# The Strength of a Simple Faith & The Power of Probing Faith Joe Gerber

# A Tension

#### 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.

#### Patricia

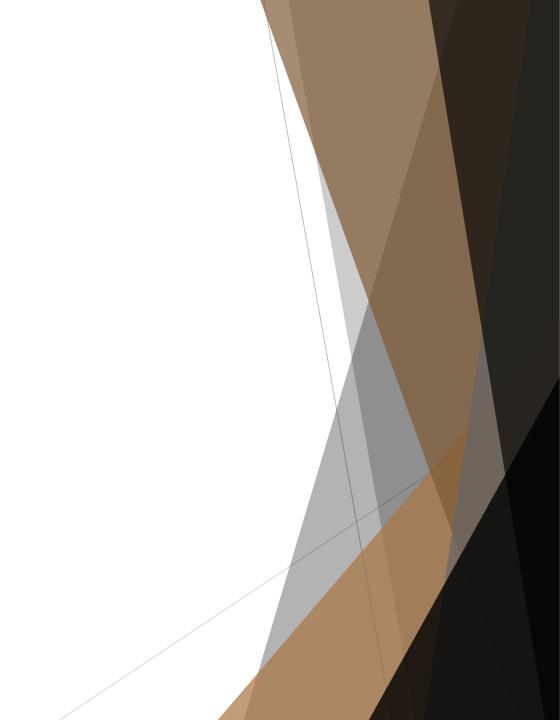
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#### The Tension

- ► 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!

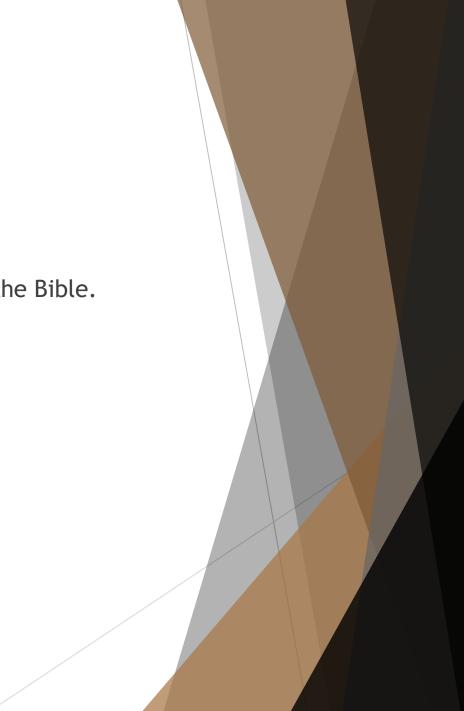
# Ephesians 4:4-6

- ► 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!