

What is Faith?

- *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1*
- Faith gives us all the evidence we need.
- Think about the obvious conclusions.
- *By faith we understand the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
- *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb 11:3, 6*
- With this as our foundation ... We can build it all!!

Three Biggest Hurdles

- There is a God who created the heavens and earth.
- Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God
- Just as Abraham was saved by faith so are we.
- Unbroken confidence in all three brings salvation!
- *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe 1Th. 2:13*

They Stand and Fall Together

- Any of these three becomes the weakest link ...
- If there is no God There is no Bible – No Savior
- If there is no Savior – No Scripture – No God
- If There is no Scripture – No God – No Savior
- Not matter where you start destination is the same.
- Depends on which weak link is chosen
- Science Assaults There is a God
- Culture now assaults – There is no Christ
- Churches assault The Bible is Inspired
- Result – Faith is weakened on three fronts.
- No Respect for Authority – Gospel hollow

Historical Facts that Stretch our Faith

- God created the heavens and the earth in 6 days
- The Garden of Eden and the man's fall with Eve speaking to a serpent.
- Sarah having a child at the age of 90
- The 10 Plagues
- A flood that covered all the mountains 22 feet.
- Balaam's talking donkey
- Mt Sinai & God speaking from the Mount
- Joshua asking God to have the sun stand still.
- How do we feel about these things?
- Many are undermining all Scripture with these.

What did Jesus Think?

- Jesus quoted freely from Genesis, the Law, the prophets and the Psalms (Lk. 24:44).
- He believed them to be so accurate and exact that “*not one jot or one tittle*” (a dot on one “i” or a cross on one “t”) could pass from the Law until all had been fulfilled (Mt. 5:18).
- Jesus knew OT Scripture was divinely inspired and had been kept pure by the power of God.

Jesus, the Word who Became Flesh

- *all things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made (Jn. 1:1-3).*
- When He spoke of “*the beginning of the creation which God created,*” (Mk. 13:19),
- Not just an eyewitness confirming it, but an active participant in every part of it.
- He witnessed, and took part in the creation of Adam and Eve (Mt. 19:4-5)
- He watched Adam and Eve fall into sin and be banished from the garden. of Eden

Jesus, the Word who became flesh

- He was also an eyewitness as “*Noah entered the ark,*” and the “*the flood came and took them all away.*” Lk. 17:25
- He confirmed that “*on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all,*” Lk. 17:29
- When asked about seeing Abraham. Jesus said “*before Abraham was, I AM.*” Jn. 8:58
- Jesus was an eye witness to every event recorded in the Old Testament.

Jesus Was Alive and Witnessing it All

- He was living when each book was written.
- Watched God keep His word perfect and pure down through the centuries.
- If there were any myths or fables, any books or even any verses that did not belong in the Bible, He had many opportunities to reveal it.
- He spoke confidently of Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days (Mt. 12:40),
- of Elijah helping the widow (food and raising her son), (Lk. 4:26),
- Elisha cleansing Naaman of his leprosy Lk. 6:27
- Jesus confirmed that all these things occurred.

Brings Great Confidence

- **If We Know:**
- *Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God*
Mt. 16:16
- *“God has made Jesus ... both Lord and Christ,”*
Acts 2:36 we must trust Him.
- The integrity of the Bible, all the historical accounts in the Bible are linked to this with chains of logic that can't be broken.
- If we don't believe the Scriptures He affirmed are true, then is Jesus really the Son of God in our hearts?

What About the NT Scriptures?

- Jesus promised that His apostles would be guided into all truth. Jn. 14:26, 16:13
- The books they wrote would allow Him to be with us until the end of the world. Mt. 28:18-20
- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness 2Tim. 3:16*
- Speaking of the entire Bible (OT and NT)
- Peter also affirmed: *“prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:21*

Inspiration: Not one jot or tittle of Man

- Moses did not write his own ideas about the creation. He spoke as moved by the Holy Spirit.
- All miracles and divine interventions, all miracles of Jesus and His apostles are historical facts.
- They used their tongue and held the pen, but the Holy Spirit controlled everything they spoke or wrote 1Cor. 2:9-13
- Those who refuse to accept any command of Paul or any other writer are rejecting the Holy Spirit.
- *he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.” 1Th. 4:5*

The Domino Effect

- If we set aside Jesus words about a myth puts parts of the gospel accounts in doubt.
- Now we can pick and choose what parts to accept.
- Any NT book that spoke of them also in doubt.
- Peter: Noah and the flood, destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Balaam's talking donkey as facts. (2Pet. 2:5-7; 15-16).
- Paul: Opening of the Red Sea, and all the divine dealings in the wilderness as 1Cor. 10:1-11
- Eve did speak to the serpent in the garden of Eden and based God's commands on the role of women in the church upon it (1Tim. 2:11-15).



The Domino Effect

- Paul proclaimed (Eph. 4:3-4) and Peter affirmed (2Pet. 3:15-16) their writings – inspired Scripture.
- Can't pick through their writings and select what we like, agree with, or makes sense to us.
- If we doubt any part of the four gospels, the thirteen books Paul wrote or the two books of Peter, we now have 19 books of the NT we can set aside if we don't agree with something.
- But it wouldn't end there.

The Domino Affect

- Hebrews: Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, Noah, divinely warned, prepared an ark for the saving of his household. Heb 11:1-30
- Sarah “bore a child when she was past the age,” passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, were drowned.”
- James said: “Elijah ... prayed it would not rain; and it did not rain
- Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation are also be impacted.
- It all Stands or falls together.

Where Does all This Leave Us?

- By doubting any of the divine interventions recorded in the OT, we must doubt all in the NT.
- Doubt begins as a trickle, and soon becomes a flood that sweeps it all away.
- Respect for the Bible has plummeted.
- Christianity is becoming a hollow religion.
- It also undermines faith in God and faith in Jesus.
- While denominations and other churches undermine faith and authority in this way.
- Members of the Lord's church must speak confidently about them.

Could Paul Thank God for You?

- *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe 1Th. 2:13*