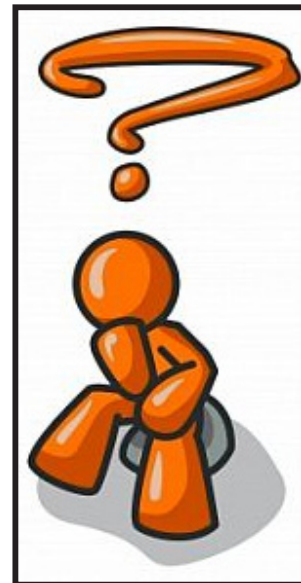


What About ... Trusting Jesus?

BY DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

A group called Inspirational Videos has produced a film called “Trust Fall,” <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=F9E0JJNU>. The scene opens with a girl and a guy doing the old trust fall exercise where she is convinced to fall backwards trusting him to catch her. She calls him “Jesus” so we won’t miss the application. She tells “Jesus” she wants to trust him but she doesn’t. So after some convincing, she goes through the old exercise where she falls back and the boy (called “Jesus”) catches her. She is excited about that, so he gives her what he calls “level 2.” In this exercise she faces him and he tells her to “fall back.” She points out there is no one back behind her to catch her. He says: “I know it looks like that.” She says: “It is like that.” He says: “You can do this, just fall back...we can do this together.” After looking behind her, she says: “I won’t” and walks off. Since the boy is called “Jesus,” we can assume that the video is telling us that not falling back into nothingness is disobeying Jesus.



Jesus said: *If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well* (John 15:24).

For Jesus, faith was a **decision to trust verifiable evidence**.

I suggest what the video calls “level 2” is Muslim faith, Buddhist faith, Hindu faith, Rabbinic Jewish faith, faith in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the tooth fairy, but not biblical faith. In the Bible, trust is in the evidence like Jesus gave when He did *among them the works which no one else did*. It may be a decision without certainty, as when the girl fell back toward the boy, but it is never a decision without evidence, as when the girl is asked to fall back with no one there. That’s what causes the stupidity of the world’s religions and defines secular faith. God, on the other hand, gave people lots of evidence, then asked them to trust Him. For us, that evidence is the Bible, and trusting Jesus is giving ourselves, “falling back” only in a biblically described direction. Notice:

Genesis 15:6 *Abraham believed in the Lord, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.* That’s because of the evidence God had given him through revelations in Ur, Haran, and in the Land.

Exodus 14:31 *When Israel saw the great power [that is, when they saw the objective verifiable evidence], which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.*

Numbers 14:11 *The LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs [the objectively verifiable evidence] which I have performed in their midst?”*

John 4:22 Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “You wor-

ship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” [In other words, the Samaritan faith was without evidence and the Jewish faith was based on evidence.]

1 Timothy 4:7 Paul told Timothy to *have nothing to do with worldly fables* like, say, Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, Joseph Smith or Mohammed. In other words, have nothing to do with faith that is without reason applied to objectively verifiable evidence in the real world.

Romans 1:17 Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 to the Romans, *the righteous man shall live by faith.* Then he gave 15 verses of objectively verifiable evidence for the *righteous man* to believe.

2 Peter 1:16-18 Peter told us that his faith is not without objective verifiable evidence when he said, *we did not follow cleverly devised tales... we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.* His faith was based in the fact that *we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven.*

Hebrews 2:3-4 The author of Hebrews is telling us our salvation is based upon evidence, which was *spoken through the Lord, and then was confirmed to us by those who heard with the rational publicly verifiable evidence of signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

1 John 1:1 The Apostle John said their faith was in *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life.*