



Unapologetic Belief

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus
Christ

By Bro. Jordan Champine

Timber!!!!

If a tree falls and no one's around to hear it, does it still make a sound? We've all heard sayings like this before; philosophical mind benders that make us question what is "truth". These kinds of questions reveal mankind's quest for knowledge. But as students in high school and college on our way to becoming self-sufficient adults, the definition of "truth" may not be as clear as it used to be.

Once upon a time, people believed that the earth was flat. Not anymore! Even as kids, we believed all sorts of things that seem silly now. What a relief to know that there are no monsters lurking under the bed! As we learn and our minds grow, a lot of our old beliefs fall just like trees in the forest. However, as followers of Jesus Christ, there are certain beliefs that we must protect along this walk of life. If we're not careful, our convictions could fall and if we aren't listening, then we won't hear the sound of the *crash*.

Turf War

We live in a day where everything is called into question. Yes, it *is* good to test what we believe against outside evidence. That's how we grow and gain knowledge. However, when it comes to spiritual topics, many people want to use worldly standards to measure truth. For instance, many Christians try to prove

God using science or philosophy. However, while these arguments have their proper places, they are poor substitutes for simple faith taught by Jesus Christ Himself.

Perhaps that makes you a little uncomfortable.

The truth is that our natural brains have no ability to understand the things of God. The scriptures say this over and over again. Here are just a few examples:



“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
(1 Corinthians 2:14)

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9)

“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?” (Romans 9:20)

“Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works.” (Jacob 4:10)

We have to be careful today that we don't let the world

replace God when we decide what to believe. That is His turf. The world does not determine the standards for God's truth. They have no say in what is or what is not credible. God is trustworthy and he invites us to ask Him whenever we have questions. *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* (James 1:5)

No Crutches

Belief has a bad reputation. A lot of people see belief in God as a crutch for weak or lazy people. However, everybody puts faith in something—even atheists. Sadly, many choose to put their faith in the hands of men instead of the hands of God. However, belief in God is not lazy or ignorant. Rather, belief in God is a powerful place of courage and action where we learn first-hand that Jesus is alive.

God does want us to think, pray and seek spiritual knowledge. But faith must come first. Jesus' parables caused people to think, but understanding only came through belief in Jesus Christ. When Peter finally understood who Jesus was, Jesus declared, *“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:17)

As we walk, learn and achieve things in this life, I pray that the knowledge and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ becomes your firm foundation. Don't be ashamed of your belief. Believe and let the world see the light of Christ in you. *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”* (Acts 4:13)

A lot of times we look at belief as something purely emotional: purely from the heart. So if our belief comes from the heart, are we still called to use our brain?

In **Proverbs 18:15**, the Scripture says, *“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”*

In this verse we see that the “prudent” (or sensible) heart gets knowledge and that those who have wisdom seek knowledge. Therefore, if we want to give sound spiritual advice to those who need it, we need knowledge, which uses our brain.

It's important to remember that God has given us His living, breathing Word (the Bible and the Book of Mormon) as the basis of our spiritual knowledge so that we can not only give an emotional reason for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15), but also an educated reason.