



Jessy Ventura

“Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers.”



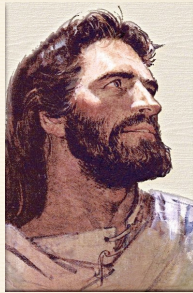
Richard Dawkins

“Many of us saw religion as harmless nonsense. Beliefs might lack all supporting evidence but, we thought, if people needed a crutch for consolation, where’s the harm? 9-11 changed all that.”

Is Christianity a crutch for the weak?



**The Androgenus
Jesus**



**The Alpha male
Jesus**

1 Corinthians 1

“²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ...”

The justifying faith of Abraham

- ✓ **We know it does not involve faithful fulfillment of the works of the Law.**
- ✓ **We know that it is not an automatic function of being chosen by God.**
- ✓ **We know it is not the result of religious rituals or institutions.**
- ✓ **What does saving faith look like?**

Romans 4

“¹⁶ For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ (as it is written, “*A father of many nations have I made you*”) in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. ¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, “*So shall your descendants be.*” ¹⁹ And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good

“as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform. ²² Therefore *also it was reckoned to him as righteousness*. ²³ Now not for his sake only was it written, that it was reckoned to him, ²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be reckoned, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because **(for the sake of)** of our justification.”

Important factors

1. **Word of God** - Saving faith is based on special revelation from God.

¹⁷ as it is written

¹⁸ . . .according to that which had been spoken,

²¹ . . .what He had promised

The promises in God’s Word must not be hijacked for my plans.

Matthew 11:12

“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men seize it for themselves.”

Important factors

1. **Word of God** - Saving faith is based on special revelation from God.

¹⁷ as it is written

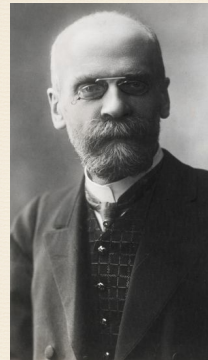
¹⁸ . . .according to that which had been spoken,

²¹ . . .what He had promised

The promises in God’s Word must not be hijacked for my plans.

2 Peter 1:20

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter of* one’s own interpretation,” (creation, explanation, application)



Emile Durkheim

“The Bible says that man is created in the image of God. History suggests that man has worked hard to return the favor.”

Our faith is not in faith.

Does not God promise to give us all things if we only believe?

Mark 11:24

“all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.”

But do we really know what we need & want?

Is my biggest challenge doubt, not direction



is my biggest challenge to know God’s heart & mine?

If I am the bride of Christ then it must be all about ME!



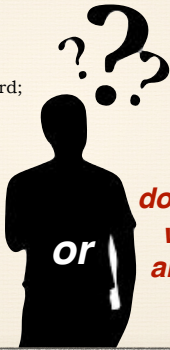
Our faith is not in feeling.

Does not God promise to give me the desire of my heart?

Psalm 37:4

"Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of your heart."

Do I trust God for my material & spiritual plans here and now



But what is the deepest desire of my heart?

do I trust God to work His heart and plan in and through me?

Santa God

- 1. We must believe that he is real and promises to give us good gifts.**
- 2. He asks us to make a list of what we want.**
- 3. He is making a list of who is naughty and nice.**



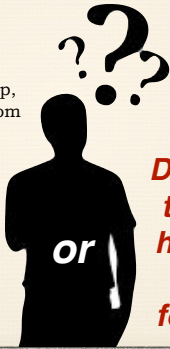
Our faith is not in fiat.

Has not our sovereign God decreed all that takes place?

Proverbs 16:33

"the lot is cast into the lap,
But its every decision is from
the LORD."

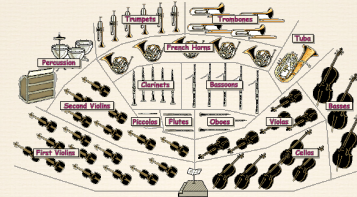
Do I have faith that whatever happens is God's will



But are we called to be spectators or participants?

Do I have faith that whatever happens is an opportunity for God's will!

The Kingdom of God is like an orchestra.



- 1. The roles of composer and conductor are filled.**
- 2. We are not given theater tickets to be spectators.**
- 3. We are not called to write a critical review.**
- 4. We are called to be musicians who will SHOW UP ON TIME, follow THE conductor, and play OUR instrument well.**

Important factors

2. Weakness of man - Saving faith is expressed in our weakness.

¹⁹ And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;

The incarnation.

Paul's thorn in the flesh.

If we operate only in our natural strength we do not exercise faith.

2 Corinthians 12

"⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, **I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.** ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12

“2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 And **I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.**”

1 Corinthians 4

“¹⁰ **We are fools for Christ’s sake**, but you are prudent in Christ; **we are weak**, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but **we are without honor**. ¹¹ To this present hour **we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless**; ¹² and **we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure**; ¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.”

Important factors

3. **Wait patiently** - *Saving faith is prepared to endure.*

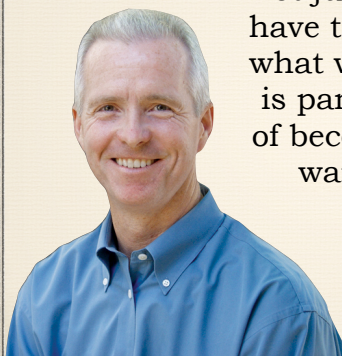
²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

The challenge of faith is not to whine, worry, or waver but work and wait.



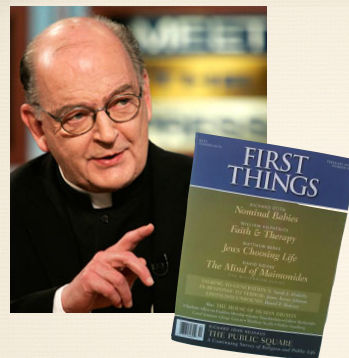
Peter Marshall

“Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work.”



“Biblically, waiting is not just something we have to do until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be.”

John Ortberg



Richard John Newhouse

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God’s Kingdom before its time and without its King.”