Arroway) Because I can't.



feelings

can get lost in everyday moments,
because these moments don't feed them.
On the contrary, these moments can
disturb and unsettle our feelings
and spread seeds of discouragement
and discontent.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: Luke 18:8: *When the son of man returns, would he find faith on the earth?* Hebrews 11:6: *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. (Create a base of instruction - reprogram what you base your faith in.)* ¹⁸*Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (Then teach them practically how to make faith real in their lives - not just by emotion.)*

Feelings get lost and crushed in everyday moments of life.

FAITH

can thrive in everyday moments
or it is at these times when we are
engaged in the sometimes monotonous
tasks of life that faith can give them
perspective and meaning.
Faith turns our minds upward
in thanks and praise even when
we are of necessity focused downward
on worldly responsibilities.



If Jonathan is doing monotonous activities at work, he sings hymns. That is a way to have faith be in the forefront in the midst of the little moments of everyday life.

2 Timothy 2:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

It is not good if we try to guide the word of truth to verify what we want it to say and what we want to believe! Christian faith is built on something solid - not just how you feel in the moment.



Science is verified, Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel

- *(First speaker) Trust in the scientific process falls under the first definition of faith, whereas belief in the supernatural falls under the second definition. Despite this, theists neglect that there are different definitions of faith and use them synonymously.*
- *(Second speaker) Theists' claims involving supernatural events is a claim similar to the unicorn sandwich in our previous example and is lacking the necessary evidence which will adjust the current model of reality as to accept this claim and make it viable to believe. Hence, believing this falls under the second definition of faith, as it requires suspension of certain aspects of reality without adequate evidence. Whereas scientific concepts always fit within the model of reality or provide new evidence of mechanisms that can adjust the current model of reality. Accepting these concepts requires a degree of trust in the scientists and scientific process but is based on evidence that is verified by a large number of independent qualified sources and is available for public access.*

It is a gross generalization to say "all theists do this," because we believe faith must be based on clear evidence.

While belief in the Bible is NOT science, we truly adhere to a "discriminatory approach" to Scripture, just as that same approach is used in science.

How important is context? Here is an example using driving directions:



"Take Exit 37 and stay to the left. At the next light, turn right and it is the first driveway on the left."

Pretty simple! But are these good or bad directions? That depends on what direction you are coming from, what highway you are on and even knowing what state you are in!



People may think that is the way we are with faith in the Bible - just pulling out any directions and saying this is the way God speaks. They do not understand how the Scriptures are built.

The Bible is to be understood this way:

- When are the words spoken/written? This is important to understand the context.
- To whom are they spoken/written? If you are reading something written to a certain group of people and you try to apply it to a different group of people, it is like reading someone else's mail. For whom is the message meant?
- What are the circumstances of the words needing to be spoken/written?
- Why are the words being spoken/written? What provoked that writing?



- When - in what age - do the words apply? God applies His plan differently as time goes on to achieve His ultimate end.
- Are the words symbolic, literal or prophetic? The Bible uses all three and it is important to know how to apply these. If you take a symbol and try to apply it literally, you will not get the correct meaning.
- Are they admonitions, parables or a record of events?

This is how we establish true faith.

2 Peter 1:16-21: (NASB) *¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to him by the Majestic Glory, this is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic word made more sure (confirmed), to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

Faith and feeling: How do they drive us when we are called to action or in times of emergency?



Theists damage science, Theists Projecting Faith Onto Science, The Rational Channel

- *Hence, it falls under the first definition of faith. Therefore using the word "faith" to describe science and theology in the same context is an equivocation fallacy. Theists calling beliefs in scientific discoveries "faith" is just projecting their inadequacies onto others to try and make their position feel slightly more defensible, which frankly it isn't. Understanding this difference is essential when discussing science in public discourse, as the equivocation of the word faith is disingenuous and unjustifiably damages the image of science within the public eye.*

We should stand up and not be afraid if people try to categorize us. We gently and lovingly correct them, as our faith is based on solid ground.

feelings

**can bring us to extremes –
in these situations they can reduce us
to quivering blobs of emotion
or they can bring us to the heights of
heroic moments.**

Matthew 8:23-27: (NASB) *²³When he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus himself was asleep. ²⁵And they came to him and woke him, saying, save us, Lord; we are perishing! ²⁶He said to them, why are you afraid, you men of little faith? Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. ²⁷The men were amazed, and said, what kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?*



Jesus' closest followers were scared for their lives and became quivering blobs of emotion! Did they forget the son of God was in the boat with them? Their emotion did not let their faith register that he was present with them.

This was faith that needed to grow into trust. Trust is faith applied in what seems impossible. Trust is the *result* of faith.

 **We are not alone, Jodie Foster at the Final Hearing, Contact Movie (1997)**

- *(Dr. Arroway) I had an experience. I can't prove it. I can't even explain it. But everything that I know as a human being, everything I am tells me that it was real. I was given something wonderful, something that changed me forever, a vision of a universe that tells us undeniably how tiny and insignificant and how rare and precious we all are. A vision that tells us that we belong to something that is greater than ourselves. That we are not, none of us are alone. I wish I could share that. I wish that everyone, even if for one moment, could feel that awe and humility and that hope. But that continues to be my wish.*

Sometimes we may be in a similar position where those around us are wholly skeptical. It is at such a time that faith and feeling - if properly balanced and developed - can shine in witness to God!

FAITH

**Feeling fuels true and abiding faith,
as it breeds trust and courage,
for it gives us conviction and confidence
when we are challenged or needed.**



"The Stoning of St. Stephen,"
by Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn 1606 – 1669
oil on panel,
located at Musee des beaux-arts, Lyon France

Example of intense faith driving through a trial that would end in death:

Acts 7:51-58: (NASB) ⁵¹You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. ⁵²Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; ⁵³you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it. ⁵⁴Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him... ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him;

We might not have the same experience as Stephen, but that does not mean we cannot have the same trust and courage. We must move forward in our lives by faith not

founded in feeling or emotion, but in the facts of Scripture and the beauty and unfolding of God's plan, fulfilled prophecy and more.



I find it helpful to remember Mark 9:23-25 regarding the man with the child in need of help who asked Jesus for help with his own unbelief. Jesus had told him all things are possible to those that believe. Jesus saw his small faith and helped his child knowing the man wanted to increase his faith. We have to work at it and Jesus will help no matter the stage of faith we are at if sincere. Jesus will help us, but he does not do it for us. Our faith is developed because we work at it. We work on changing, focusing and studying to become more Christ-like.

Philippians 3:7-14: (NASB) ⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Clearly, faith is a continual growth process. The Apostle Paul himself had to press on to move forward. Spiritual growth is not necessarily comfortable.

We need to understand the value of our feelings and apply them to our life of faith and trust. In this way we can become a living epistle for Christ. We can become a book that others can open, read and have faith in. What is it we have faith in and why? How can we take that faith and have it apply in a way that is going to change our lives now and for eternity? Our example to others can help them learn that real faith is based on the truth of Scripture - they can change their lives as well and become more Christ-like. We want to take our feelings and focus them on the foundation of faith.

*So, what do YOU have faith in?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



A living faith requires action!

Hebrews 11:6: (KJV) *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Colossians 1:23: (KJV) *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*



1 Timothy 1:18-19: (KJV) ¹⁸*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; ¹⁹Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

James 2:14-18: (KJV) ¹⁴*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.*

James 2:24-26: (KJV) ²⁴*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Jude 1:3: (KJV) *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

1 Peter 5:7-9: (KJV) ⁷*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. ⁸Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

James 1:22-24: NIV) ²²*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

Finding "The Paths of the Sea"

(Source: <http://www.bible.ca/tracks/matthew-fontaine-maury-pathfinder-of-sea-ps8.htm>)

A Brief Sketch of the Work of Matthew Fontaine Maury, by Richard Launcelot Maury, 1915 AD

When I took charge of the Georgia Room, in the Confederate Museum, in Richmond, Virginia in 1897, I found among the De Renne collection an engraving of the pleasant, intellectual face of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, so I went to his son, Colonel Richard L. Maury, who had been with his father in all his work here, and urged him to write the history of it, while memory, papers and books could be referred to; this carefully written, accurate paper was the result.

At one time, when Commodore Maury was very sick, he asked one of his daughters to get the Bible and read to him. She chose Psalm 8, the eighth verse of which speaks of "whatsoever walketh through the paths of the sea," he repeated "the paths of the sea, the paths of the sea, if God says the paths of the sea, they are there, and if I ever get out of this bed I will find them."

He did begin his deep-sea soundings as soon as he was strong enough, and found that two ridges extended from the New York coast to England, so he made charts for ships to sail over one path to England and return over the other...

KATHERINE C. STILES.