

## **Blind faith vs. a logical rational faith**

I want to see if I can differentiate two types of faith. Most people seem to believe that everything needs to be based on faith. Even some Christians feel this way (for a response to this, see my other paper on “Superstitious Christians”). But then these Christians cannot explain why their faith, which contradicts someone else’s faith, should be any more valid than a fairy tale. They claim that faith is all you need (unlike John Lennon who thought ‘Love was all you needed’), and they believe that their blind faith is somehow a validation of the reality of their belief system.

I want to contrast two kinds of faith here. There is “Blind Faith and there is what I call “Logical Rational Faith.” Here are some examples of what I see as Blind Faith and Logical Rational Faith.

### **Blind Faith:**

Hey folks, you’ve known me for about 5 years now, and know that I’ve always wanted to fly a plane. I found a book on planes and I’ve just finished reading it. ... Hey, here’s a plane, look they left the keys in it. Want to come fly with me?

### **Logical Rational Faith:**

Hey folks, you’ve known me for about 5 years now, and know that I’ve always wanted to fly a plane. So I enrolled in flying classes. I’ve gotten certified and I have over 1000 hours of flying in a Cessna. I’ve been flying for about 4 years. Here’s my certificate. I usually rent a Cessna from our club. Want to come fly with me?

What’s the difference? Note in both cases, you’ve never seen me fly before. And note that in both cases you need to have faith in my flying abilities. But what fool would go flying with me in the first case?

Now let’s talk about Religious types of faith.

### **Blind Faith:**

I am Mohammed/Buddha/Krishna/Joseph Smith etc. I am the Prophet of God/I Know the Only way to happiness/I am God himself/I have achieved Nirvana. Live your life the way I tell you to and you will go to heaven. I will not show you any physical or historical evidence. You have to take my sayings on pure blind faith. Will you join my religion or live your life according to my philosophy?

### **Logical Rational Faith:**

I am Jesus. I am God. I will prove to you that I am God by dying and raising myself from the dead. I will prove this fact to my followers first hand. They will go to their terrible gruesome deaths claiming they physically saw me die and then saw me rise again and then they physically touched me and lived with me for 40 days. All of them could have avoided their painful deaths had they admitted they were lying, but none of them did.

And I will allow you who come later to prove my Resurrection and claims, historically and archeologically. I died to pay for your sins and to allow you to live forever in my presence. When you accept me, I will send the Holy Spirit to comfort and keep you. Will you study and then accept my claims based on the evidence I provide you?

You notice that none of the other leaders/prophets or whoever ever produced any sort of confirmable evidence to give you a basis for trusting that they were telling you the truth. They all push you to focus on your feelings or on their unsupported claims of authority. This is similar to how con men operate. How do you discern the truth from lies? Certainly not by your feelings. After all, how many times did you feel that you should marry a certain person or had a crush on someone? Maybe the feeling was valid to you at the time, but did reality match your feeling? If that wasn't real, why should any other feeling be indicative of reality unless you test it? Do you really want to chance your eternal state on feelings that come and go?

A good word to substitute for Faith is Trust. You don't trust anyone blindly. You trust only those who have proven themselves trustworthy. And that's what faith is. **Trust based on Truth.**

Now are you ready to evaluate whether your religious beliefs are based on Blind Faith or on a Solid Rational Faith?

Neil Mammen  
San Jose, CA  
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