

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

JULY/AUGUST 2013 – VOL. III, NO. 4
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

Common Questions About Faith

*Do you have questions about faith?
What proof is there for faith?*

“What is faith?” Faith is a belief in something unseen. For some unseen things there is sufficient evidence. For example, we believe that our great-great-great-grandmother existed though we never saw her. Our own life is proof of her life! Likewise, we know God exists because of what we see for every house has a builder (Rom. 1:20; Heb. 3:4). People may believe in unseen things just because they want to believe it, even without true evidence. This is the faith of people who believe in reincarnation or purgatory, for which there is no eyewitness testimony or proof. Demand evidence for anything you do not see but believe.

“How do I get faith?” You have faith when you choose to believe something. In spiritual things *faith comes by hearing ... the word of God.* (Romans 10:17, here “hearing” means “accepting,” not just “listening to”). It is not a miraculous gift from God, as some people teach (otherwise, everyone would have it since God wants all to believe!). It is the natural result of God’s word and man’s God-given ability to reason. God has preserved His word in the Bible so everyone can have faith. Do you have it? What questions do you have about faith? We want to help you find the answer you need.

In This Issue:

- **Common Questions About Faith**
- **Honor For & Help From Christ**
- **What Children Need Most**
- **The Only Book God Gave**

Author & Editor: David Halbrook

Honor For & Help From Christ

When Peter saw Jesus miraculously changed in physical appearance, speaking with the deceased saints Moses and Elijah, he asked if Jesus wanted a tabernacle built for Him, Moses, and Elijah. From the sky, the Holy Father interrupted Peter, making it clear that honoring men and Jesus in similar ways is not God’s plan. (Read all this in Matthew 17)

According to Boston.com, a seriously ill woman built an altar to the deceased Catholic leader, John Paul II, hoping his help would bring miraculous healing. She claims he granted her request, so the Catholic Church plans to grant sainthood to the dead Catholic leader. If this were true, then John Paul II approved of an altar being built to himself! Does God approve of altars built for humans (or built at all today)?

Peter and this woman erred similarly. God never taught Christians to: build altars, pray to dead saints, or credit miracles to the help of dead saints. These doctrines of men have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion and false humility but offer no true help (Col. 2:22-23). Only the Bible shows how to honor and receive help from Christ.

What Children Need Most

To know the Bible is from God Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so teaches two important truths (Jesus' love, Bible is true). The first truth is built on the second truth. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is from God, and the Bible provides the proof. Do you know the proof? Have you taught your children? Some TV shows, phone apps, and local college textbooks teach your children otherwise. Your children need this knowledge more than any gift!

To know that you love God the most Your children are not the most important beings—God is, and they need to know that. When their desires conflict with God's, they need to know you will put God first. King David failed to do this (1 Kings 1:6). Teach them that disciples break bread on the first day of the week in memory of Jesus' death (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:24), not playing ball instead. Teach them to dress in a way that is consistent with godliness (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Teach that God always comes first because He deserves our love the most. (Contact us for a free CD on this subject or view the charts from this lesson at our website, under the section titled "Sermon Charts")

*Train up a child in the way he should go. . . (Prov. 22:6)
* Then read
Ephesians 6:4*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

The Only Book God Gave

Many people and groups claim "God told me. . ." or "God gave us this book." Paul said that there would no new message, and even if an angel or apostle brought a new message let him be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). The Bible thoroughly equips us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17), so we need no new message or book from God.

The Koran claims that "Gabriel. . . has by God's grace revealed to you [Muhammad, dh] the Koran" (2:98). If God's grace revealed this, His grace also told husbands, "As for those [wives, dh] whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them." (Koran, 4:34) So husbands should "teach" their wives to submit by not going to bed with them and beating them. Did God reveal this book or not?

In the Bible, husbands are not told to put their wives in submission, but wives are told to submit themselves (Ephesians. 5:22). Do you see the difference? All religious books are not equal--the Bible is the only book God gave.

We invite you to plan to visit us during the week of September 22-27. We plan to assemble every weeknight at 7PM for a special series of Bible lessons. In part, we do this throughout the week to give people like you a chance to visit, so you can meet us and we can meet you. Visit our website for more details in a few weeks but make your plans now!

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. What evidence is there for believing that God exists?
2. Would Christ be honored if we built an altar to Mary or any human? Why or why not?
3. Why should you love God more than your children?
4. What does the Koran teach husbands to do to their wives who do not submit? Are all religions equal?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!