**Faith & Doubt – Is there sufficient evidence?**

What we want to believe is the most important QA we ask about faith. But why?

Over time we will adjust our faith to what we want to believe and leave out the rest?

Thomas Negal an Atheist once wrote”” I don’t want there to be a God because I don’t want the universe to be like that – It’s how I want to believe.”

Karl Marx – Faith is the Opium if the people exploited by the elite to stay in power.

**Lets look at it a few different ways that People Doubt**

**Skeptics**

1. Looking for qualitative answers
2. They don’t want to look foolish – so they won’t commit to “Faith and Belief”
3. Afraid to take the risk. Skeptic can keep us from believing “can keep us trapped”
   1. Quantum Physics, Hubble
4. Want everything proven – Usually doubtful of everything

**Cynics**

1. Wounded idealists
2. Usually subjected to some earlier wounds or bad experience
   1. Pedophilia as a child
3. They come to conclusions before the questions are asked
4. Pontus-Pilot – Had to keep Romans and Jews off his back – He was cynical
5. He said to Jesus “What is Truth”

* The Skeptic is afraid to take the risk the Cynic is afraid to have to measure up
* Give a skeptic a kiss and he will ask why Give a cynic a kiss - check your wallet
* The SBNRs

**Rebels**

1. Very destructive
2. Doesn’t want to believe
3. They are afraid of what would happen if they surrendered themselves to God
4. Can be badly wounded Christians “Why Stuff Happens.”

**Why I promote Joy!**

Because: I believe the existence of joy points to God!

If you could plug yourself into a happiness outlet would you do it? Knowing nothing else, no grief, no emotion, no sorrow no other emotions

Joy now points beyond happiness. We find Joy in Beauty, in Nature, in a mountaintop scene.

The Bible Promotes Joy

Lk 24:41 After the resurrection they still did not believe because of Joy and amazement

If what Jesus taught is true Joy is the center of the universe – Joy was at the beginning

*The Joy of the lord is not when you come to church it’s when you suddenly realize and see face to face that for which we were made and God loves us without conditions*

John 15:11 “ I have told you so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete”

“There will be no more death or mourning or crying of Pain” Rev21:3-4

*Joy is the giant secret of Christendom*

**Why we should believe and have Joy**

1. Only Christianity starts with an innocent baby – No God or Powerful sovereign
2. There is no one more worthy of our trusting than Jesus
3. No one has affected history like him
4. Jesus proves there is a God
5. He Knows
6. Jesus is in the life changing business
7. No one is changed more than us by him- Saul to Paul
8. There is much evidence of lives changed by Jesus ( I have never heard anyone say –One day I realized here is no God)

**Atheism has nothing to say to the Guy on death row or at deaths door. And we all live on Death row and we want to know only one thing – That God exists and we are not alone**