



Is Faith a Fantasy?

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Genesis 12

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Some folk assume faith is believing something that _____, _____, or believing in things that don't _____.

"If corpses can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead. And if Christ wasn't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and resurrection, because they're already in their graves. If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries." 1 Corinthians 15:16-20 (MSG)

1. Faith is _____ in someone or something when there is some _____, and we lack _____.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for... 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family... 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:1

A. The gutsiest people among us demonstrate the _____ degrees of faith.

B. Believing any _____ has an element of faith!

"Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods.'" Joshua 24:2

C. You need a better reason for your faith than your _____.

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." Romans 4:18-21

2. Faith always _____ on its reason though there remains some unknown.

A. Have you ever _____ God something and had him answer you in such a way that you know it was no coincidence?

B. Have you ever _____ something God said and found that it worked out perfectly?

C. In Greek, the term "_____ " and the term "_____ " are the same word.

Conclusion:

The central message of Christianity: the _____ of Jesus. It requires _____ but also has good _____.