



PART 36:

UNSEEN SEEING FAITH

HEBREWS

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION, LEST YOU DRIFT

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

1. The scientific evidence overwhelmingly confirms that the universe exploded into being out of nothing. Either someone created something out of nothing (the Christian view), or no one created something out of nothing (the atheistic view). Which view is more reasonable? The Christian view. Which view requires more faith? The atheistic view.
1. It certainly takes more faith to believe that human beings evolved from the random interaction of molecules (which somehow had to come into existence themselves) than to believe in a Creator.

2. The simplest life form contains the information-equivalent of 1,000 encyclopaedias. Christians believe only an intelligent being can create a life form containing the equivalent of 1,000 encyclopaedias. Atheists believe non-intelligent natural forces can do it. Christians have evidence to support their conclusion. Since atheists don't have any such evidence, their belief requires a lot more faith.

3. Hundreds of years beforehand, ancient writings foretold the coming of a man who would actually be God. This man-God, it was foretold, would be born in a particular city from a particular bloodline, suffer in a particular way, die at a particular time, and rise from the dead to atone for the sins of the world. Immediately after the predicted time, multiple eyewitnesses proclaimed and later recorded that those predicted events had actually occurred. Those eyewitnesses endured persecution and death when they could have saved themselves by denying the events. Thousands of people in Jerusalem were then converted after seeing or hearing of these events , and this belief swept quickly across the ancient world. Ancient historians and writers allude to or confirm these events, and archaeology corroborates them.

Charles Blondin (28-02-1824 – 22-02-1897)



Hebrews 1:1-3

Now faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Faith

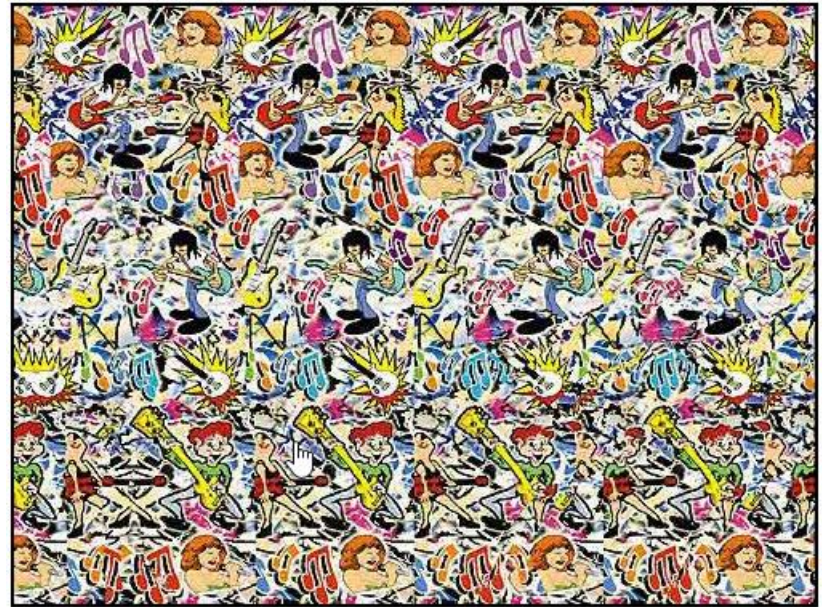
1. What faith is
- ~~2. Faith vs Evidence~~
3. God likes faith

1. What Faith Is

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 1:1

Faith is active trust

People are active trusters



Hope is not hope if you have it

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8:24–25

Faith is not faith if you can see it

Physical eyesight produces conviction or evidence of visible things; faith is the organ which enables people to see the invisible order.

By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27

2. ~~Faith vs Evidence~~

Faith and evidence are not in opposition – evidence is not faith

Evidence feeds and informs trust

Evidence Fuels Faith

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31

Friedrich Nietzsche

“If one were to prove this God of the Christians to us, we should be even less able to believe in him ... It is our preference that decides against Christianity, not arguments.”

Yet ... Active Trust Changes Romans 1:20 to Hebrews 11:3

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. Romans 1:20

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3

3. Why Faith Matters

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. Hebrews 11:1–2

Because God loves it

Because he loves to be everything you need

Religious people are not the only ones who have faith

The writer of Hebrews sees faith as that trust in God that enables the believer to press on steadfastly whatever the future holds for him