



The Strength of a Simple Faith & The Power of Probing Faith

Joe Gerber

A Tension

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes, primarily triangles, in shades of brown, grey, and black. These shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and tension, particularly on the right side of the frame. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

Patricia

- ▶ Began following Christ at a relatively young age.
- ▶ Knew she was going to hell and immediately repented.
- ▶ Faithfully reads her Bible - 1-2 verses each day that open up to her.
- ▶ Regularly prays in the morning, at meals, and before bed.
- ▶ Faithful in church attendance.
- ▶ Married without much knowledge about her future husband.
- ▶ Has faced hardships but unquestioningly believes that God will get her through.

Christopher

- ▶ Began following Christ in his late teens, early twenties while at college.
- ▶ Grew up asking questions.
- ▶ Repented when he looked around and asked, “How could all of this come from nothing? God must exist. And Christianity makes the most sense.”
- ▶ Reads the Bible daily with study helps and Bible apps.
- ▶ Prays faithfully although he admits that he often struggles because he doesn’t understand what is supposed to happen.
- ▶ Faithfully attends church but wonders why we do certain things.
- ▶ Made a list of attributes he desired in a wife so that God could lead him to the right one 😊...which God did!
- ▶ Has faced hardships but believes - through Scripture study and reading various perspectives on human suffering - that God will get him through.

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- ▶ Very regularly attends church but wonders why we do certain things.
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The Tension

- ▶ Why can't he just have deeper FAITH?
- ▶ Why can't she just have a DEEPER faith?

But the reality is...

we need each other!

- ▶ In Bible study, the need for both right understanding and an intention to obey
 - ▶ Correct interpretation
 - ▶ Personal application
- ▶ Balancing overthinking and underthinking
 - ▶ Stuffing questions
 - ▶ Questioning everything
- ▶ The blessing and burden of knowing various perspectives
 - ▶ Can dilute a good position
 - ▶ Can help explain a good position

There is a more biblical way to think about it!

Ephesians 4:4-6

- ▶ Not two kinds of faith.
- ▶ Not two flavors of faith.
- ▶ There is one faith.

There is ONE faith but there are many
different kinds of people!



1 Corinthians 12:12-22

- ▶ The Bible clearly teaches that we all need each other.
- ▶ This is not just some flowery ideal. It's a theological reality of the Bible.

Think about Paul and Peter

- ▶ Paul was a scholar/academic/thinker
- ▶ Philippians 3:4-6
- ▶ Peter was an uneducated fisherman
- ▶ Acts 4:13a
- ▶ Both Apostles stretched into the space of the other in pursuit of Christ!
- ▶ Philippians 3:7-8 was written by Paul
- ▶ Acts 4:13b eventually results in Peter writing 1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer
to every man that asketh you a reason
of the hope that is in you with meekness
and fear. 1 Peter 3:15

Let's link arms and lean into our one faith in
our one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ!