

Seriously doubting my faith - Where do I turn?

March 1, 2020 | 6 upvotes | by [hopeunseen](#)

I'm having serious doubts about my faith - But I feel like I can't talk about it with other Christians as I don't want my doubts to affect their faith either. But I'm so close to walking away... Recommendations? Where should I go with this?

28yrs old, married 3yrs, working on RP for about 2yrs, born into a Christian household, went to bible camp as a kid, youth camp counsellor as a teen, bible college studied for 2.5yrs

For most of my Christian life I've had doubts about God. Mostly over things like his seeming absence from my life, even though I've prayed earnestly that he would reveal himself, speak to me, allow me to know his Spirit etc. I've tried to live a righteous life, studied the bible, done all the right "christian things" but to no real avail. The doubt and disconnect between what I see God promising and doing in the bible and what I see happening in the world around me remain.

Around 18yrs old I was deep in doubt and went to a Christian conference where Lee Strobel was speaking and had just come out with The Case For Christ - Finally I felt some of my doubts and questions were addressed, and so I continued on in my journey

Fast forward 10 yrs, bible college, and a whole lot of life in between, and I'm doubting more than ever. Re-examining The Case For Christ there seem to be so many counter arguments to everything Lee brings up, and the more research I do the more I'm doubting.

All my life I've tried to know God, sense his Spirit, and live the way he wants. But never have I experienced anything other than emotional feelings during worship at church (which by themselves I can't trust, as I could get similar emotions at a Coldplay concert or watching a movie)

I don't want to post a bunch of questions on here that might lead others to doubting, as that would be counterproductive... But I need some help or I'm not sure if I'll be able to figure this out on my own.

Thoughts appreciated!

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Comments

Deep_Strength • 5 points • 1 March, 2020 06:53 AM

Fast forward 10 yrs, bible college, and a whole lot of life in between, and I'm doubting more than ever. Re-examining The Case For Christ there seem to be so many counter arguments to everything Lee brings up, and the more research I do the more I'm doubting.

Wintery's blog goes into lots of scientific and historical reasons to believe in God.

<https://winteryknight.com/>

All my life I've tried to know God, sense his Spirit, and live the way he wants. But never have I experienced anything other than emotional feelings during worship at church (which by themselves I can't trust, as I could get similar emotions at a Coldplay concert or watching a movie)

Yeah, the Christian faith isn't based on feels but facts.

For most of my Christian life I've had doubts about God. Mostly over things like his seeming absence from my life, even though I've prayed earnestly that he would reveal himself, speak to me, allow me to know his Spirit etc. I've tried to live a righteous life, studied the bible, done all the right "christian things" but to no real avail. The doubt and disconnect between what I see God promising and doing in the bible and what I see happening in the world around me remain.

This seems to be the root of the problem, if the way you're explaining it is what you believe.

Studying the Bible literally IS God revealing himself to you, speaking to you, and knowing His Spirit. It's the main tangible revelations of God that we have. Yes, God does reveal Himself in other ways through other Christians, answers to prayer, and spiritual disciplines like fasting and meditation on the Word, but the bulk of it for most Christians is through the Bible.

As far as the promises, many Christians take the OT out of context (e.g. prosperity gospel) or think of the promises of God in the NT in too broad of an aspect. Take the verse on "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me":

Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

The context of this verse is about contentment in little or much. It's not about Christians doing well on your exams or job or anything like that I've seen used out of context. God can give contentment in any circumstance if you seek Him and pray for it.

In any case, usually when we're off track we need to get back to the basics and reframe our minds to the gospel. We're sinners in need of a Savior. Getting away from that we usually get off track and led down the road of bitterness, despair, doubt, and other things like that.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 2 March, 2020 01:31 AM

Thanks Deepstrength. Got + read your book by the way - Thanks for the mentorship you're bringing to Christian men around the world.

Yeah, the Christian faith isn't based on feels but facts.

Very true - The bible college I went to was Pentecostal based - After my Lutheran upbringing it at first seemed so much more free and full of life. In hindsight however there is certainly a tendency to focus on the feelz and give God credit for all sorts of things I'm not sure he necessarily was directly involved in. Plus you get this huge "name it and claim it" promise culture where you're told to expect things I'm not sure the bible actually promises. So some of my struggles definitely come out of that.

That said, there are still verses that suggest we should be able to experience God directly in our lives, not solely through the bible

EG. 2 corinthians 1:21-22 **New International Version**

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

In verses like these, one of Paul's explanations for how to know you're saved seems to be a knowledge of having the Holy Spirit.

Studying the Bible literally IS God revealing himself to you, speaking to you, and knowing His Spirit. It's the main tangible revelations of God that we have. Yes, God does reveal Himself in other ways through other Christians, answers to prayer, and spiritual disciplines like fasting and meditation on the Word, but the bulk of it for most Christians is through the Bible.

As far as the promises, many Christians take the OT out of context (e.g. prosperity gospel) or think of the promises of God in the NT in too broad of an aspect. Take the verse on "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Things seem a little tricky with this... The Bible as we know it didn't exist until 400 years after Jesus & the apostles. What we have is a collection of books that the early church generally recognized as being accurate, but unfortunately these books were written between 20-100 years after the events they describe, and there quite a few contradictions between different books in the NT (particularly the gospels). For instance, Jesus' words are clearly paraphrased by the authors. So while his overall message might very well be kept, we don't have the literal exact words of Jesus, just the "gist" of what he said.

How could this be the true inspired word of a 100% perfect all powerful God?

Or if on the other hand you say some was inspired and some was not - Which parts?

Yes we have verses like "All scripture is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16) - But using the bible to vouch for the bible is circular reasoning.

As far as the promises, many Christians take the OT out of context (e.g. prosperity gospel) or think of the promises of God in the NT in too broad of an aspect.

I totally agree - And I've certainly done this in the past.

If it's alright perhaps I can send you a message with some specifics... Or if you think it's appropriate I can post them here. Like I said, last thing I want to do is spew out a bunch of doubts here on a public forum that might be damaging rather than helpful.

Deep_Strength • 1 point • 2 March, 2020 02:02 AM

That said, there are still verses that suggest we should be able to experience God directly in our lives, not solely through the bible

Of course. When Jesus says 'ask for anything in my name' He's obviously talking about what God wants for our lives, so if you want direct answers to prayer, you should definitely pray for things that God

wants for your life.

For instance, asking God to bring situations where you can practice the fruit of the Spirit during the day. I've joked to my wife before that whenever I pray to God to increase my humility, I've always been put through several situations within the next few days where I can practice that fruit of the Spirit. I'm almost scared to ask for more humility now as they're always embarrassing situations, hah.

Coincidence? Maybe. But is it a coincidence that it keeps on happening when you ask things in line with God's will for you and they keep happening? I would start to doubt that.

Things seem a little tricky with this... The Bible as we know it didn't exist until 400 years after Jesus & the apostles. What we have is a collection of books that the early church generally recognized as being accurate, but unfortunately these books were written between 20-100 years after the events they describe, and there quite a few contradictions between different books in the NT (particularly the gospels). For instance, Jesus' words are clearly paraphrased by the authors. So while his overall message might very well be kept, we don't have the literal exact words of Jesus, just the "gist" of what he said.

How could this be the true inspired word of a 100% perfect all powerful God?

Mike Licona has some good videos to watch many of these topics. When you look at the gospels in the time they were written, the composition devices the authors used were in line with what other ancient historians did at the time.

"Why are there differences in the gospels" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgz-uPiVGc8>

New testament canon - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0BCm2cRx9w>

A, B, C, D, and E's of defending the gospels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOFbhrqHJF4>

Why would we try to be interpreting the Bible based on our standard of what we define to be correct, when the Bible was written specifically to the culture at the time? For instance, both the gospel authors and Paul were writing to the early Church to instruct them how to live a godly life in Christ. To understand what they were instructing them, we need to understand the background of the cultures and cities and how God was calling them out of their sin to live a life for them.

This is why we have both exegesis and hermeneutics to understand how to apply this instruction to the early Christians and then interpreting it on how we should apply it today. We don't live in the same culture, but each culture has areas where they tempt us to sin and go astray in different ways (e.g. temple prostitution, prostitution, pederasty vs fornication, porn, etc. although some things are the same like debauchery).

If it's alright perhaps I can send you a message with some specifics... Or if you think it's appropriate I can post them here. Like I said, last thing I want to do is spew out a bunch of doubts here on a public forum that might be damaging rather than helpful.

Here is fine or PM works too. I've been through my own crises of faith, so I'm definitely willing to help others walk through doubts.

boomerachi • 2 points • 1 March, 2020 05:11 AM

Case for Christ is a good read but I wouldn't hang my faith on it or use it as a foundation. I spent most of my 20s as a vocal atheist and there is a lot of ammunition in that book for sowing doubt.

Can you articulate what you feel your mission is? I've gone through seasons where I wasn't living my mission and I also struggled with my faith in those times. The closer you are to living up to what God specifically wants

you to do, the closer to him you will feel. And this doesn't necessarily mean checking all of the Christian boxes that the church wants you to. I'm talking about your specific individual mission in life and what you are doing/how you are behaving to complete it.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 2 March, 2020 12:38 AM

I've been pushing to figure this out for a long time and just recently have made a decision. My mission is to shift the standard western diet towards a whole foods, predominantly plant based diet through the use of media & building a global brand. Achieving this would have massive impact on individual health, the environment & the way we steward the planet as humans.

I'm just in the starting stages of making this happen - Currently narrowing down possible avenues and on the lookout for opportunities in this field.

The closer you are to living up to what God specifically wants you to do, the closer to him you will feel.

This I can't comment on, as I've never had the experience of feeling something specific God wants me to do, though I've tried. Going by what the bible says however, my mission certainly is more earth based than heaven focused.

I'd be curious to hear from you experience what made the difference and prompted you to come to Christ. My challenge has been that while there are a lot of Christian explanations for seeming contradictions in scripture, nature & the world we live in, these explanations often seem to have to stretch a lot more than the alternatives.

Again I don't want to bring up these things directly on this public thread, but I'd sure love some insights.

boomerachi • 2 points • 2 March, 2020 02:06 AM

It's ok if your mission is earthly based. This is something that hung me up for years when I was first swallowing the Christ pill. I was meeting with a pastor that I respected who encouraged me to put aside all of my hobbies and goals that didn't directly relate to the church or the Bible and honestly it cost me two years of getting to know Jesus. You really don't know how the Holy Spirit is working in your life at any given moment, so if you feel passion for sharing dietary information, go full throttle and pour your energy into it. First you define your mission, then you make a plan to tackle it, and then figure out how to do it for God's glory rather than your own. That third step is a mind set shift that'll grow your relationship with Jesus.

Apologetics is definitely a minutiae mess that may never give you the closure you need to some specific questions. Feel free to DM me anything specific if you don't want to discuss it on the public thread.

helaughsinhidden • 2 points • 2 March, 2020 02:15 PM

I got bad news and I got good news.

Bad news. None of the scientific facts found in the bible or testimony of other men will do that much for you. When doubt comes in, it doubts everything and everyone you know, so all new evidence will be met with skepticism. Like m meeting an honest politician, lol! I won't believe them for a minute.

Good news. There is only one way you can know for sure. From God himself. Jesus makes a claim that is beyond impossible and no other god even attempts. He said "if you seek me, you will find me". Jesus isn't found in a text book, a seminar, a blog post, or in a building. Read you bible (faith comes by hearing the word of God) and pray daily and specifically. Talk to God about secret things that are unique to yourself, your walk, your faith, your work, your relationships. People often just pray about general things like having a good day or mediocre results. Seek Jesus fervently and authentically as if you expect to hear from him, feel him, sense him, or possibly

see him at any moment. As you do, be sensitive to all to doubts coming in at you and shrug them off and keep going until you are full uninhibited. Read Luke 11 a couple times. The prayer Jesus taught isn't a prayer to be copied as much as it is a blueprint for how to pray and then the attitude on prayer.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 02:00 AM

I appreciate you taking the time to respond. It's very possible you're right... There is nothing I can do other than just "shrug off my doubts" and move on believing in God anyways.

My challenge is I feel like I genuinely HAVE spent most of my life doing exactly that. I've walked the walk and talked the talk. I've spent 6 days a week at church, I've gone to the prayer gatherings, I've genuinely spent time reading the bible and praying with God... I've felt comfort in those situations that could be God speaking, but couldn't say for sure.

I've also encountered a lot of situations where people thought God was speaking to them but in reality he wasn't (things that went against his word in the bible, promises that never came true etc)

So when this happens, you naturally ask yourself "If this person thought they heard God but didn't, how can I know if I'm hearing God or just make believing I've heard him?"

helaughsinhidden • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 03:38 PM

"shrug off my doubts" and move on believing in God anyways

Let me reword this a little bit. What you are implying is to "soldier on" with "blind faith" and that's not at all what I mean. What I recommend doing is locking yourself in a room or on a mountain top and speak to God as if he's right there and say "I'm not moving until you reveal yourself to me because I HAVE to know that you are there, that you hear me, and that you love me" and pour out every single doubt, disappointment, resentment, hurt, or whatever feeling or thought you are experiencing in those moments until you hear from him.

One of the MOST AMAZING moments of my life was when I was feeling almost exactly like you describe. I'd been trying to be a "good person", doing church, praying, reading bible, and going to a men's group. One night after this group, I reflected on my complete inability to remain sinless and the church I was going to really emphasized holiness as the evidence that you are saved and backsliding as a sign you were a fake christian and going to hell. I saw how sinful my life was and when you include your thought-life, I was backsliding every hour of the day. I contemplated the totality of it and placed my hand on my eyes, started to cry, and out of exhausting, disappointment, and frustration I said out loud "I can't do it". I can't explain fully the next hour in words people can comprehend, but I felt the very presence of God in the car. It was more real than the keyboard I am typing this on. For the next hour or so I spoke to God and instantly had the answers in my memory when I finished speaking. I felt a power and euphoria in my body that makes crack cocaine seem lame, but never felt mentally high, in fact I was of completely sound in my mind. As I read of the encounters with God that the prophets had in the old testament or after the resurrection how the Apostles say that at times they were "filled with the spirit", this is what they meant. This is still happening. Honestly, after having personally experienced it myself that night and many times since, I have no idea how people can be a God fearing christian without having a deposit of hope to sustain them.

So, don't just keep doing as you've already done, push until you find him and you know that you know that you know. Keep pressing until you have FOUND FAITH in things that are "unseen" but not without proof, so that it will not fade. Even Scientologists have blind faith, the promises of Jesus are much better.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 09:55 PM

Thank you for elaborating and sharing your experience - Truly appreciate it. I will give it a shot and find some time and space to get away.

DoersOfTheWord • 1 point • 1 March, 2020 07:58 PM

God has shown Himself in amazing ways to me and my family, but I could easily just chalk it up to random chance. I could just dismiss my wife's healing as the placebo effect. I choose to believe because I want to. The Christian life gives me meaning and purpose. I choose to believe Jesus was real and died for my sins. Whether He's real or not, it requires faith either way. There is no proof that can't be faked or explained away. Faith **IS** the evidence of things unseen.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 2 March, 2020 12:48 AM

I'm really glad for you and your family :)

One interesting side note: Hebrews 11 actually gives examples of what it means to have "faith" - If you read beyond V1, the author gives us these examples:

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts"....

The next example is Enoch taken by God before death, then Noah building the ark when warned by God, then Abraham having faith when God said to go to Israel etc.

In all of these examples, "faith" is demonstrated by these characters taking God at his word. These people were spoken to by God, and they trusted him to keep his promises.

My struggle then is that I haven't been spoken to by God. The logical answer is "yes you have, in His bible" - But I'm not 100% convinced I believe what the bible says... So it's circular reasoning to use the bible as proof of what the bible says.

Anyways, appreciate you sharing your own insight and experience - I've had similar thoughts myself. No matter what you'll never be able to definitively PROVE something that happened 2000 years ago... You can only look at the evidence that exists and draw your conclusions around that. No matter what you have to put your faith in something you can't be sure of.

agoodcrayon • 1 point • 2 March, 2020 08:20 AM

Then the answer you're looking for is that you have little faith or possibly none at all - at least not what you may have thought it was.

God still speaks today. Take a look at Peter when he called out to Jesus and then walked on water as his eyes, mind, and heart were set on Him. The moment he started drowning (when he took his eyes off Jesus), Jesus comments "you have such little faith, why did you doubt me."

The truth is God is always around and truly does have a plan for our lives. God is not the problem. It is our human nature that doubts and fears and is lazy and undisciplined towards that plan He's designed for us so we never even take a step out onto the water when Jesus calls us out of the boat.

You could be doing everything correctly but your heart isn't postured around doing it for Christ but doing it to be a good person or because it's the right and moral thing to do. You could read the Bible front to back and still miss the point.

We have to be ACTIVE in our FAITH. Most are immature or lack trust in God so never experience His grace.

You want God to show up? Read Malachi 3:6-12

THEN ACT ON IT.

The question is are you obedient over what God has given you? Are you stewarding it properly? Are you aware of what God has given you? Are you aware of the pain or sufferings or hardships you may have been spared from on this path of life you're on? Are you thankful? How is your prayer life? How is your tithing? How is your calling/purpose doing?

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 02:08 AM

While I certainly don't pretend to know how God works, this answer seems to be summarized as "The reason you're not hearing God is because you're not righteous enough / not truly following him / not truly serving him for the right motivations" --> Basically it's a works theology that says God only speaks to those who deserve it, and if you don't hear God speaking, then clearly it's not because God doesn't exist or doesn't speak - It's because you must be doing something wrong. Similar advice to what Job's friends told him when they tried to explain why God would allow his suffering to occur.

I don't know man, maybe you're right. I just don't feel like this is a helpful explanation for someone genuinely trying to hear from God and serve God but doubting...

Your end questions are potentially helpful, but there is no way to ever reach perfection, so how much of this do I have to "get right" before I hear God speak? I've been working on these things most of my Christian life and still am nowhere close to being truly Christ like in all I say and do.

Paul called himself and "the worst of sinners" - And yet God still spoke to him even when he wasn't pursuing Christ at all - He was persecuting him.

I am not Paul, nor do I ever expect God to do for me what he did for him, but the question still stands - If God is the almighty creator of the universe who throughout the bible had conversations with his people and showed up in undeniable, tangible ways... Why the radio silence?

agoodcrayon • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 04:15 AM

It's not a matter of doing things "correctly," it's more of being obedient. I don't like a works based theology but scripture says that Faith without works is dead. It goes hand in hand. The Holy Spirit "nudges" us in the right direction and "calls" to certain acts of good. You have to have discernment and wisdom to hear that call. All of these things are given to us if we pray for it. God doesn't withhold wisdom. Just don't be surprised when things start "changing" ahead of you.

These times of silence are possibly a test of Faith. You've got to be grounded on the foundation of Christ you've come to know. You could always ask God to show himself to you. Be real with Him and ask Him to open up the heavens for you.

A couple of verses I love are:

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." □□Matthew□ □16:25□ □NLT□□

"Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." □□John□ □20:29□ □NLT□□

DoersOfTheWord • 1 point • 3 March, 2020 04:25 AM

My struggle then is that I haven't been spoken to by God.

How would you know? Even if God spoke to you very clearly, you could easily dismiss it. So from the start, you need to want to hear from God. You need to pray to hear from God. Then you need to be open to hear from God. Read his Word, journal your dreams, and increase your spiritual situational awareness.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 4 March, 2020 01:55 AM

"Even if God spoke to you very clearly, you could easily dismiss it." I would disagree. The bible characters who heard directly from God sometimes disobeyed, but they never doubted it was God who spoke. This line of reasoning also seems to be counterintuitive... If God loves us so much he would send his only son to this earth to die, why is he then so cryptic and hard to hear? To which you might point to Mark 4:12 "so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" - But again the challenge of this verse is that Jesus is referring to Pharisees who physically walked and talked with Jesus - They had a chance to see and hear from God directly, not in some vague way that they might have missed if they hadn't been spiritually discerning enough. I just don't get it. If God wants all people to repent and go to heaven, why hide your existence?

UpTanks • 1 point • 5 March, 2020 03:22 AM

I've tried to live a righteous life, studied the bible, done all the right "christian things" but to no real avail.

Red flag. God isn't interested in your achievements or how many boxes you tick, he looks at the heart with which you live. Why was Jonah so pissed off that God didn't blow up Nineveh? What was the point of that story??

Christians living to "tick the boxes" as you say, will always run into the ground, doubt the faith and live an overall crippling unfulfilled life. Why? Because **they will fail**. Its impossible to tick the boxes, that's the point of Jesus - *none of us* can live a righteous life. So for you to say that you've "tried the righteous life" is just painfully ironic - imagine Paul's face right now!!!

You also say you're married. Huh. How many dudes on here would KILL to have a wife right now?? I think you're blessed by God in a lot of ways but you don't see it, you just want Him to show up in the way **you want**.

For your theological questions I'd recommend Ravi Zacharias, Nathan Fించio (huge fan) and Frank Turek. And maybe even Peter Hitchens if you're interested more in politics and sociology.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 6 March, 2020 06:37 PM

I'd say more of a "yellow flag" if anything. Paul makes it very clear that salvation is by faith alone by Christ alone - And yet flip your bible to the gospels and read just how much Jesus talked about being faithful, producing fruit, and living righteously. Not because this would gain us salvation, but because a righteous life should be the natural fruit of a reborn spirit.

Yes, I'm absolutely blessed by God - Through salvation alone I have received more than I could ever deserve. But to write off someone's doubts with "you're blessed and God's speaking to you, you just don't hear him" is unfortunately not super helpful.

Appreciate the theology suggestions - I'll check those guys out!

Willow-girl • 1 point • 5 March, 2020 01:30 PM

I suspect everyone comes to a place of deciding what THEY believe -- aside from what they've been taught or how they've been raised. Eventually you have to pick a team!

I kinda like the way the Amish seem to induce this choice with the concept of "Rumspringa," where the kids are allowed to run wild for a season then make a conscious decision whether they want to go down the World's path or stay in the faith. I think all religions ought to do that (although it would probably give some parents the vapors, lol).

Incidentally, I sometimes see posts on here, usually from men, who want a pure and unsullied partner raised in a

good Christian home, etc. To me, this seems like a big red flag, as this is likely to be a person who has never questioned and tested their faith ... and when they do (as I believe everyone does at some point), they may not choose to stick with it. That doesn't mean you have to marry a recovering heroin addict, lol, but it's probably a good idea to ask some probing questions and find out whether a prospective spouse has wrestled and struggled already and come out the other side, so to speak.

Back to the subject at hand. Hopeunseen, I'm going to encourage you to not get derailed by dogma or doctrine here, because these can be really huge stumbling blocks! Maybe you need to start over, strip it down, find the ground that you can stand on confidently, and build from there. For instance, a friend on another forum has a sig line that goes something like, "I know two things for certain: there is a God, and it isn't me." Always chuckle when I read that. But what if you're not even sure there's a God? Well, can you be sure that good and evil exist? There is ample evidence of both around us, is there not? At the end of the day, I think faith comes down to a choice between Good and Evil, Light and Darkness ... all else is just icing humans have put on the cake. This is the real question, not whether it's OK to eat meat on Friday, lol. What you do in your life naturally grows out of which side you choose. It's like the foundation you build on, the road that you go down. I'd suggest starting there.

hopeunseen[S] • 1 point • 7 March, 2020 08:43 PM

Thanks for your thoughts!

What you do in your life naturally grows out of which side you choose. It's like the foundation you build on, the road that you go down. I'd suggest starting there.

I think you're absolutely right. Bringing that foundation into question is literally the hardest thing a person can do - But Jesus himself said "build your life on the rock" - I want to make sure I'm not inadvertently building on some kind of grey sand mistakingly believing it to be rock.

It seems to me that the bible should be able to pass scrutiny. If it cannot, why would I believe it? That would be illogical.

I certainly wish I had the spiritual revelation and experiences of others, but perhaps in the end it's more helpful for me to struggle - Coming out the other side I will be far more equipped both for my own life and also in helping others on a similar journey.

Take care

Willow-girl • 1 point • 7 March, 2020 09:12 PM

It seems to me that the bible should be able to pass scrutiny. If it cannot, why would I believe it?

Ok, I'll probably get branded a little bit of a heretic here for saying this, but I think Christians tend to worship the Bible as much or more than they worship God, KWIM?

IMO, the Bible is a record of other people's idea regarding the nature of the Divine -- ideas that were undoubtedly influenced by the events and culture of their times. I think there is some value in respecting and reflecting upon wisdom that has stood the test of time -- one shouldn't throw out the baby with the bathwater! -- but that's as far as it goes. My belief doesn't hinge on a holy book which consists of words that were written down by other fallible men. We're all groping toward Truth and Light. We're all working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

I think it is good to read other people's thoughts and learn from them or even wrestle with them. But at the end of the day, you have to figure out what *you* believe.

SkabaQSD • 1 point • 8 April, 2020 07:29 AM

Try eating those farts for starters!