

blind faith?
“What About The Bible?”
June 5, 2011

Why? Do you have answers & evidence to support what you believe? Or is it just “*blind faith*”? A crutch for the unstable?

As Christians are we: 1. Uninformed? 2. Unloving?

*In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** (apologetic) to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

QBQ – “Question behind the Question” - every human wonders:

1. Does God exist? 2. What kind of God is he?
3. How can I know him?

A. Starting Point for this Series (Premise) – we believe...

1. An all powerful and perfectly loving God exists.
2. This God created the world and humanity.

B. MESSAGE: *The purpose of the Bible is to reveal who God is, how we can know him, and to find our place in His Story!*

“The Bible comes alive to the extent that a person meets Jesus through it.” Letters From a Skeptic (p.143)

C. Top Ten Reasons to Read, Believe and be transformed by the Bible.

- 10. One of a Kind “book”** – It’s just a book with human authors. Other religions have “books”...what’s so special?
 - a. *Biblios* - Library: Not one book; 66 books w/ over 40 authors from writing 1400 B.C. to 60 A.D. with one UNIFYING THEME.
- 9. Historically Reliable** – Isn’t it old, filled with errors, unreliable, and corrupted by human writers?

- b. More reliable (quantity & quality) than any other ancient manuscripts (Rome, etc).
 - i. Roman historian Tacitus (Gallic Wars) – 20 copies; earliest 900 years after it happened.
 - ii. Homer’s *Iliad* – most copies 643 with earliest dated 500 yrs after death
- c. OT Quality: dead sea scrolls found in 1927 complete copies of every OT book except Ester, dated 150 B.C.!!
- d. NT Quantity: over 5,000 copies of three years of a Jewish carpenter’s life!
* Eye witness accounts with various detail differences and emphases but agreement in overall story theme...4 Gospels over 24,000 copies!

8. Supernatural Interventions – How can you believe in all those supernatural stories?

- a. Supernatural God intervening inside his own creation.

7. Prophecies Fulfilled – What about all those prophecies? More than 300 fulfilled by Christ’s first coming alone!

6. Authors Audacious Claims – Inspired by Holy Spirit?
2 Tim 3:16 *All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness.*

Heb. 4:12 *The word of God is living and active. Sharper than two-edged sword it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

2 Peter 1: ²⁰ *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

5. **Church History** – Men decided what would be in it!
 - a. Early church accepted 27 books of NT by 150 AD
 - b. Council of Nicea AD 310 response to heretic Marcion hating Jews, OT, and wanted to throw it out.
 - c. Different translations & paraphrases?

4. **Archeologically Accurate** – *“No archeological discovery has ever contradicted a biblical reference.”* Dr. Nelson Glueck (leading authority Israeli archeology)

3. **Indestructible & Universal** – still best seller after all attempts to censor and ban it!

2. **Spiritually Life Changing** – me personally...how about you! C.S. Lewis and so many others converted!

1. **Confirmed by the Resurrected Christ** – He believed in, quoted, and claimed to be the fulfilled of scripture!

- a. Jesus quoted the OT approx. 180 times.
- b. Promised followers the Holy Spirit who would help them recall his teaching and instruct others with the same authority he had. John 14-16

Matthew 5:18 *I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

Mt. 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

John 5:39-40 *You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

Luke 24:25-27 *He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with*

D. Believer Application: What do you personally believe about the Bible? How is that belief forming your reading of scripture? How are you being transformed by the Bible?

E. Conclusion: *Believing the Bible is God’s Word does not require blind faith, but does still require faith!*

Possible Survey: questions to generate spiritual conversations and talk about objections to Christianity.

1. Did your parents raise you with a specific religious belief?
2. Do you identify with a specific religion or belief now? Why? Why not?
3. What do you believe about Jesus’ claim to be God?
4. What are your beliefs about the Bible?
5. What are your beliefs about heaven and hell?
6. Do you pray? What do you believe happens when you pray?
7. Do you attend a church regularly? What have your church experiences been like?
8. What has your experience been like with Christians (positive or negative)?

Additional Resources:

Starting Point by Andy Stanley

The 10 Most Common Objections to Christianity by Alex McFarland

Letters From A Skeptic by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd

When Skeptics Ask by Norman L. Geisler

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis