The Challenge of Faith

Tony Mauck · Hebrews 11:1

INTRODUCTION

- We live in times where unbelief is on the rise.
- If we are not exposing ourselves regularly to the marvels of Scripture, we will find ourselves in a vulnerable place when it comes to these false and different ideas or the rejection of God Himself.
- It is the confidence. It is the conviction. It is the assurance of things hoped for. It is an absolute confidence that God has great things in store for us.

1 Creation Declares the Existence of God

Romans 1:20; Psalm 147:4–5

- Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature has been clearly seen, understood from what has been made so that they are without excuse.
- There is ample evidence just in the world around us that declares the existence of God.
- Our surroundings are extraordinary, that they are not the product of chance, but they are the product of an intelligent God who is powerful, who has created all that is, including ourselves.
- His understanding is infinite. Great is our Lord and abundant in strength. He counts all the stars, and he knows them all by name.

2 Do Not Mistake Silence for Absence, Nor for Approval

Psalm 50; Lamentations 3:24–26; 2 Peter 3:8–11

- Do not mistake silence for absence, nor for approval.
- The Lord is my portion. Therefore I have hope in him. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him.
- Just because there's no visible evidence of his presence. Doesn't mean he's not there.
- When people succumb to unbelief, it is because some important facts have escaped their notice.
- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as men count slackness, but is long suffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

3 God Deems the Evidence Sufficient

- All I can suggest to you is that God deems the evidence sufficient.
- From the time of Malachi to the time of John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, the prophetic voice had vanished.
- Silence was normative. More so than prophecy.
- Not only was prophecy not normative throughout history, but seeing miracles was not normative, but apparently the evidence was sufficient to produce belief.

4 Incontrovertible Evidence: Trustworthy Historical Eyewitnesses

2 Peter 1:16–21

- There is incontrovertible evidence that should promote faith.
- The Bible is filled with trustworthy historical eyewitnesses.
- We did not follow cleverly devised tales. We were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- When you reject Jesus, you not only reject Jesus, you reject the Apostle Paul, you reject the Apostle Peter, you reject all the spokesmen of the Bible who said they spoke from God.

5 The Most Thunderous Proof Is the Resurrection

Psalm 19; Matthew 27:50–53

- Two large proofs of God's existence. Creation. In verses 1 through 6 of Psalm 19. His word. Revelation.
- Many of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
- The resurrection of Jesus, which is the most powerful proof that God is who he says he is, and his word is reliable and true.

6 Every Eye Will See Him

Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- A day is coming when there will be a shout from heaven, a trumpet will declare the coming of the Lord, and he'll be seen in the sky.
- Every eye in that day will literally visibly see the Lord.
- Do not mistake the silence now for the shout that will be heard by the whole world.

THE CHALLENGE

The journey is worth the effort. And it is the ultimate investment. One day, one step at a time.

MY NOTES