

## Muletine

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHRISTMAS LIST



But when you ask you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

When God becomes a man in Jesus of Nazareth, he not only enters into the finitude of man, but in his death on the cross also enters into the situation of man's godforsakenness.

In Jesus he does not die the natural death of a finite being, but the violent death of the criminal on the cross, the death of complete abandonment by God.

The suffering in the passion of Jesus is abandonment, rejection by God, his Father.

God does not become a religion, so that man participates in him by corresponding religious thoughts and feelings. God does not become a law, so that man participates in him through obedience to a law.

God does not become an ideal, so that man achieves community with him through constant striving.

He humbles himself and takes upon himself the eternal death of the godless and the godforsaken, so that all the godless and the godforsaken can experience communion with him.

Jürgen Moltmann

Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.

Frederick Buechner

I have been an atheist now for more than fifteen years, and I have been able to explain to myself almost everything about the faith I grew up in...

But I have not been able to explain those experiences of God so real he entered the bedrooms of his own accord, lit them up with joy, and made people more generous...

It [was] like you've glimpsed the world's best secret: that love need not be scarce.

Kristin Dombek

Faith is not a question of shutting one's eyes, gritting one's teeth, and believing the impossible. It involves a leap, but a leap into the light rather than the dark.

John Polkinghorne



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