

Is Christianity True?

Blind Faith

6/1/25

Day 1:

So far we've been talking about the importance of apologetics, looking at different worldviews, why a spiritual quest should begin with Christianity.

One of our four points is that Christianity is testable. Now, in your minds, possibly a lot of Christian's minds and non-Christian, you think testable, that's weird. We can test things in science. We can test things in history, not the same way, but we consider the facts. Isn't religion more about your personal values and your feelings and your community? Without realizing it, we often place religion in the category of just something we value that gives us purpose, but not something that's true or something that's false. Hence, the most common adjective we use for faith is that faith is blind. But, is that what we are called to believe?

1. Thoughts?

Before we go any further, it seems like we need to pause and consider the idea that faith is blind, because if you think faith is blind, you might think this entire endeavor of trying to show that it's true is misguided. Let's walk this week through scripturally what scripture says about the nature of faith.

Day 2:

If we go back to the scriptures, I think it's very clear that faith is not blind. I think a better definition of faith is trusting God in light of what we have reason to believe is true. Faith is a kind of trust in God, not in spite of the evidence, but in light of the evidence. Faith is not believing God in spite of the evidence. It's a direction and a step towards God because of the evidence.

Now, that doesn't mean we have a hundred percent certainty. One of the big confusions I see is people think knowledge requires certainty. That's not the case. You can know something without certainty. In fact, the book of Ephesians talks about Paul saying, "Know this with certainty."

If he says, "Know this with certainty," it implies you can know something without certainty. Knowing something requires justified confidence but not necessarily certainty.

1. Are there areas in your life where you know something without 100% certainty?
2. Would you consider that as having faith?

One mistake is to say that faith is blind. The other mistake to say is that faith is required to having a hundred percent certainty. Both of those are mistakes. Rather faith is trusting God in light of the evidence. You might be 60% sure God exists, you might be 98% sure. Faith is what goes beyond that, where we actively step out and trust God, even though we may have questions, even though we may have doubts.

Day 3:

Now, how can I say this scripturally? Well, let's go to an example from the Old Testament. Take the book of Exodus for example. If you look at the first chapters in Exodus one through six, you have the story of Israel, and they are now on the lamb. (I'm sorry, I had to) The Israelites are trapped in Egypt. They have escaped because of what we read in Genesis and they've survived. Hundreds of years have passed, and now God is raising up Moses to be a deliverer to free the people. They're in Egypt, they're being held as slaves, and God raised up Moses as a deliverer.

Does Moses show up and say, "Hey, trust me, I speak for God"? Yes, but what does he couple with that? He does miracles and gives signs so the people have confidence that Moses actually speaks for God. They have to trust God through Moses, right? They might not have a hundred percent certainty, but God does signs in part so Pharaoh will back down and know who the one true God is, but also to show the people of Israel that the God of Israel is the one true God and that they can trust Moses.

1. Thoughts?

Day 4:

You also see this interestingly enough in the New Testament. My favorite story about this is in Mark chapter two. It's a famous passage that you're familiar with where Jesus heals the paralytic.

It's early in the ministry of Jesus. He's starting to do miracles, starting to make his name known. Mark chapter two, it says this,

"And when he, Jesus, returned to Capernaum, After some days it was reported that he was at home and many were gathered together so that there was no more room even at the door and he was preaching the word to them."

By this stage of Jesus' ministry, word is spreading. He's having a level of fame. People just want to hear and see him teach. It says,

"And they came to bring it to him, a paralytic carried by four men."

Now, the untold heroes in this are the unnamed four men who cared more about getting their friend to Jesus than what Jesus could do to them. It says,

"And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him. When they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven. Now, some of the scribes were sitting there questioning their hearts... "And Jesus perceiving in his spirit that they question within themselves said to them, "Why do you question these things in your heart?" What is easier to say to the paralytic? Your sins are forgiven, or to say, "Rise up, take your bed and walk?...""

Why did he heal him? So the people watching may know. He's not calling people to blind faith. He's not saying, "Following me is believing something you just can't know."

The biblical pattern is God does miracles as a form of evidence to give knowledge and then our belief and faith and fear in God comes out of the knowledge that God has given us.

Day 5:

"But wait a minute, what about doubting Thomas? Didn't Jesus get mad at Thomas for demanding evidence?" Well, notice, Jesus appears to the other 10, without Thomas and they all tell Thomas, "Hey, we've seen Jesus." But, he doesn't believe him unless he see's the spear wounds in his side, and nail marks in his palms.

And then I think it's eight days later, Jesus shows up to Thomas indoors and Jesus says, "Touch my side, touch my hands." Thomas is like, "Okay." "My Lord and my God," which is the climax of the book of John.

But then Jesus, "have you believed because you have seen me?" "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Is Jesus saying, "Thomas, you demand evidence. Don't demand evidence! Blessed are those who simply believe without evidence," and the answer is no. Thomas was given evidence. Number one, he had the predictions of Jesus. Mark eight, nine, and 10 make it clear that Jesus predicted he was going to die and come back. That's a piece of evidence. Second, he had the firsthand testimony of all of his other 10 buddies who said, "We've seen the risen Jesus." Unequivocally, that's good evidence.

Jesus is not saying, "Blessed are those who just believe without evidence." The whole book of John is that God has given signs and evidence so you can have an intelligent faith in Jesus. He's not saying, "Blessed are those who believe without evidence." He's saying, "Thomas, you've been blessed with physical evidence of seeing me in the flesh in the way people in the future will not." It's not evidence versus no evidence. It's a different kind of evidence that Thomas was given that you and I may not have. Which is why the book of John was written, to record these miracles so we can have evidence but a different kind of evidence that this is true.

Friends, Christianity does not invite blind faith. It invites an intelligent faith. It's a trust in God, not in spite of the evidence, but in light of the evidence.