

Faith Means Trust in God over Trust in Nature

From Everywhere in Scripture.

In the Bible the Term Faith Means Trust in God Over Trust In Nature, PART 1

Any textual example of faith, taken from anywhere in Scripture, invariably presents this understanding to the mind.

Question: What does this mean?

#1. Generalization: Contradiction. The power of God and nature exist in a pre-designed state of contradiction one to the other. This starts in Genesis 3. Things are supposed to be like this. Some men of science insist that matter, energy, time, the laws of nature and the laws of physics are the only constants in the cosmos. But Scripture proclaims that the only real constant in the cosmos is the revealed constant of contradiction between God and nature.

If this be so, then contradiction is both A) a state and B) a force. Contradiction robs matter, energy, and time of their ascribed absoluteness--thereby robbing "natural law" of its absoluteness. Those things are not absolutes because they can be contradicted by the Word of God and the power of God.

Is the contradiction constant or periodic? I come down on the side of constant. The Biblical miracles look like point-specific demonstrations of an underlying contradiction as constant. Miracles force matter, energy, and time to obey the contradiction.

We pray for the contradiction to affect matter, energy and time in our lives. Daniel chapters 3 and 6 teach that personal behavior should be consistent with trust in this contradiction as the constant in the cosmos. Therefore, Biblical faith (1 Samuel 14) is practiced in a state of oneness with this contradiction as constant.

Our faith has an indirect yet real effect on matter, energy and time. My faith must be in contradiction to nature and to the universe of things. James 1 requires this. The contradiction has direct effect on matter, energy and time!

In the Bible the term Faith Means Trust in God Over Trust in Nature, PART 2.

Question: What does this mean?

#2. Generalization: True biblical faith is a confidence in a power relation between God and nature.

*The shift:* This aspect of faith constitutes a shift away from natural forces (or the power of things), to the power relation between God --> and things.

A *cleavage*, therefore, is placed between faith—and--world magnitudes.

*The default:* Without these changes, then, the default is complete naturalism plus full rationalism. Reasoning will rest undisturbed on that foundation.

*The breakage:* True faith breaks the relation between human reason and nature so that thinking is no longer beholden to nature or scientific data nor to our experience. This is greatly problematic to the human race generally.

*Unification:* Human reason becomes fully unified by faith with the Word of God and the power of God. The believer's thought, speech and behavior become dependent upon revelation. Hebrews 11 and Genesis 22 reveal all of this to be true.

*Polar opposites:* believers will either constrain the Word of God or they will constrain human reasoning. No synthesis is possible. The unconstrained Word of God puts limits on human reason, and vice versa. Consequently, human reason unconstrained cannot be the first approach to nature!

Abraham (Genesis 16, 22); David (1 Samuel 17); Moses (Exodus 3); the Gentile believers (Matthew 8), and all other great exemplars of faith evidently comprehended this truth. Scripture is insistent that the power of God, his overshadowing of the nature of the universe of things, puts a sure and certain effect upon human reason.

Conclusion: The power relation between God --and--things is determinant in potential and in the exact! In what shall we trust?

From Everywhere in Scripture.

In the Bible the term Faith Means Trust in God Over Trust in Nature, PART 3.

Question: What does this mean?

#3. Generalization: Faith is deterministic. This determinism puts in place contradiction between the Word of God and the power of God on one hand, while pulling the mind into unity with textual promises regarding nature on the other hand. Determinism, therefore, sets in place A) Unity, and B) Contradiction. This structure is inherent in any kind of proven truth claim!

A faith that does not create contradiction between GOD--and--NATURE is the exact profile of pragmatism and/or realism. Such a faith is still deterministic. It determines, it declares, a unity between faith and human experience.

Result: Biblical faith is watered down! Trivialized! This is the actual structure of biblical faith:

1. Faith is deterministic in its very constitution.
2. Faith creates contradiction between God--and--Nature.
3. Faith creates unity between Mind and Revelation.
4. Faith puts contradiction between Scripture--and--Human Reason.

ABOUT IDOLATRY:

1. Pursuit of idols, regardless of which is always a ploy to "get back to nature." It's not about true religion. Idolatry is about satisfaction of the five senses. How, for instance, shall we judge Islam? In idolatry, the flesh and nature become one piece. Current focus on environmentalism, on gender issues, and rejection of "traditional values" are all typical of idolatry.

2. Cognitive science insists that mind is no more and no less than brain (flesh/nature). There is only nature, such science would say, with no separable soul/mind. Romans 1; Isaiah 42-46; and Numbers 32 promptly assert that such ideologies are idolatrous.

Satan loves a committed idolater! In or out of the church!

In the Bible the term Faith Means Trust in God Over Trust in Nature, PART 4.

Question: What does this mean?

Generalization: Nature is ruled immediately, directly by God. According to Scripture, nature is inert apart from God and is not directly causal over human existence. In consequence, a strong contradiction is put between nature as inert without God--and--nature as causal. This contradiction is abstract, is mental and it is linguistic. Those who pursue revealed truth must supply a linguistic contradiction between nature as inert – and -- nature as directly causal.

This language manifold holds that God alone is causal, and the arrow of causation runs from Him to nature. Belief is charged with the obligation to put a linguistic contradiction upon human lived experience or the realm of appearances.

Exodus 13 and 14 typifies human behavior. At the Red Sea, the Israelites put no linguistic contradiction upon nature. Faithlessness. In the desert (Numbers 13, 14), the chosen people again imposed no contradiction between language manifolds: faithlessness.

A canonical generalization: My faith obligation in all circumstances *all circumstances* is to compose a linguistic and behavioral contradiction to the humanistic understanding of nature. Daniel 1, 2, 3 offer no appeal from this act of faith.