

Greater Faith?

Joe Slater

I wish my brethren would stop saying things like, “It takes more faith to believe in evolution than in creation.” I think I understand the point they’re trying to make, but they’re abusing the word “faith.”

Long story short, accepting Darwinian evolution with all its implications doesn’t require “faith” at all! It requires rejection of proven facts. For example, life comes from life. Every experiment along this line has shown that non-living matter doesn’t produce life, even under the most favorable laboratory conditions. Similarly, “nothing” doesn’t produce “something.” Yet for the whole evolutionary scenario to be true, nothing had to get busy and become something, and that something had to switch from non-living to living, and then gradually change into more and more complex life forms (whereas changes we see in nature are invariably from the more complex to the less complex).

Belief in creation, by contrast, is consistent with what we know about the universe. Yes, it requires belief in a supernatural being we cannot see, but sound reasoning supports that conclusion. It is problematic only when people begin with the assumption that the material universe is all that exists. In other words, they rule out anything supernatural. Such assumptions are entirely unreasonable and unscientific.

Biblical faith does **not** contradict sound reasoning! Biblical faith does **not** mean we jettison observable truth! Biblical faith is **not** blind, but is based on evidence – evidence from God’s **word** which is perfectly compatible with evidence from God’s **world**.

Atheistic dogma that rejects proven facts is **not** faith. So, let’s not denigrate faith by calling it that!

Can We Really Be Like Jesus?

When thinking about the earthy life of Jesus Christ, it is nothing short of extraordinary. From His humble birth in a manger, to His ministry to the multitudes, we are fascinated by His composure, compassion and character. He reached out to the rich and the poor, the popular and unpopular, without partiality. Having the full measure of the Holy Spirit, He performed amazing healing miracles including bringing the dead back to life. Yes, when we consider the life of Jesus, it is remarkable.

Thus, the perceived dilemma of 1 John 2:3-6. “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” Walk (live) just as Jesus walked? How is that possible? Why would God ask us to do the impossible? The truth is, He never would.

Not only does this passage encourage us to be like Jesus, but there are others as well. Matthew 11:29, John 13:15, and 1 Peter 2:21 all tell us to exemplify the life of Christ. We do this by being humble, compassionate, giving, sacrificial, and possessing the servant’s attitude. We may not be able to heal the sick, raise the dead or walk on water, but we can take on the character of the Christ and thus be like Jesus!

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX)

It’s easy to complain. Anyone can do it! It takes a special person to encourage. Complaining focuses on self. Encouragement focuses on others. The world needs encouragement from people who know how to overcome discouragement. God expects you to do that! If you’re a child of God, actively seek to encourage others daily.

His Path to Glory

All movement with directed purpose follows a predetermined path. Our blood travels through our bodies through channels called veins and arteries. Misdirected or interrupted blood flow can have serious consequences. Similarly, as we travel, our efforts to reach a desired destination is largely dependent upon our ability to navigate our nation’s elaborate system of streets and highways. Likewise, aircraft are required to file a flight plan and strictly adhere to it once it has been approved. Otherwise, there could be catastrophic results. The point is this: if we want to get to our desired destination, we must follow the right path.

There is only one path that leads to heaven. Jesus is “*the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through [Him]*” (John 14:6). Other routes are offered by man; but His is the only way to eternal glory. Jesus says, “*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14). Sadly, many who feel they are on the right path will discover all too late that they were mistaken. Jesus says, “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter*” (Matthew 7:21). Solomon says, “*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*” (Proverbs 14:12).

Because the danger of being misled is always present, we must diligently study God’s word. It is the roadmap that will lead us to heaven. But, we must trust its direction and “*walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Remember, “*a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps*” (Jer. 10:23). Walking in the light of God’s word provides clear, unmistakable direction (1 John 1:7). One step at a time, and His eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied to all who follow His path to glory.

--Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR)