

Building a Biblical Faith
Lesson 1 – Make Your Faith Sure
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Introduction: Do you have a Biblical faith?

- A. What is faith? What do we have faith in? Are there different kinds of faith?
1. πίστις *pistis* 1) conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it ..1d) belief with the predominate idea of trust ...2a) the character of one who can be relied on. - Thayer's Lexicon.
 2. Faith is based upon an unseen God. **(1 Pt 1:8-9; Heb 11:27)**
 3. We have faith when we have examined God's truth and then are willing to commit our lives in trust to an unseen God! **(Rom 10:17; Eph 1:13)**
- B. Is your faith sure?
1. When God speaks we can be sure! **(Dan 2:45; Heb 6:19; 2 Pt 1:10)**
 2. βέβαιος, αία, ον (also βλίβαιος) steadfast, firm, sure; (1) literally, of an anchor *secure, firm* (HE 6.19); figuratively, of what can be depended on *reliable, certain, trustworthy* (RO 4.16).
 3. This all comes down to our knowing God and His character.
 4. It also depends upon our feeding and maintaining our faith. **(2 Pt 1:5-8)**

I. We must have firm reasons as to why we believe in God

- A. A Biblical Faith is based upon evidence. **(Heb 11:1; 1 Pet 3:15; John 8:32)**
1. Those who say faith is a "blind leap in the dark" are wrong.
 2. Challenge the student to test the evidence! (Ex. Richard.)
- B. The Apostles established faith by pointing out their eyewitness testimony of the raised Christ. **(Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 5:30-32; 10:39-43; 13:27-31)**
1. Is this testimony believable?
 2. Many will lie or simply are mistaken when they bear testimony.
 3. On what basis do we *reject* some testimony and *accept* other testimony?
- C. Are the apostles and other writers of the Bible credible?
1. Were the apostles in a position to know the facts? **(1 John 1:1-3)**
 2. Did the apostles have any advantages in lying about the resurrection?
(1 Cor 15:30-32; John 16:1-3)
 3. Are the writings of the apostles historically accurate?
 4. Was there agreement between the numerous witnesses? **(1 Cor 15:1-6)**
- D. Consider the significant facts of their testimony.
1. **Jesus was Dead** - Hear the description of an eyewitness. **(John 19:32-36)**
 2. **The body was placed in a new tomb.** **(Matt 27:60)**
 3. **The tomb was cut out of rock.** **(Matt 27:60)**
 4. **A large stone covered the entrance.** **(Matt 27:60)**
 5. **A Roman seal was placed on the stone.** **(Matt 27:66)**
 6. **A Roman Guard was placed at the tomb.** **(Matt 27:65-66)**
 7. **The tomb was inspected carefully.** **(John 20:3-8; John 20:11)**

E. There is a great question to be answered: **Who Moved the Stone?**

1. Did the **Jews?** (**Matt 27:62-66**)
 - a. The Jews were the very ones trying to prevent the resurrection.
 - b. If so they had a perfect time to present the body! (**Acts 2:32, 36**)
2. Did the **Romans?**
 - a. The Romans would not want to risk their necks for “Jewish superstition”.
 - b. The penalty for a guard's failure was death. (**Acts 16:26-27; 27:42**)
3. Did the **Disciples?**
 - a. This was the best explanation the Jews could give. (**Mat 28:11-15**)
 - b. If they were asleep, how did they know it was the disciples?
 - c. Why did they not arrest the apostles as grave robbers?
 - d. Did the apostles give their lives for a lie?
 - e. Their account is believable (**Mark 16:9-14**)
4. Who then moved the stone? (**Acts 13:27-31**) (NKJV)

F. Consider the vast evidence of fulfilled prophecy.

1. The words of Christ are recorded. (**Psa 22:1**)
2. The words and actions of His enemies are recorded. (**Psa 22:6-8, 18**)
3. The details of crucifixion are recorded. (**Psa 22:14-17**)
4. How can these things be written over 1000 years before these events and before crucifixion was invented?

G. This evidence must be received to benefit us. (**2 Thess 1:9-10; 1 Thess 2:13**)

II. How other questions are answered from this foundation

A. Why should I believe in the Bible as inspired from God? Do we have the Bible as God gave it? Have men and translators altered the Bible?

1. Establishing the resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God. (**Rom 1:3-4**)
2. Jesus taught that the Old Testament was the very words of God! (**Mark 12:36**)
3. He claimed the word of God is without contradiction. (**John 10:34-35**)
4. He identified the known books of the Old Testament. (**Lk 24:44-45**)
5. He was to be the one directing the giving of the New Testament.
(**Jn 14:26, 16:12-13**)
6. He promised that His words would never pass away. (**Mt 24:35**)
7. The Apostles confirm these things! (**Eph 3:3-5; Jude 3**)

B. Has evolution proven there is no God? (**Gen 1:1-2**)

1. Has this theory been proven? Do you really understand it?
2. If you have serious doubts about this then pursue answers!
3. If there is design, there must be a designer! (**Rom 1:20; Psa 19:1-7**)

C. Why should I be concerned about morality? (**Jn 3:19-21; Acts 17:30-31**)

D. Why should I be concerned about what I believe and what church I attend?

1. Jesus was concerned about doctrine and associations.
(**Mt 7:15-20; Mt 15:12-13, 16:6, 11**)
2. Jesus wanted His followers to take His word seriously! (**Jn 12:48-50; 8:28-30**)

E. What path should I take in my life?

Conclusion: Make sure you have a foundation that is sure! (**Mt 7:21-27**)