



Article Title— "Why do many think our Bible is just fairytales?"

Article Category— Practical Christianity



Take a really short nostalgic trip back to the days of your childhood: Remember how you felt when you first learned that your parents and your adult relatives and friends had lied to you about Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy? Did you begin to question other things they told you, too...especially when they added that you must *just have faith* to believe it? That's how I felt decades later, when I discovered that my parents and their relatives and friends and our religious leaders had all misinformed me about the nature and scriptural meaning of faith. I was disillusioned, embarrassed, angry and confused.

Why would they've done that? The short answer is that they didn't intentionally lie. Instead, they were driven by the universal forces that yield abusive behavior in adults who were themselves abused as children. By their innocent repeating of those lies, the people you and I have trusted most have perpetuated one of the most damaging forms of emotional and mental abuse. Compounding that problem is this: Whenever Christians express doubt, their Biblically knowledgeable mentors often cite the "the just shall live by faith" scriptures—Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38. The message? Even if it makes no sense at all you still must have Faith to believe it; so don't be "a doubting Thomas!" for goodness' sake!

Given such a strong guilt trip, most Christians stop questioning those who presume religious authority over them. Me? I stopped questioning them openly. Inside me, though, the questions kept gnawing away and I didn't know how to gain peaceful resolution. Was there something wrong with me? Actually, no. The visible church teaches people what to study—to confirm "what 'we' believe." What I hadn't yet learned is how to study, to gain Truth—the Original Truth that Jesus and His First-Century apostles preached. You?

Just know that you are not likely to learn how to do that *in church*. Why? The visible church would quickly lose its firm control over you and all the faithful. Many would even start questioning its credibility and its authority. Their questions may even enjoy the full support of Scripture. Is the mindset of the visible church unique? Mind control is the primary tool of ALL organized religion and government.

- > "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens
- > "Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep insights can be winnowed from deep nonsense." —Carl Sagan


Yeah, Samuel and Carl were both Atheists. Does that make their observations, here, less objective?...less true? What neither of them ever discovered – consciously, at least – is that Atheism is religion, too! Yep, it requires even more faith than yours or mine! I have first-hand knowledge of it—for a dozen years I was an Agnostic. That's an Atheist *wannabe*. But, unlike Samuel and Carl, I wasn't able to muster enough faith to make that leap...

Cutting to the chase, now: Jesus never even once permitted his feelings to interfere with his thinking. His responses were consistently rational—never hyperspiritual and very rarely emotional. Want to be like him? That's how.

The apostle, Paul, pronounced high praise on the Berean Jews of Acts 17:11. Why? Both they and the Thessalonian Jews had initially responded to the Gospel with extreme skepticism. The Thessalonians promptly rejected the message. The Bereans went home and studied their own scriptures, again, to learn whether the things they had heard *just might* be true. Paul called them "more noble" because of a characteristic that prompted them to respond intelligently and rationally when things didn't quite make sense. By that measure, might Thomas have been our Lord's more noble disciple? The author of those "The just shall live by faith" scriptures also wrote the only scripture in the entire Bible that tells us the only way we can gain God's personal approval—2 Timothy 2:15. Need a refresher? It should be in your copy of the Bible.

As again evidenced by a memorable email exchange with a former pastor, the vast majority of clergymen think they're "called" and the rest of us "not called." I reminded him that, though many are called, few are chosen. He was quick to agree, based on the apparently prevailing mindset that preachers are "the chosen ones" and we, the "not called" and "not chosen," are their subordinates. He wrote, "My earnest prayer for you and all those who are taking part in your studies is that you will be sure that you don't trade Faith for Understanding." Should I have directed his attention to Paul's warning at Romans 12:3?

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. 
"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



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I must acknowledge to you, here, that I am convinced that he was sincere...and that that erroneous mindset that he and most other career professional christians have acquired is for-the-most-part SUBLIMINAL.


- > "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?...and fools hate knowledge?" —Proverbs 1:22
 - > "...knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth." —Proverbs 14:6
 - > "My people are destroyed for lack of *sincerity? prayer? worship? church attendance? holiness? righteousness? faith? hyperspirituality? believing "what 'we' believe?" getting truly saved? knowledge...*" —Hosea 4:6
 - > "...they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge...and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." —Paul, at Romans 10:1,2
- Yes, the context is different, but the observation clearly fits this scenario.
- > "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age..." —Paul, at Hebrews 5:12-14

You may want to read that passage of scripture in several versions of the Bible. And be sure, also, to read what Jesus said at Matthew 15:14, about the blind who presume to lead the blind.

- > "If any man desire to be first, [the same] shall be last of all, and servant of all." —Jesus, at Mark 9:35

Credible surveys by The Barna Group and others indicate that surprisingly large and growing percentages of Christian believers are concluding that much of God's written word is fiction. For many, that appears to be a conscious conclusion. For many others, it is apparently subconscious. I think that's directly attributable to childhood disillusionment. Who do you think will be held accountable for that on Judgment Day?


Here's a great memory verse to share with an impressionable child—"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
—1 Thessalonians 5:21

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.

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