



“Faith In God The Creator” (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6)

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vv.1-2 Hebrews 11 has sometimes been called “the hall of faith” because it is a sample record of men and women of biblical history who responded to the revelation of God in their lives by faith. In the simplest of definitions, that is what faith is – a person’s response to God based on the revelation He has given them about Himself.

v.6 God is pleased when people respond correctly to His revelation about Himself. Not only that, when as a result of a correct response we seek greater revelation, God grants us greater revelation.

* Prov.8:17b; Jer.29:13

v.3 Read Genesis 1:1-2:3; I believe this, but my belief is not “blind faith.”

God does not want anyone to have BLIND FAITH.

- Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living. Well, the unexamined faith is not worth believing. Contrary to popular opinion, Christians are not to “just have faith.” I Peter 3:15 commands Christians to “Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” II Cor.10:5 instructs Christians to “demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.” Someone said that Christians don’t get brownie points for being stupid. Just the opposite, we are to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

Faith should be based on TRUTH.

- False ideas about truth lead to false ideas about life.
- “All truth is relative.” (Is *that* a relative truth?) This statement is its sister, “There are no absolutes.” (Are you *absolutely* sure?) Then there are those who say, “There’s no such thing as truth.” (Pilate; Is that true?) Here’s one more – “You can’t know anything for sure.” (Are you sure?)
- Truth is discovered, not invented.

- Truth is transcultural.
- Truth is unchanging.
- All truths are absolute.
- Contrary truths are impossible.

Most of the world's major religions fall into one of three religious worldviews:

- Theism: Belief in a personal God who created the universe but is not part of the universe. Major theistic religions are Christianity, Judaism, & Islam.
- Pantheism: Belief in an impersonal God that literally is the universe (the grass, sky, tree, etc.). major pantheistic religions are Hinduism, some forms of Buddhism, and many forms of "New Age."
- Atheism: Does not believe in any type of God.
- Note: A fourth category of people would be agnostics. An agnostic is someone who is unsure about the question of God.

All religious worldviews make truth claims, and many of those claims can be evaluated through scientific and historical investigation. Careful investigation will lead us to the truth or falsehood about that claim.

The basic TRUTH concerning the existence of God is evidenced by CREATION.

What someone believes about God affects everything else that he or she believes.

Examining the evidence:

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Cosmos is Greek for "world" or "universe."

It was 1916 and Albert Einstein did not like where his calculations were leading him. If his theory of General Relativity were true, it meant that the universe was not eternal but had a beginning. This flew in the face of his belief that the universe was static and eternal. Then there is The Second Law of Thermodynamics. One of the things this law states is that the universe is running out of usable energy. The First Law of Thermodynamics states that the total amount of energy in the universe is constant. In other words, the universe has only a finite amount of energy, much like a car has a finite amount of gas. The logical conclusion of these two laws is that the universe is not eternal but had a beginning.

- If the rotation of the earth took more than 24 hours, temperature differences would be too great between night and day. If it were shorter, wind velocities would blow us away.
- The earth is tilted at exactly 23 degrees. If it were altered even slightly, surface temperatures would be extreme.
- If water vapor levels in the atmosphere were any greater than they are now, a runaway greenhouse effect would cause temperatures to rise too high for human life. If they were any less, we would all freeze.
- Astrophysicist Hugh Ross calculated the probability that these and other anthropic constants (122 in all) would exist on any planet in the universe by chance (without divine design) – One chance in 10 to the 138th power. In other words, zero chance!
- Col. 1:15-17
- Psalm 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

When the first astronauts saw the earth rise from their view on the surface of the moon, they read from the book of Genesis, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” John Glenn echoed their convictions years later when, at the age of seventy-seven, he looked out of the space shuttle Discovery and said, “To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible.”

“...one may find it easier to believe in an infinite array of universes than an infinite Deity, but such a belief must rest on faith rather than observation” (Physicist Paul Davies).

CONCLUSION

- Every religious worldview requires faith, even the view that says there is no God. When someone looks at the evidence, it takes more faith to be a non-Christian than it does to be a Christian.
- I Don't Have Enough...pp.30-31
- II Peter 3:3-7; Rom.1:18-25ff; Psalm 8:3-4a
- The problem with mankind is not the result of a lack of evidence/revelation of God, it is the result of a sinful disposition that refuses to submit to the CREATOR.