

Faith Can Fix Anything

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 1

June 4th, 2017

Spiritual Urban Legends

The wisdom of Solomon + inaccurate facts or faulty assumptions = a **FOOL'S** decision

A spiritual urban legend is a belief, story, assumption, or truism that gets passed around as **FACT**

Spiritual urban legends aren't just harmless misunderstandings. They're spiritually dangerous errors that will eventually bring **HEARTACHE** and **DISILLUSIONMENT** to all who trust in them

Once we've made a decision or set a course of action, it's usually too late to go back and start checking out the **ACCURACY** of our assumptions

Acts 17:11 (GN) "The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true."

Spiritual urban legends are like fool's gold – looks great at first glance, but once tested, it proves **WORTHLESS**

Don't base your belief system on what somebody else says, but base it on a careful **EXAMINATION** of Scripture

Dumb Idea #1: Faith Can Fix Anything

Often when we feel God has let us down or hasn't kept His promises, it has nothing to do with God, but we've bought into a spiritual urban legend that if we have enough **FAITH**, we can do or fix anything

Much of what we call "faith" doesn't come from Word of God but from the word on the **STREET**

The word on the street is that faith is a potent mixture of intellectual & emotional self-control that when properly harnesses can literally change **OUTCOMES** through positive thinking & clear visualization

Much of what we call "faith" is more about faith in **FAITH**, than faith in **GOD**

John 11:4 (NIV) "When He heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'"

While faith is a concept deeply rooted in the Bible, most of our modern ideas about it **AREN'T**

- Today, "faith" brings up an image of **CONFIDENCE** (the opposite of fear and doubt) and thinking **POSITIVELY**
- Today, "belief" brings up an image of **INTELLECTUAL** assent (that something is probably true). Acting on it is **OPTIONAL**
- Today, when we use the word "trust," it almost always carries an assumption that there will be some sort of corresponding **ACTION**

Almost every time we find one of these three words in our English New Testaments, each is a translation of the **EXACT SAME** Greek root word

The kind of faith the Bible advocates and God wants has far more to do with our **ACTIONS** than our **FEELINGS**

Biblical faith is closely tied to actions of **OBEDIENCE**

James 2:18 & 22 (NIV) “But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds... You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.”

Acts 12:15-16 (NIV) “‘You’re out of your mind,’ they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, ‘It must be his angel.’ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.”

Hebrews 11:36-39 (NIV) “³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. ³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.”

God applauded their faith, yet their faith didn't **FIX ANYTHING**

Faith (that God commends) may lead us to victory or maybe to prison - that is **GOD'S** call, not **OURS**

Why Bother To Live By Faith?

- Living by faith is what God **WANTS FROM US**

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

KNOWING and **DOING** what God wants is very important

- Living by faith promises to **FIX** our biggest problem and our biggest dilemma

Jesus promised that all who believe in Him (*includes trusting Him enough to actually follow and do what He says*) will receive **FORGIVENESS** and the gift of **ETERNAL LIFE**

John 3:16 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Ephesians 1:7 (GN) “For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God...”

- Biblical faith gives us a **LIFE MAP**, something we can depend on to always take us where God wants us to go/be
2 Timothy 3:16 (GN) “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living...”

When Scripture tells me one way to go, but I think I should go another way, it brings me to a **CRISIS** of faith. You have a **CHOICE** to make. Will you follow **YOUR OWN** sense of direction or **GOD'S**?

Biblical faith is about whether we have enough **FAITH** to follow God's **INSTRUCTIONS**

Matthew 17:29 (NLT) “‘You don’t have enough faith,’ Jesus told them. ‘I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.’”

Faith is a map we **FOLLOW** and guides us on a path called **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Genesis 15:6 (NCV) “Abram believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram’s faith, & that faith made him right with God.”

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am choosing today to live my life by the faith Scripture describes & which shows itself through my obedience to Christ
- I am interested in participating in one of summer financial classes “Smart Money, Smart Kids” or “Legacy”

Next week: Join us as we explore Dumb Mistake #2: Forgiving Means Forgetting. Bring a friend!

Faith Can Fix Anything

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 1

June 4th, 2017

Spiritual Urban Legends

The wisdom of Solomon + inaccurate facts or faulty assumptions = a _____ decision

A spiritual urban legend is a belief, story, assumption, or truism that gets passed around as _____

Spiritual urban legends aren't just harmless misunderstandings. They're spiritually dangerous errors that will eventually bring _____ and _____ to all who trust in them

Once we've made a decision or set a course of action, it's usually too late to go back and start checking out the _____ of our assumptions

Acts 17:11 (GN) "The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true."

Spiritual urban legends are like fool's gold – looks great at first glance, but once tested, it proves _____

Don't base your belief system on what somebody else says, but base it on a careful _____ of Scripture

Dumb Idea #1: Faith Can Fix Anything

Often when we feel God has let us down or hasn't kept His promises, it has nothing to do with God, but we've bought into a spiritual urban legend that if we have enough _____, we can do or fix anything

Much of what we call "faith" doesn't come from Word of God but from the word on the _____

The word on the street is that faith is a potent mixture of intellectual & emotional self-control that when properly harnesses can literally change _____ through positive thinking & clear visualization

Much of what we call "faith" is more about faith in _____, than faith in _____

John 11:4 (NIV) "When He heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'"

While faith is a concept deeply rooted in the Bible, most of our modern ideas about it _____

- Today, "faith" brings up an image of _____ (the opposite of fear and doubt) and thinking _____
- Today, "belief" brings up an image of _____ assent (that something is probably true). Acting on it is _____
- Today, when we use the word "trust," it almost always carries an assumption that there will be some sort of corresponding _____

Almost every time we find one of these three words in our English New Testaments, each is a translation of the _____ Greek root word

The kind of faith the Bible advocates and God wants has far more to do with our _____ than our _____

Biblical faith is closely tied to actions of _____

James 2:18 & 22 (NIV) "But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds... You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."

Acts 12:15-16 (NIV) "'You're out of your mind,' they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, 'It must be his angel.' But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished."

Hebrews 11:36-39 (NIV) "³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. ³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised."

God applauded their faith, yet their faith didn't _____

Faith (that God commends) may lead us to victory or maybe to prison - that is _____ call, not _____

Why Bother To Live By Faith?

- Living by faith is what God _____

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

_____ and _____ what God wants is very important

- Living by faith promises to _____ our biggest problem and our biggest dilemma

Jesus promised that all who believe in Him (*includes trusting Him enough to actually follow and do what He says*) will receive _____ and the gift of _____

John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Ephesians 1:7 (GN) "For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God..."

- Biblical faith gives us a _____, something we can depend on to always take us where God wants us to go/be

2 Timothy 3:16 (GN) "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living..."

When Scripture tells me one way to go, but I think I should go another way, it brings me to a _____ of faith. You have a _____ to make. Will you follow _____ sense of direction or _____?

Biblical faith is about whether we have enough _____ to follow God's _____

Matthew 17:29 (NLT) "'You don't have enough faith,' Jesus told them. 'I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.'"

Faith is a map we _____ and guides us on a path called _____

Genesis 15:6 (NCV) "Abram believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram's faith, & that faith made him right with God."

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am choosing today to live my life by the faith Scripture describes & which shows itself through my obedience to Christ
- I am interested in participating in one of summer financial classes "Smart Money, Smart Kids" or "Legacy"

Next week: Join us as we explore Dumb Mistake #2: Forgiving Means Forgetting. Bring a friend!