

What About ... Having Faith... After We Are In Heaven

By Dave DeWitt

Every so often I hear something like, “When we get to heaven, we will not need faith.” The idea is that faith is for what we do not know, and when we get to heaven, we will know we are there, so we won’t need faith anymore.

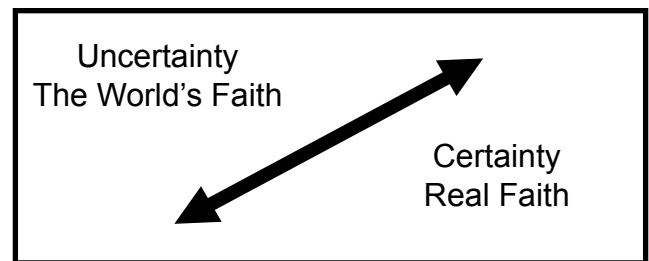
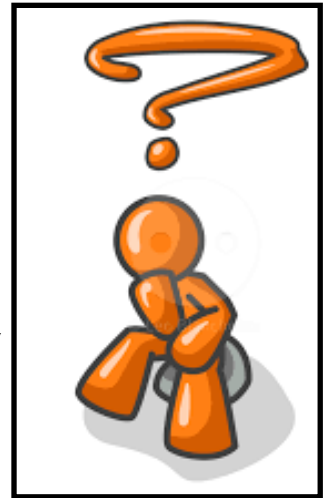
1 Corinthians 13:12, *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*

Paul is not saying, when we get to heaven, we will be omniscient and know everything, but he is saying that our knowledge will be more clear and more complete. The question is, “When we get to heaven, does our faith therefore increase or decrease?”

The idea that we need faith now but not in heaven means faith is what we have (or need) in areas of uncertainty. This idea says the more certainty we have, the less faith we need to have, and the more uncertainty we have, the more faith we need to have. This is the idea of faith held by all the world’s religions, and it is absolute nonsense. In reality, and in the Bible, faith is just the opposite. Faith is always connected to the known, not the unknown. It is connected to what we understand to be true, not what we don’t understand to be true. It is connected to certainty, not uncertainty.

Let’s say you go on a journey where you are not completely certain you will arrive safely. And let’s say the closer you get to your destination, the more certain (and the less uncertainty) you have. When you arrive, you have complete certainty that you arrived safely. The question is, “Which condition describes faith? The certainty or the uncertainty?”

The world’s answer is that faith is in the realm of uncertainty. But that’s impossible. You cannot possibly believe in what you are uncertain of. For example, I have no certainty at all that Santa Claus will come down my chimney on Christmas eve, therefore, I cannot possibly believe it. I have complete certainty that I live in Michigan, so I cannot help but believe it. Your hope may go beyond your certainty, but your faith never does. To the extent that you are certain of something, you already believe it.



The idea that we will not need faith in heaven says certainty eliminates faith. In the Bible, and in all reality, it is just the opposite. In the area of uncertainty, faith is impossible. In the area of certainty, faith is inevitable.

To those who say, “When we get to heaven, we won’t need faith,” I would ask:

- When you get to heaven, will you believe you are there?

Answer: Yes

- When you get to heaven, will you have certainty you are there?

Answer: Yes.

Certainty comes from what we understand to be true, and what we understand to be true inevitably, immediately, automatically creates faith.

So, of course we will need faith after we get to heaven. If we had no faith when we are in heaven, it would mean we do not understand that anything there is true. Which is just the opposite of what the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians.