

#42 – Facts and Fiction about Faith (Part 2)

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Misconception #2: When I was a child I was taught to believe in Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy and God. Now that I am older, I have lost my faith in all that kid stuff!

Some speak of losing their faith, but if based on the opinions of others, it probably didn't exist in the first place. True, initially, we adopt most of our beliefs and opinions second hand. But at some stage, we each need to think for ourselves and determine what beliefs we will accept. If we want to grow and mature in every other aspect of life, why should matters of faith be left in the kindergarten?

Evidence for God's existence is so powerful and so different from our knowledge of Santa Claus that any comparison seems very inappropriate. Most of our understanding of Santa Claus is based on the opinion and imagination of a few people. In contrast, Christian faith, examined objectively, is based on rational propositions well substantiated through thousands of books, documents and media technology.

Today, most adults would testify that they were brought up with some faith. But perhaps as they grew older they did not find answers to their deepest questions or they saw hypocrisy in the lives of some nominal, (in name only), believers. So in one way or another, they outgrew the faith of their youth. They are now searching for a more mature faith they can profess with intelligence and integrity.

So, when it comes to faith, every individual needs to decide if they really want to believe. Faith involves a choice, a decision of your will to know God personally. Faith is never just mental assent; it must lead to action. And faith needs to grow and be applied to each stage of life as it develops: adolescent, young adult, marriage, parenthood, life and death issues. If our faith is not sufficient to bring inner strength, comfort and hope, as we face the concerns and challenges of life, perhaps it is time for us to show a clear willingness to know God personally and at a deeper level.

The Bible says, "If you seek God with all your heart, you will surely find him" (Jeremiah 29:13). From God's side there are no barriers, only one's unwillingness to come to Him. But, the key to knowing God is through a personal relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ, by grace through faith. This is not something we do for ourselves on the outside, through form, ritual or ceremony; but what God does for us on the inside.

The reason God reveals more of Himself to some people than to others, is not because He has favorites. God reveals Himself to the person who wants to know Him. And if you do not want to know God, He is a gentleman and will never force you to act contrary to your will.