

Faith – Part 1 - What is faith? **Biblically** speaking, **faith** is always a **response**. Faith does not initiate, but rather, faith is man's reaction to something observed through his five senses. More specifically to our purpose here, faith is man's reaction to God's initial action or words.

According to "Eerdmans Handbook to the World's Religions", Eerdmans publishing company, 1982, during the sixth century B.C., which would be the Five Hundred's B.C., there was a revolt, among many of the world's cultures, against the "organized priesthood" in those cultures. As a result of this revolt the first evidences of "Atheism", along with several other new religions, are said to be found by anthropologists. If we accept this information, and I see no reason not to, I would presume that before this time period, the world was populated by theists, of one sort or another. Before the sixth century B.C., the question was never "Do you believe in a god?" The question was "Which god do you believe in?" My point is that "Atheism" is not just a new idea in the history of human existence, it is actually just another new "religion" in which the "god" has become Man himself.

The Old Testament of the Bible, the vast majority of which was lived and written about before the sixth century B.C., presents the reality of one True God, in contrast to many false "gods", Who enters into a covenant relationship with a certain people, the Israelites or Hebrews. One will see illustrations and examples of people who demonstrated their faith; or by contrast, those who demonstrate unbelief. But understand that this "unbelief" is **not** necessarily a belief that the Hebrew God does not exist; it is a belief that the Hebrew God is not who or what they say He is. This is an important distinction to remember.

In the New Testament, the four Gospel stories and the book of Acts focus on the person a role of the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, and show us similar examples and illustrations of faith or unbelief, again relative to who and what Jesus was claiming to be. The letters and epistles which follow the book of Acts define and try to explain faith and how to apply it.

But today's secular "faith" is different in that today's atheist must insist that there is no true God at all because for the modern and fairly militant atheist there can be no such thing as God, unless it is a god of his own creation, such as science, which has been used to feed such political ideas like social engineering, governmental control, and environmental control to name a few. On close and honest examination, these ideas serve only to glorify and gratify the human himself. Just look around and you will see myriad examples of misdirected faith. Just listen to people talk and you will hear "faith" expressed in all kinds of ways; misunderstandings of faith expressed by all kinds of people, even people who should know better. This, to me, is truly "blind faith", for the way I see it, more "faith" is required to believe ideas like the theory of evolution of species than it does Intelligent Design or Creation by a Creator God.

I happen to believe that every human being, because we are created, made in the image and likeness of God, has the ability to, and the need to, express faith. It is clear to me that Mankind **must** have faith in something, even if it is only one's self. Therefore, the faith I am talking about is **not** blind faith, as many insist. From the atheist point of view, all faith relative to God is "blind" faith because the atheist cannot or will not acknowledge the **evidences** that God exists, or that people actually **experience** God.