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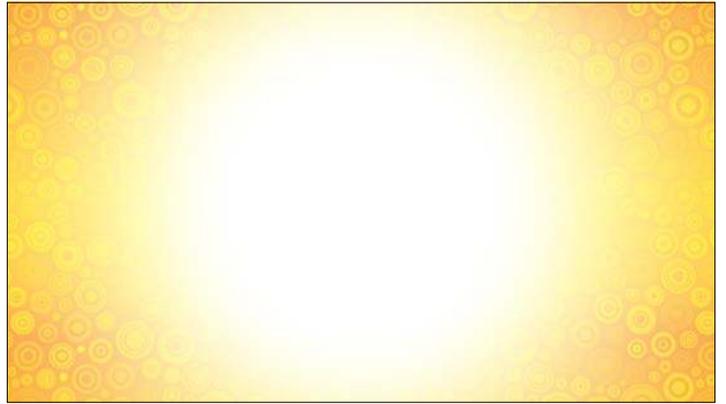
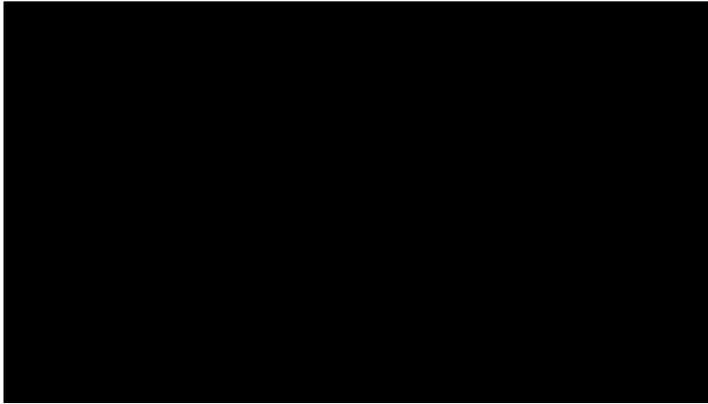
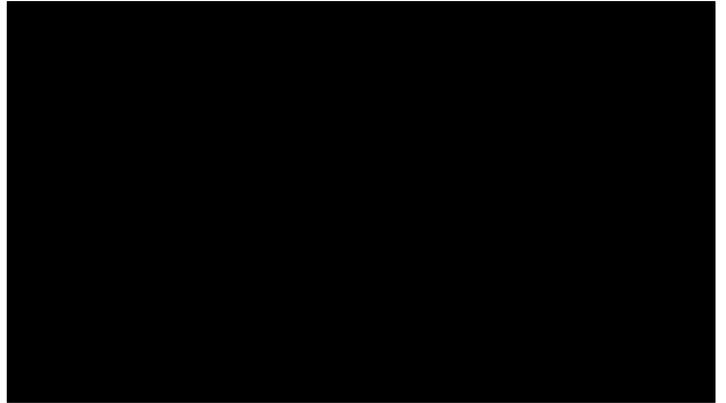
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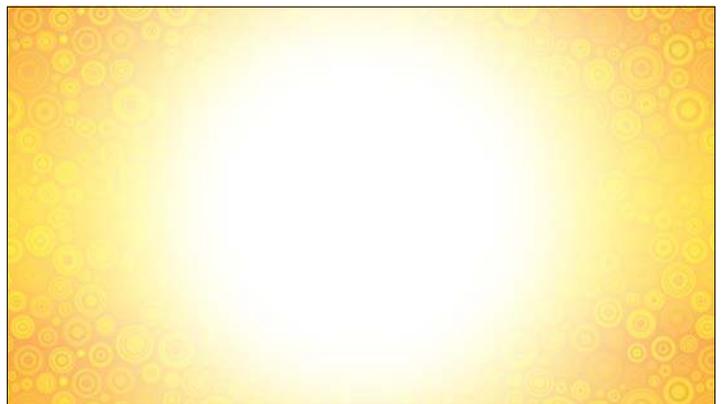
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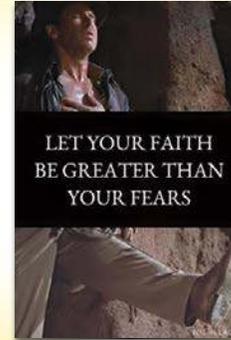
**FAITH**  
SUPERSTITION  
or **SUBSTANCE?**



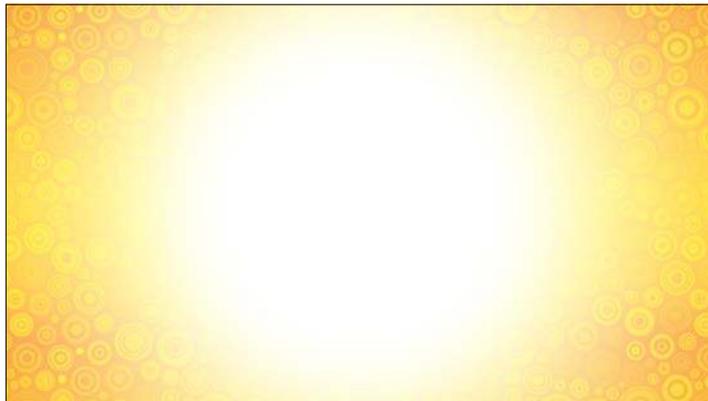
**SU•PER•STI•TION** [noun]

- a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation
- an irrational abject attitude of mind toward the supernatural, nature, or God resulting from superstition
- a notion maintained despite evidence to the contrary

– Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (11th Edt.)



LET YOUR FAITH  
BE GREATER THAN  
YOUR FEARS



We can close the apparent gap  
between faith and reason by avoiding  
two extremes in our thinking and by  
taking the middle road



EXTREME ONE  
THE FAITHFUL EXTREME



**EXTREME ONE**  
**THE FAITHFUL EXTREME**

**"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." – Heb. 11:6**

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### **What If** by Nichole Nordeman

“What if you dig way down deeper than your simple-minded friends? What if you dig? What if you find a thousand more unanswered questions down inside? That's all you find?

What if you pick apart the logic and begin to poke the holes? What if the crown of thorns is no more than folklore that must be told and re-told?

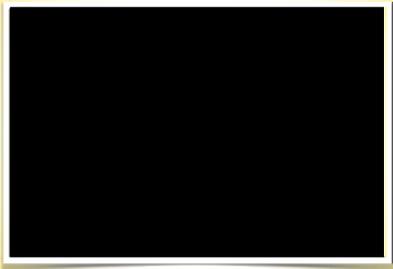
But what if you're wrong? What if there's more? What if there's hope you've never dreamed of hoping for? What if You jump? Just close your eyes. What if the arms that catch you, catch you by surprise? What if He's more than enough? What if it's love?”



### **Feel It** by Toby Mac

Oh, I feel it in my heart  
I feel it in my soul  
That's how I know  
You take our brokenness and make us beautiful  
Yeah, that's how I know (can't take that from me)  
Love came crashin' in  
Never gonna be the same again  
Yeah, you came crashing in  
You wrecked me, you wrecked me...  
Everybody talkin' like they need some proof  
But what more do I need than to feel you





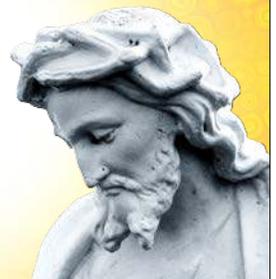
**"Faith is NOT emotional; it is rather an act of the will. And again, not because faith contradicts reason, for it doesn't. Rather, faith in God...is nothing less than the will to follow reason's lead when emotion might incline us to doubt."**

**- Edward Feser**



**"I suspect that most of the individuals who have religious faith are content with blind faith. They feel no obligation to understand what they believe. They may even wish not to have their beliefs disturbed by thought. But if God in whom they believe created them with intellectual and rational powers, that imposes upon them the duty to try to understand the creed of their religion. Not to do so is to verge on superstition."**

**- Mortimer Adler**

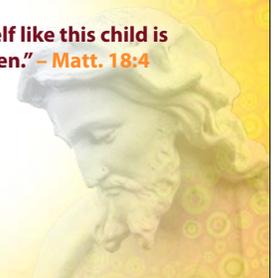


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"Brethren, do not be children in your thinking . . . but in your thinking be mature." – 1 Cor. 14:20

## EXTREME TWO THE RATIONAL EXTREME

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"Faith is the surrender of the mind, it's the surrender of reason, it's the surrender of the only thing that makes us different from other animals. It's our need to believe and to surrender our skepticism and our reason, our yearning to discard that and put all our trust or faith in someone or something, that is the sinister thing to me. Out of all the virtues, all the supposed virtues, faith must be the most overrated."

– The late Christopher Hitchens



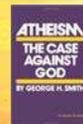
Faith is "belief without evidence," or "pretending to know something you don't know."

– Peter Boghossian, A Manual for Creating Atheists



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"Reason and faith are opposite, two mutually exclusive terms: there is no reconciliation or common ground. Faith is belief without, or in spite of reason."

– George H. Smith, Atheism: The Case Against God

## Intro to Philosophy

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"Faith is a funny sort of thing. It might be defined as 'belief in spite of the facts' or 'belief despite the absence of facts.' It is not a response to some rational argument, but rather a response to some feeling or sensation that comes over a person....Belief in God might just be a matter of faith which does not have much to do with the rational parts of our minds. This does not make it wrong or bad, but we must be careful not to allow those things which we take on faith to blind us to the things that we ought to believe based on rational arguments and experience." – UNCG Intro to Philosophy

"...the question of whether God exists is a definite question of fact."

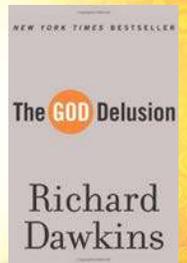
– Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*

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"The presence or absence of a creative super- intelligence is unequivocally a scientific question, even if it is not in practice —or not yet—a decided one."

– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*



## SCIENTISM

The view that all truth claims must be demonstrated via human reasoning through the scientific method using the five senses



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### PROBLEM:

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**SELF-DEFEATING!**



"Atheists who think they are arguing from 'purely scientific' premises never really are. They are, without exception, arguing from *metaphysical* assumptions – and usually unexamined ones at that – that are first *read into* empirical science and then *read back out*, like the rabbit the magician can pull out of the hat only because he's first hidden it there." – *Edward Feser*



**BIBLICAL FAITH  
TAKE THE MIDDLE ROAD**

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FAITH

REASON



**BIBLICAL FAITH**  
**TAKE THE MIDDLE ROAD**



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of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen.”**

– Heb. 11:1 (NKJV)

Hypostasis:  
bold confidence, assurance,  
proof, a guarantee

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Pistis:  
trust, firm persuasion,  
conviction

Hypostasis:  
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**MAXIMUM  
OCCUPANCY  
75 PERSONS**

**“Why are you reasoning about these things  
in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the  
paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say,  
‘Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk’?  
But so that **YOU MAY KNOW** that the Son  
of Man has authority on  
earth to forgive sins...I say  
to you, get up, pick up your  
pallet and go home.”**

– Mark 2:8-11 (NASB)

**MAXIMUM  
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**How do we know which authority to trust?**



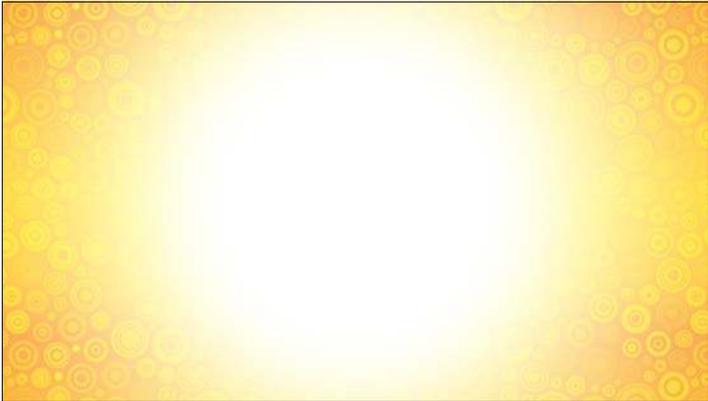

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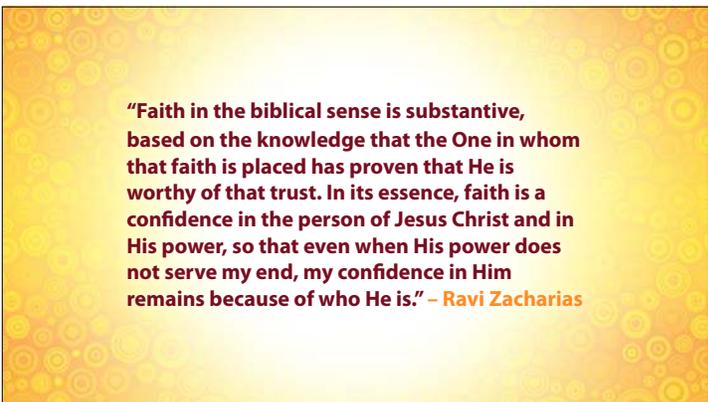
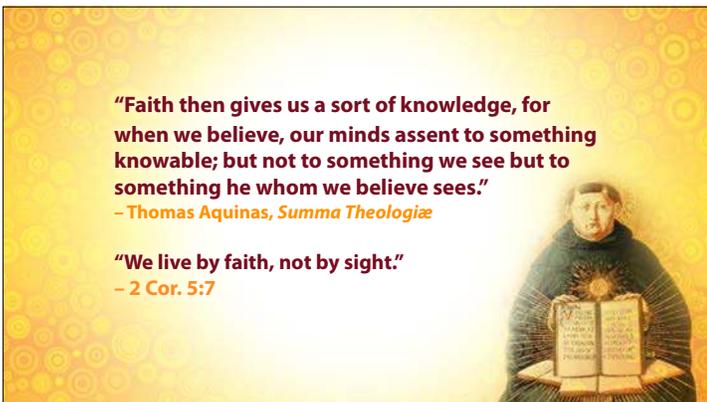
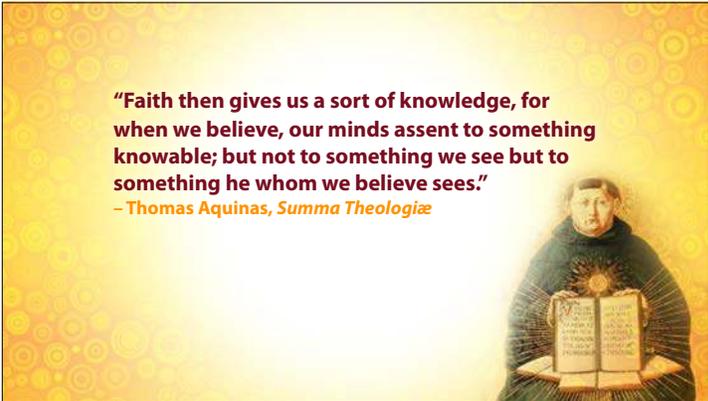
"To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God." – Acts 1:3

"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." – Acts 17:31

"At every step, evidence and rational argument – not 'blind faith' or a 'will to believe' – are taken to justify our acceptance of certain teachings.... We can know that such-and-such a teaching was true because Christ taught it; we can know that He is an authority to be trusted because His miraculous resurrection puts a divine seal of approval on what He said...and a divine being cannot be in error; we can know that He really was resurrected because of such-and-such historical evidence together with our background knowledge that God exists...we can know God exists... because of such-and-such philosophical proofs; and so on. Every link in the chain is supported by argument."  
– Edward Feser, *The Last Superstition*

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SUPERSTITION  
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