

## **Building Faith On Reason**

### **John 5:30-35**

"Believe in heart. can't explain it...just know He's there and loves me. Is such a beautiful feeling."

Many explain faith this way but are never able to say why. Do "witness" much damage.

They defend such weakness, commend it saying faith not something think about and reason not involved. Say if must explain faith, then isn't really faith. No wonder so many find encouragement in unbelief when hear these people speak. Lazy for not taking time to equip with reasonable defense for faith. But to defend such lack is ridiculous.

Christians admonished to give reasonable answer for faith - **1Peter 3:15**

Faith comes not by feelings but by hearing Word - **Romans 10:17**

Lord encourages to use reasoning abilities to search out faith - **Isaiah 1:18**

Bereans depended on intellect, not feelings alone to find truth **Acts 17:11**

Ask Bereans why believed in Jesus, would get reasonable, Scriptural answer. So, why do you believe the things you do?

### **Why Believe In God?**

Creative, sustaining power witness in universe He made - **Romans 1:20**

Emerson, the poet said "Nature is too thin a screen; the glory of the omnipresent God bursts through everywhere." - **Psalms 19:1-2**

No signature at bottom of beautiful painting, conclude no painter? God's masterpiece, universe, suppose because is unsigned, Master artist doesn't exist, and happened by accident! - **Job 38:1-5**

The Universe: Created or Eternal?

It is the nature of things to wear out, degrade - **Hebrews 1:10-12**

Ultimately, cause of everything must be eternal; self-existing and sustaining. Bible identifies cause, God. All from Him - **Hebrews 3:4**

### **Why Believe The Bible?**

The Testing of the Inspired Word - **2Timothy 3:16-17**

Bible statements 100% reliable where tested. Can't test heaven, hell, eternal life etc, we can test other Biblical statements.

Geographical places Damascus, Egypt, Bethlehem really existed.

Babylonians, Assyrians existed. Once skeptics claimed Hittites never really existed but were mythical nation. Recent discoveries uncovered remains of their civilization! And persons in Bible.

Once skeptics denied that Sargon was a real person - **Isaiah 20:1**

Archaeologists have uncovered his palace. Part built in Chicago

Proven Reliability in all areas that can be tested

Can't check everything. Those we must accept by faith - **Hebrews 11:1**

Things we can check show Bible reliable; prophecies - **Isaiah 46:8-10**

Its accuracy gives us rock solid assurance - **1Peter 1:25**

### **Why Believe In Jesus?**

Jesus' Challenge - **John 5:30-31**

Calls witnesses to His claim to come from God. Enemies challenged, Jesus responded. Didn't say "just feel it"

John's testimony - **John 5:32-35**

The miracles He had done among them - **John 5:36**

The Father's Witness - **John 5:37** cf. baptism of Jesus

Scriptures which He was fulfilling - **John 5:38-40,46-47**

The Empty Tomb

Those who saw Son had no doubt of resurrection - **Romans 1:4**

Gave lives to proclaim it, sacrificed, and died for faith when challenged.  
Not living, dying false, made up hope! Living hope! - 2Timothy 1:8-12

### **Why Believe In God's Love?**

God's Love Increases our Confidence - Romans 5:8

That He would intervene in human history and suffer indignities so might be saved is supreme testament of His love us.

During dark hours of crucifixion, scourging, mocking, beating and spitting, nails driven into flesh and cross was lifted up; but God's love didn't die! His love never shown brighter - Luke 23:34

Sometimes forget or doubt God's concern. Remember the cross.

### **Why Believe In Salvation?**

The Great Commission - Mark 16:15-16

Because of faith in Redeemer have faith in plan of salvation. Eternal hope is based on His words.

Not power in waters of baptism, but Will of Christ. Only place faith in Christ by placing faith in Word. He said believe & baptized I will be saved. This I believe. I won't trust salvation to any plan or method that adds or takes from what Jesus spoke.

### **Why Believe In The Biblical Lifestyle?**

Abundant Evidence that the Abundant Life is Best - John 10:10

Everything I've seen supports fact closer one orders life to Biblical precepts and ethics, happier will be - Matthew 11:28-30; 1John 5:3

Not only individuals, but also societies. Further away from Bible, worse nation become. All human relationships, closer we treat one another to what God said better that relationship is -

Deuteronomy 6:24-25

Biblical lifestyle may be mocked today; but none have provided an improvement. Their alternative much worse. Don't swallow a lie!

### **Faith is reasonable**

Ample reasons to believe things we've mentioned

Ought not mind world challenging faith. Faith overcomes the world!

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