



# reflecting Jesus

BETA

I believe God  
by my faith **09**

?

*did you know...*

**here are what famous people through the centuries have said about faith:**

If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.

—Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Man prefers to believe what he prefers to be true.

—Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

It is so hard to believe because it is so hard to obey.

—Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

A man who has faith must be prepared not only to be a martyr, but to be a fool.

—G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

—David Lloyd George (1863-1945)

Faith and thought belong together, and believing is impossible without thinking.

—John R. W. Stott (1921- )

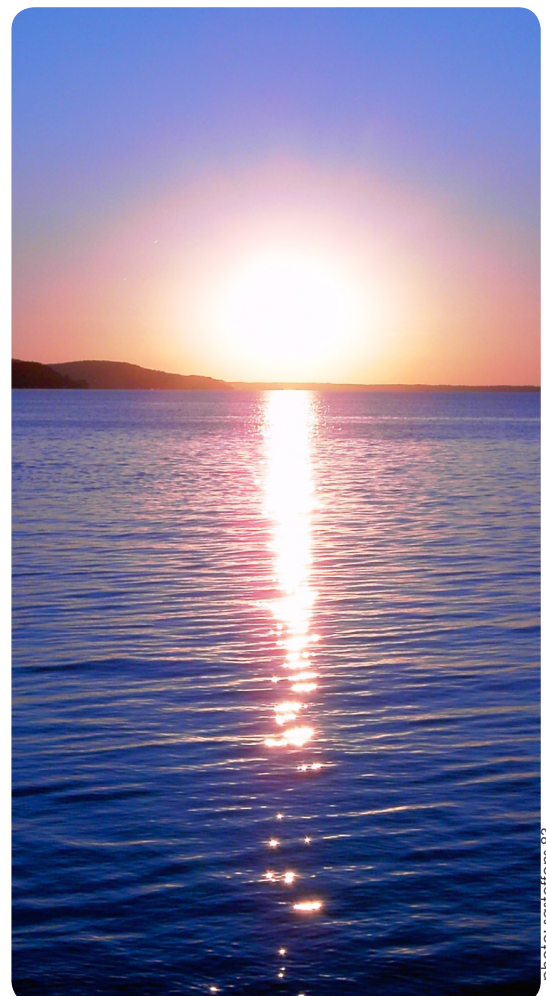


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## *the facts of his story*

1. How does the author of Hebrews define faith? (verse 1-2)

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2. What is our foundation for believing that God made the world and everything in it? (verse 3)

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3. What two things must we do if we are to receive the reward that God offers us? (verse 6)

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4. Read verses 7 to the end of the chapter. What do you think verse 39 means?

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This story is told by the captain of a ship on which George Muller of Bristol was travelling. During his life he received more than 1,000,000 pounds from the Lord, without advertising—every penny came as an answer to prayer.

“We had George Muller of Bristol on board,” said the captain. “I had been on the bridge for twenty-four hours and never left it and George Muller came to me and said, “Captain, I have come to tell you I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.” “It is impossible,” I said. “Then very well, if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven

years; let us go down into the chart room and pray.”

“I looked at that man of God and thought to myself, “What lunatic asylum can that man have come from, for I never heard of such a thing as this?”

“Mr. Muller,” I said, “do you know how dense this fog is?”

““No,” he replied, “my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.” He knelt down and he prayed one of the most simple prayers. When he had finished I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. “As you do not believe He will answer, and as I believe He has, there is no need whatever for you to pray

about it.”

“I looked at him and George Muller said, “Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day when I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door and you will find the fog has gone.”

“I got up and the fog indeed was gone, and on that Saturday afternoon George Muller kept his promised engagement.”

—Sunday School Times  
Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979).  
Encyclopedia of 7700  
illustrations



## *thinking it through*

1. What is the most important idea about faith that you saw in Hebrews 11?

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2. What would you say to someone who says that living by faith is foolish—it is just a jump into the dark.

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## habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus ~ why I believe what I believe

### why do I believe that?!

Have you ever thought about why you believe the things you do? Is it because it's what your parents taught you? Or a teacher at school? Or the movies? Do you know?!

Often we go through life without thinking much about why we believe what we do. We believe because—well, we do! But if someone challenges us about our beliefs and we don't know what to say, it can be quite disturbing.

Peter writes to the churches, "if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it." (1 Peter 3:15, NLT) Peter wanted the Christians he was caring for to be prepared. If someone asked, "Why do you believe that God created the world", he wanted them to give a strong witness for why they believed the things they did. Only then could they make an impact for God. In the same way, we prepare to witness to others by knowing what we believe ourselves, and why.

Let's see how we can do this.

### in your journal...

As always, before studying about spiritual things, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your mind. Then in your Journal, make two columns. At

the top of the left hand column, write the title, "What I Believe". In this column make a list of the things you know you believe. It can include anything you want, about life, it's purpose, God, or yourself.

At the top of the right hand column, write the title, "Why I Believe This". For each item you listed, try and identify the source of what you believe. Is it because that is what you have always believed and never thought to question

it? Is it because you are certain that this is what the Bible teaches and that is true?

Here are some suggestions to help you get started thinking:

What do I believe and why, about...?

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

*Paul, Romans 10:17*

1. the origins of the earth
2. Jesus
3. the reason for suffering in the world
4. the second coming of Jesus
5. the reasons why God loves me
6. the purpose of my life, and the purpose of the universe

You may not have thought about some of these things before. That's ok. Now you have an opportunity to do so.

### the critical question

Here is the critical question: for everything

you have written that you believe, can you see where it is rooted in God's word? Is there a text that gives you a reason to believe? For everything you believe, make sure you can find a place in the Bible that gives you a strong foundation for your faith. You can write these faith building texts in your Journal.

This is what faith is—knowing and believing what

God has said, even when we can't always understand why. So to live a life of faith, we need to know what God has said.

It is good to regularly think about you believe and why as you continue through life. For when you can see that your faith is firmly rooted in God's words, it will give you peace, confidence, and joy.



## putting the pieces together

In "the facts of his story" we began looking at the meaning and foundation of faith. We saw that we believe because God has said it, not just because we can prove it, for there may be times when we can't always prove what God has said.

In "thinking it through" you were challenged to join the many people who decided to live by faith and trust completely what God has said to us in his words.

In "habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus", we forced ourselves to examine our own beliefs. We need to make sure that everything we believe is supported by God's word, and not just our own thoughts or feelings.



## my time with God

1. Read Hebrews 11:3. Why do you think we are first called to believe that the world was made God "by faith"? Why doesn't the author or Hebrews call us to believe that God made the world because of scientific facts? What do you think is the relationship between faith and facts?
2. Read Hebrews 11:6. Why do you think it is impossible to please God without faith? Why is God looking for faith in you today?
3. Read about Noah in Hebrews 11:7. How was it possible for Noah to build a huge boat when not even rain had never been seen before? How are you able to believe God about Heaven other things you have never seen? (You can read more about Noah in Genesis 5-9)
4. Read about Abraham in Hebrews 11:7-19. How many acts of faith can you see in these verses? What do you think enabled Abraham to live like this? How can you live like this also? (You can read more about these stories of Abraham in Genesis 12-25)
5. Read about Moses in Hebrews 11:23-28. Why was Moses able to reject all the wealth of the most powerful nation in the world at that time, and identify himself with a group of slaves? How are you, like Moses, able to "see the invisible"? (You can read more about Moses in Exodus 2-15.)
6. Read about many different people of God in Hebrews 11:32-38. What did faith enable these people to achieve? What could faith do in your life today?



## pass it on!

Who can you challenge to test that what they believe has a secure foundation on God's word?



## extra help

1. The Autobiography of George Mueller.
2. Patriarchs and Prophets chapter 7, The Flood; chapter 11, The Call of Abraham; chapter 13, The Test of Faith; chapter 22, Moses, "Faith and Acceptance", in Steps to Christ, & Chapter 13, "Victory" in Desire of Ages, by Ellen White.