

Faith and Why I Reject It

by Abraham Steve Mackey

Hebrews 11:6 King James Version:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

The above Bible passage in the book of Hebrews is quoted in Christian circles and sermons about as much as any other verse in the sixty-six books that comprise what most Christians consider “holy scripture.” Thus, faith is paramount to being a Christian. The action of “faith” is what makes you a believer. Those who do not believe, according to the Bible’s book of Revelation, the final chapter, are the worst of the worst.

Revelation 21:8-10 King James Version:

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

As you can see by the above Bible passage, in the “eyes of God,” those who do not believe are the same as those who solicit prostitution. In other words whoremongers are “Johns,” and condemned to fire and brimstone. Furthermore, if you do not believe or “walk by faith” you are considered doomed and awaiting the same fate as a witch or a wizard (very bad magic dealers), and the same as someone who worships false idols — no matter how sincere and honest you’ve been in life, if you do not believe in Jesus then God and his book consider you the same as a liar. All because you do not believe what you are supposed to believe according to the Bible’s collection of writings as interpreted by most, if not all, of the many fundamental Christian sects.

I added that last sentence because there are many Christian believers who do not believe nor do they tout the condemning “fire and brimstone” brand of faith that the evangelical, fundamental, pentecostal, etc. people are so devoted to.

So, why do I reject faith when so many find it prized, wholesome, and good? Because in simple terms faith is believing in, trusting in, counting on, and promoting as absolute truth something that no human being actually knows. Not one! Allow me to repeat that — not one person on Earth knows for sure anything about God, heaven and or the so-called “afterlife.” Zero! Nobody! Nothing! Nada! Zip!

Therefore, to be an upstanding person of faith — someone in “the light” and on their way to glory — they have to decide what it is they hope is true and then pretend is actually is true for themselves and for everyone else. Establishing faith as the foundation of your reality is the way to construct your world view to coincide with a predefined set of biblical parameters.

When I was in the midst of my “faith days” we had a couple of sayings that were often quoted among us. One saying was “the Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it.” Another, as one preacher used to zealously shout, “the Bible says it, and that settles it, whether you believe it or not!”

The other aphorism we were delighted to glibly pass on was “Feed your faith and starve your doubts to death.” In other words you make up your mind that not only is the Bible absolutely true and surpasses all other “truths,” it is even more so that your particular brand of belief is the one and only really precise truth. Other Christian sects might be close but you and your group have the real inside scoop. Thus, the avid Baptist believer accepts the zealous Charismatic believer but knows that they are just a “wee bit off.”

Unless a believer has come to a place of understanding that they do not know it all or that their faith is but one of many valid viewpoints. Questioning and critical thinking should, but does not kick in when an alternative or opposing view is expressed. Their inner response, built by devotion to the dogmas that define their own faith, makes it impossible to truly consider the validity of other world-views.

I reject faith. I deplore the idea that I can “know the all encompassing source and person of the truth” and thus deny, to one degree or another, the soundness and the possibilities of someone else’s understanding of reality.

Faith sets the groundwork for delusion. Delusion, no matter how you dress it up, is a symptom of a possible mental disorder. To believe you know the truth to the exclusion of all other streams of thought is pitiful at best and lethal at its worst.

I spent more than thirty years in the bowels of Christendom. It took me about four years of questioning, examining my doubts, listening to others in and out of the faith world, rechecking things I had presumptuously accepted as foundational biblical-based truth, a thousand other conversations, arguments, and general head spinning to finally come to my own decision. My final decision was that I would be much better off to live my life as if there is no God.

I recommend that idea to anyone. It does not mean that I declare there is no God. It simply means I am going to live my life for myself. Since I do not know if there is a God or not, I refuse to pretend like I know there is. “Pretend” is a strong word, but nonetheless a very accurate description of what it is to “live by faith.” The better pretenders actually can make a very lucrative career out of their professional pretending. If I am going to give my money to someone they damn well better know what they are talking about. When a business fails to deliver the goods as advertised, we should demand our money back.

Faith? No thanks. I’ve been there, done that. ▣



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