

The background features a textured, parchment-like surface with Hebrew text. A large, dark magnifying glass is positioned over the title, with its handle extending towards the bottom right. The text within the magnifying glass is the main title.

The Faith

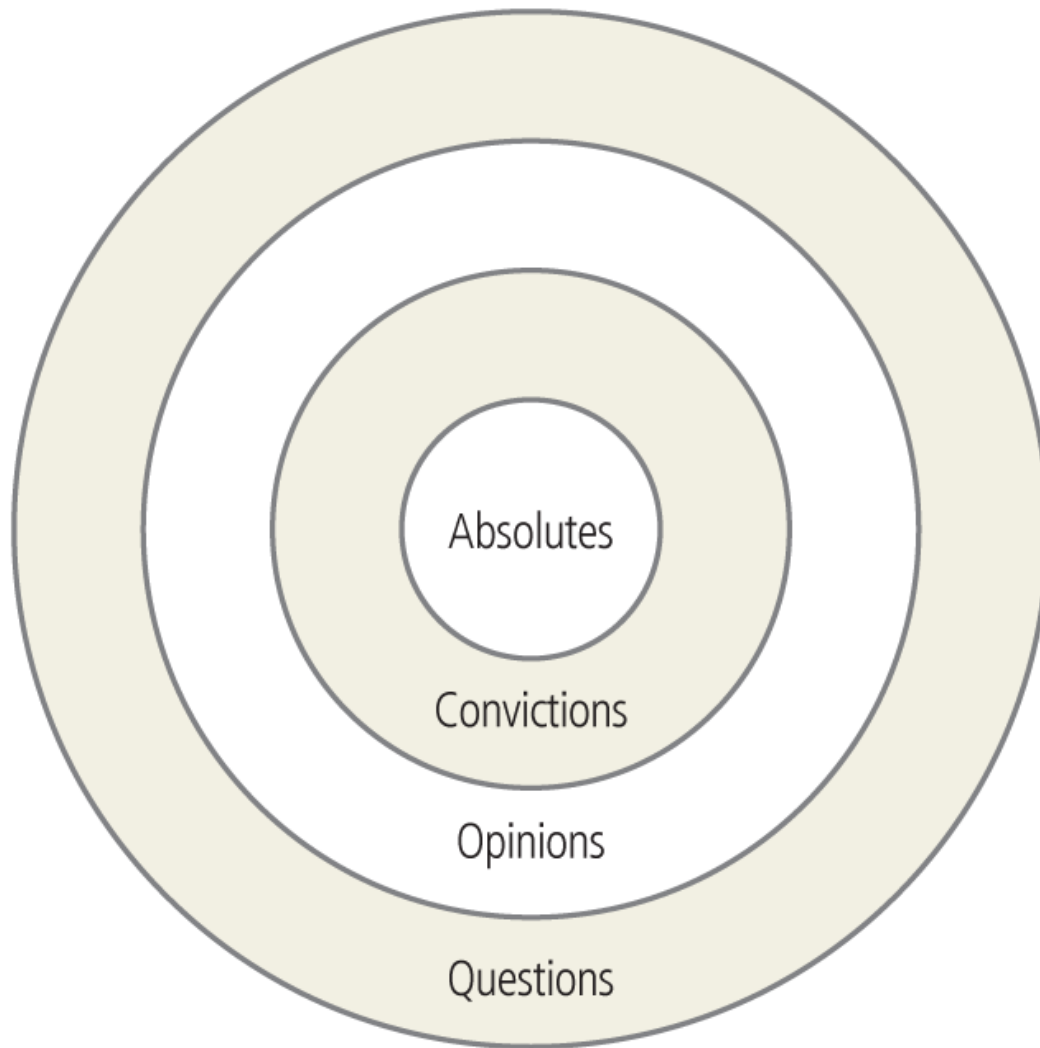
What to Believe & Why

The **Bible**: Authority & Truth

Pastor Nathan Mains - Oct 11, 2009

*Dear friends, although I was very
eager to write to you about the
salvation we share, I felt I had to write
and urge you to contend for **the faith**
that was once for all entrusted to the
saints. -- **Jude 3** (NIV)*

A way of thinking about Doctrine



❑ **Absolutes** – the core beliefs of the Christian faith

❑ **Convictions** – could have significant impact on church health or effectiveness

❑ **Opinions** – less clear areas not worth dividing over

❑ **Questions** – currently unsettled issues

Considerations – biblical clarity, frequency & significance placed on it there, relevance to the character of God or essence of the Gospel, how believers have understood it historically, effect on people or groups

Why start with the Bible?

God wants us to **know** Him

He wants us to **love & worship** Him

He gave us the Bible so we could come to know Him personally.

In the Bible, God will show us:

□ Who He is

□ What He is like, his personality, character & attributes

□ What He has done-is doing-will do

□ How He invites us to respond to Him

➤ What if I don't believe the Bible?

It may be your **Worldview**

- ❑ It is impossible to think without some set of presuppositions about the world. Each of us carries a mental map of the world inside our heads that tells us what the world is like and how we should live in it.
- ❑ This model contains our set of convictions about how reality functions and how we should live in light of that.
- ❑ We can navigate reality effectively only if our worldview is accurate (true).

Three Parts to a Worldview

1. Creation > Ultimate origins.

How did it all begin? Where did it come from? Who are we, and how did we get here?

2. Fall – What went wrong? What is the source of evil & suffering

3. Redemption – What can be done about it? How can the world be set right again?

Scientific Naturalism Worldview

- 1. Creation** – nature generated itself and distinguished itself through natural selection. We exist in a closed “natural” system. There is no supernatural.
- 2. Fall** – Man has and is messing up the ideal state of nature and the natural progress of evolution.
- 3. Redemption** – Save the ideal state of nature by stopping man’s damaging activity.

Two-realm view of Truth

UPPER STORY

Values

Private, Individual Choice

Nonrational, Noncognitive

Subjective, Relative to Particular Groups

LOWER STORY

Facts

Binding on Everyone

Rational, Verifiable

Objective, Universally Valid

Biblical Worldview

- 1. Creation** – *In the beginning God created.* God is the sole source of the entire created order
- 2. Fall** – All parts of creation, including our minds, are caught up in a great rebellion against the Creator. The effects of our rebellion poisons our ability to understand the world apart from God's grace.
- 3. Redemption**-God redeems the whole person through Christ, giving new direction to our thoughts, emotions, will & habits.

Where the Bible says it comes from

2 Peter 1:20 *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man,*

but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

Evidence supports Bible's accuracy

1. 5,700 Greek NT manuscripts--1000 times more than works of other classical authors
2. Dead Sea scrolls confirm OT accuracy
3. Passed on with extreme carefulness & accuracy--no essential truth or doctrine is affected by any manuscript variant--We can be confident that the Hebrew & Greek & English translations of it accurately reproduce the very words of God.
4. Best explanation Disciples changed lives is that what the Bible says actually happened

Facts about our Bible

- God gave it through 40 human authors over 1600 years
- It has been translated into more languages than any other book, by far.
- It is the best selling book every year
- The Bible contains 2 major sections called, Testaments: Old & New
- It contains 66 books: 39 OT; 27 NT

Consider the Bible's claims

2 Timothy 3:14-15 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of... the **holy Scriptures**, which **are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

Consider the Bible's claims

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by
inspiration of God,
and is profitable for
doctrine,
for **reproof,**
for **correction,**
for **instruction in righteousness,**
17 that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly **equipped for every good
work.** (NKJ)*

How should I view my Bible

☐ Like a newborn views his milk

1 Peter 2:2-3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

How should I view my Bible

**□ Like letters from a far away fiancé
who's promised to return for you**

*Psalm 42:1-2 As the deer pants for streams
of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God? (NIV)*

How should I view my Bible

□ Like a mirror in the morning

James 1:22-25 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.***

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does. (NIV)

How should I view my Bible

□ Like a GPS for life's journey

Psalm 119:9 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*

11 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (NIV)*

How should I view my Bible

□ **Like a do-it-yourselfer's How-to book**

Matthew 7:24-27 ...everyone who ***hears these words of mine and puts them into practice*** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

26 *But everyone who ***hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice*** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.*

27 *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*“ (NIV)

How should I view my Bible

**□As my only effective defense
against my worst enemy**

Ephesians 6 :10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...

16 ... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (NIV)

What the Bible can do for us

- We learn from it what is true about God, about people, about life and about the future
 - It points out what is sin
 - It introduces us to Jesus--who provides forgiveness & takes away the sins of the world
 - It shows us how to live
 - It provides comfort, strength & hope
- It is our Sword to use against Satan & his subtle schemes

Our FAITH is founded on The Bible

**The Bible is God speaking to us.
He gave it so us so we can learn about:
Him, ourselves, the past & the future,
how to have an eternal relationship with
Him through trust in Jesus Christ, how
to live in community together, how to
make disciples, and how to be
transformed as we journey through life
so our lives bring Him glory.**

the BIBLE: your personal RABI

Receive it as authoritative & true, as God speaking directly to you.

Agree with it's assessment of you as a sinner needing what only God can provide

Believe: the Bible tells us Christ offers sinners (you) redemption and God's righteousness only through trust in Him

Internalize the Bible's truth as you journey through life, full of hope that it provides all the guidance life travelers need.

So, What Now?

- **Read & Study your Bible**
 - **Memorize** key parts
 - **Think about it** (Meditate)
- **Talk about it** with family, friends > your Small Group
- **Obey it!** Do what it says
 - **Pray it** back to God

