

# The Liberating Secret Newsletter

May, 2007

Volume 29

## Ministry News

God Unlimited Enrichment Weekend May 17-20

BROADCASTING LIVE:

I hope to see you person to person at our conference, however if you can't be here, then you can see us LIVE on [www.spiritradio.net](http://www.spiritradio.net). Click on: Watch TV.

Phone in and let us know where you are seeing us from, 502-245-4581. The agenda will be posted so that you will know what time you can see and hear your favorite teacher.

The May Conference is soon going to be here. There is still time for you to plan to come, call us. There are still places in folks homes available without cost to the first one's who call us. We have a place for two couples, and one single lady. Also, there is room for several young single men.

Here is the invitation, both a personal video, as well as written info. Check it out.

<http://spiritradio.net/video/invitation2007.wmv> THE VIDEO

ALSO:

[www.theliberatingsecret.org](http://www.theliberatingsecret.org) website for the written invitation with all the info on it.

**On The Road Again:** Where to this time? How about West Pittston, Pennsylvania? Debbie and Clark Switzer have invited Scott and me to come to their area June 15- whenever. Debbie ministers in a local prison where the chaplain has gratefully accepted my book, *The Treasures of Darkness*. He has invited me to come to share with the inmates. If anyone knows any chaplain who would accept my book, I will send any reasonable number of books, to you free, so that you can send them to the prisons in your area. Let me know. 502-245-4581

Debbie and Clark are going to have a meeting in their home on Saturday, and on Sunday I am scheduled to speak at their church. We are also, going to Ken and Caitlin Neil's house in New Jersey— We still can come to you, so if anyone else in that area, or in that general direction, wants to host a meeting, please let us know early enough so that we can schedule you in.

To all you Kierkegaard buffs  
Check out this excellent article by Nick Cabiness

<http://theliberatingsecret.org/Authors/Kierkgaard/Nicks%20Kierkgaard.pdf>

## Being Barry Burton

"Do not say, 'Who shall go up...'; in other words, all of this quest for finding the "answer(s)" in books, in activities, in concepts, in blessings, is all trying to get what is only missing by virtue of believing that it is missing.

Why then do we not experience life in the fulfilled way that we desire? We are owned by the rational basis of existence (judging by appearances) that we have lived in and under all of our lives.

This is what takes place : I want to experience joy, fulfillment, love, so I try to give myself the framework of consciousness that will facilitate that realm of experience through remembering certain concepts or performing certain behaviors. I think, "I want to be loving and to radiate out kindness and joy." Then I immediately think, "What threatens to stop me?" Now I begin to remember the negative dynamics of the past under the idea that they are the obstacles to be overcome. I see these as the things that set up inner conflict that fixes my attention on myself precluding any possibility of spontaneous loving, and then as I contend with them, there is no joy to radiate. By "looking back" at these past negatives, I have given them life and moved into the arena where joy and loving kindness must be self-accomplished. In other words, there are these evils that I must overcome.

There is nothing to overcome. This state of existence as loving, joyful and compassionate is freely given for the taking, and the taking is only a matter of saying "Yes", of agreeing with its immediate reality. And the acceptance must remain just that simple. When I say to myself, "I'll be loving and joyful and kind", a challenge has immediately presented itself, "On what basis?" I have ignorantly attempted to comply with the demand for a basis for my "positive" orientation which I have done primarily through reciting concepts to myself. Pure faith simply says, "It is". To every challenge the response is the same, "It is" and "I am".

# Quotes

Burt Rosenberg' squotes:

"One half-hour before the flight,  
still a fool was Orville Wright."

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"He brings us to what it is by the default of what it ain' t."

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"In God, the unknown is friendly."

~~~~~

"Outspiration is inspiration on a mission."

~~~~~

Thank you, blessed instrument of God.

Love,  
Burt Rosenberg

~~~~~

"When we began to see " God Only" in all our life' s circumstances, good as well as evil, it unifies our divided consciousness and brings great peace in us. Our one thought now when all hell breaks out, which it often does, is to say, " Well God, what are you up to?" Seeing God on the front end of all our troubles is freeing; it ends up being an adventure that transforms the adversity into great joy. That does not mean that our soul doesn' t agonize, for it does, but through our soulish pain, we I see a God who can do nothing but good to every aspect in our life, in our family' s lives, and in our ministries. Now, most often, His good comes in devilish, distorted clothing, and if we stumble at the outer appearances, we will miss His blessings, or maybe just prolong things anyway. Seeing " God Only" keeps us inwardly steady no matter what is happening outwardly!"

By: Sylvia Pearce

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Interested in other quotes? Check Out:

<http://www.theliberatingsecret.com/Quotables/quotables.htm>

## Letters

Dear Brian,

Speaking of praying, God has been dealing continually with me about speaking things into being. I'm also learning I must be specific in what I ask God to do. It's the small things we have faith in that move us higher in faith, from faith to faith. About four days ago, it was extremely hot on the wing. By faith I asked God to move the maintenance people to not only turn the heat off but to turn the air on. Believe it or not, a couple hours later, about 2:00AM, they came in and turned the air on.

Tonight we were waiting on the guards to take us back. This one brother in Christ says that he finds it very hard to walk in the Spirit. In the words that I have heard you quote, I said to him, "It is easy to walk in the Spirit; it may be excruciating at times, but it is easy." He looked at me like I was crazy.

Brian, I have such a deep desire to share Christ in you, but I know everybody is not ready to receive it and be disconnected from the world. Since I've been here, I've had the opportunity to disciple two guys. God spoke to me before I arrived here and said He would bring me who will accept what I have to give them, God's word. It's unbelievable how much the ones God has sent to me have truly taken to Galatians 2:20, and the mystery of the Gospel amongst the Gentiles, which is Christ in you.

Lorenzo

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Occasionally, I get a piece of work written by an unknown author-- I recently got this piece from Australia. I thought it was worth posting on our web-site. It is called Victorious Life, and it was first published in 1966. Here is the info on it:

From an un-copyrighted paperback book, published by Zondervan, noting "First paperback printing 1966 Fourteenth printing August 1976 completing over 100,000 copies Printed in the United States of America".

This public domain first-release CDLF Etext ("EE-text", i.e., electronic text) edition of \_The Kneeling Christian\_ was edited and initially distributed in 1997 by Clyde C. PRICE, Jr. "mail: 3145 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 125-169, Atlanta, GA 30305 USA Founder and President: The Christian Digital Library Foundation, Inc.

Here is the link for all who might want to read it.

<http://theliberatingsecret.org/Authors/Additional%20Authors/Misc/Victorious%20Life.pdf>

## Poem of the Month

Stand Quietly

Bad company corrupts good morals;  
there is an appointed time to flee.  
Equally, no coward' s prize brings self respect;  
when it' s time to fight, don' t do it listlessly.

Often, though, comes the moment where flight' s a sin,  
or to engage brings a Spirit stop.  
Waiting kills the flesh; enduring seems madness—  
are we to be like fools, just die and drop?

What will the world say? We wouldn' t run or fight,  
but just stayed in place quietly like blinded deer?  
It can look that way, like you' re stupid— a fool—  
a person who can' t act, who' s nailed in place by fear.

But appearances deceive those haughty, yet untaught  
by the Spirit, the true revealer inside;  
take a deep breath, rest in pure serenity,  
no one' s ever risen up who' s not first died.

Brian Coatney/4-20-07

<http://theliberatingsecret.org/Poets%20Corner/Coatney/17%20Poems%20by%20BC.pdf>

Check out this link, it has 17 new poems inspired by the Holy Spirit and overflowing with Brian' s own creative style.

## Prayer Request

Stand with us in faith for the outpouring of the Spirit of Wisdom,

the Spirit of Understanding, and the Spirit of Revelation to drench our May Meeting like never before.

Also, stand with us in prayer and faith for the silent prayers requested we receive from on line.

## Words of Faith

Let us all stand in FAITH agreement for a Spiritual "TITAL WAVE," that will first rock the Christian community, and then wash out to the whole world.

"Whatsoever you desire."

Mark 11:22-24

Need produces desire; desire produces faith; faith quenches the pain of desire, and leaps and "laughs at the impossible and shouts, IT SHALL BE DONE." Sylvia Pearce... actually a little of Sylvia and a lot of CT Studd

## This Months Article

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I wrote this in response to someone who wrote to me on my site - he asked something like "Are we under the Old Testament laws, or just under the New Testament commands?" Ron Block

## The Ancient Lie

Ron Block

Paul makes it clear in many places in the scripture that we are no longer under the Law. What does he mean by this?

The essence of the Fall was a fall into separation. In Genesis 3, the lie of the Serpent

was this: "You can be like God. You can choose between good and evil. You don't need dependence on God. You can do it on your own, be wise, be good, be fulfilled. God is holding out on you. He knows if you eat this fruit, you're going to be wise like He is." Isaiah 14 gives the background for Satan's lie; he believes it himself:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

What is the key phrase in Isaiah 14?

"I WILL." It is the essence of Satan's being. He has chosen to become a self-willing, self-acting being, to separate himself from God, to work his own will. In a word, independence.

Unfortunately that was like sawing off the branch he was sitting on. Since, according to Jesus, there is only one source of goodness in the universe, only one source of righteousness, beauty, truth, hope, holiness, faith, and love, Satan cut himself off from all this. "Why do you call Me good? There is none good but God." "I can do nothing of Myself." "It is the Father in Me that doeth the works." One God. One Source of goodness. And the devil cut himself off from God's goodness through pride and self-will.

So what's left of the once beautiful Lucifer?

All his faculties of will and intellect, all his talents and abilities still exist, but without any goodness, beauty, or truth. Like Sam Gamgee said to Frodo of Gollum, "There's naught left in him but lies and deceit." This independent consciousness is what Lucifer brought to the human race. Self-will. Self-determination. Self-effort. Self-ishness. And all its attendant fear, unbelief, and bondage.

The Serpent brought Eve a promise of wisdom, a gilded lie of self-actualization. Self-effort as the road to being good like God. The choice was simple - God said, "Eat that and you'll die." The Serpent said, "You won't surely die. You'll be made wise. God knows this."

Eve knew God's promise; she saw the Serpent's promise, and inside her mind and heart the first sin happened. She deliberately disbelieved God and put her faith in a lie, trusting an appearance of wisdom which directly contradicted God's stated Word. Her outer disobedience, the act of taking the fruit, followed as a natural outcome of her choice to disbelieve. Adam followed suit, and the human race fell into this bondage to the Lie.

The world runs on this falsehood. Perform and be accepted. Exert effort to make

something of yourself. Be someone. Strive for self-actualization. Achieve the mastery and be accepted. Identity comes through performance, through achievement, through talent, through the esteem and approval of others, through competition with other selves, through everything outer.

What was God's response to this fallen condition of humanity? Immediately, He promised a Redeemer, the Seed of the woman. That was the long-term plan. But in the interim, humanity needed a good lesson. So God gave the Law, a system of rules by which, if followed, a human being could be acceptable to God. God promised life and blessing to those who kept the Law. He promised curses to those who didn't. But here's the human dilemma: the Law is not graded on a curve- it's all or nothing. The standard is 100 percent perfect Law-keeping with the attendant blessing - or 100 percent curse. James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." It's an all-or-nothing proposition. The Law is like a drinking glass; chip it and you've ruined the whole glass. Paul says in Gal 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Paul was showing the futility of the way of Law. As Jesus put it, "Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect." And "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Pharisees (the most Law-keeping people of their time), you shall in no way enter the Kingdom of God."

He took the Law and made it even harder, showed that it was a heart issue and not merely outer behavior:

"You've heard it said, 'Do not murder.' But I say to you that if you hate your brother in your heart, you've already murdered in your heart."

"You've heard it said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I say to you that if you look on a woman to lust after her you've already committed adultery in your heart." That's the way of Law. Do it all, perfectly, without failure. Or be cursed.

In our fallen madness, in the Old Testament when we were given the Law, we said "We will be careful to do ALL You have commanded." As if in self-will and self-effort we can keep God's holy standard. Judges, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, the Prophets, all these show our complete inability to live according to God's standard by our human effort.

If we can't keep it, why did God give us the Law? Two verses come to mind: Rom 5:20, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound..." 1Cor 15:56, "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law." The Law was not given in order to curb our propensity to sin. It was given to incite it. Because that's all Law can do Outer rules cause inner rebellion. Paul states this clearly in Romans 7. The Law was given "that sin by the

commandment might become exceeding sinful." We needed to be shown our fallen state - that we were now living in Ephesians 2:2, in league with "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience." (Literally, "the unconvinced," *apeithia*, those who have not accepted Jesus Christ).

That spirit - the spirit of the world, Satan - is self-seeking, not other-centered like God. God is a 'for others' person- the only person in the universe who is Love. He is Righteousness. He's the Source of everything Good. And He created us as living temples, to be indwelt by Himself, that we would live in cooperative union with His Spirit, being fueled by His love, operating as His agents in the world, one with His mind and thought, walking in His ways by His Spirit.

When by grace in our fallen condition we finally see our need of a Savior, our failure to keep God's Law, our selfishness and need of lifechange, we come to Christ, accept Him, ask Him to live inside us, to save us, to make us clean. We're thrilled. We're joyful, cleansed, happy - for a time. But, mark this: we still have that same age-old mindset of self-effort, the virus of performance-based acceptance stuck in our psyches, planted there by years of contact with the world. It doesn't automatically disappear when we become Christians; we operate in that mindset so spontaneously that we don't even realize we have it. So we think as Christians we are to strive in self-effort to live according to God's Law with God's help. Now that we are forgiven, we get "a second chance to try to be good." And with forgiveness, we just keep trying and failing, trying and failing, caught up in this endless and eventually sickening cycle of try-sin-repent-try-sin-repent-try-sin-repent. I saw this fleshly attitude summed up on a church billboard that said, "A saint is a sinner who keeps on trying."

But that's the Law for you. It cannot save. It cannot lift us up to be good as God is. It only prompts rebellion, even in the Christian.

Why?

Because our response to the Law, as Christians, is based on unbelief. It goes something like this:

"God has saved me from hell. Now I am to show my gratefulness by striving to become like Jesus." So we set out on this endless hamster wheel, running, spinning, running, spinning. And in all the running, all the striving to become good, all we get is sin. The running and striving are prompted by the originating sin of unbelief. Through that unbelief, all other sin enters in. As Christians, we act out the devil's life through the same choice Eve and Adam made. Become good by effort - and then he gets to pull our puppet strings. We hook into his false kingdom by disbelieving God and His solid, eternal, real Word.

Here's the irony, as Christians: "In Christ you have everything you need for life and godliness." "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..." "Don't you know your body is the

temple of the Lord?" "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." "He that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit." "Vessels of mercy." "Slaves of righteousness." "Holy." "Righteous in Christ." We are kings, priests, accepted in the Beloved, bought with a price, the Father and Son have come by the Spirit to make their home in us. We are the Body of Christ, connected with the Head. We have the mind of Christ. Biblical statements. Facts. Eternal. Solid. Utterly Real. We are spiritual billionaires. But we don't spend any of the currency, we don't write any checks on the Account. We're meant to live in total sufficiency, security, worth, and meaning, spending our inexhaustible Account of Love, Joy, Peace, Gentleness, Goodness, Humility, and Faith on edifying our fellow saints and drawing in the lost.

Standing against those invisible spiritual billions we see the world's mentality, the promise of spiritual riches through effort. Become someone. Make something of yourself. Strive to be good. It's no surprise that every world religion except Christianity is a self-effort, striving religion. The devil has worked hard to give Christianity a makeover into the same old monotonous song and dance.

So there's the choice. Trust God or trust the devil. God sets us on top of the mountain and says, "Now believe it. Rely on Me in you." The devil says, "No, you're at the bottom of the mountain and must climb it by your intelligence, your will, your effort, and you'll win acclaim, approval, esteem, worth, security."

We're cups, temples, not God. We're slaves, not the Master. We're wives, not the Husband; we are dependent on our Husband to beget spiritual children through us, to make us fruitful for God's Kingdom. We're branches, not the Vine. And when we fully recognize our dependent state, then we will see that we are one Spirit with Him - one Spirit, not "me and Jesus" but Jesus living through me, as me. Or...not. We can live according to self-rule. But really that's just giving ourselves over to Satan, like Eve, to be a puppet of all his self-garbage. We're going to manifest the life of God...or not; it's all based on who we choose to believe.

That's the choice we all make, every day. And our actions, like Eve's, follow as a matter of course; the actions, when they happen, are already predetermined by our inner choice of faith in God and His Word, or faith in illusions and lies.

Since we are no longer under the Law, no longer under effort, do I mean that we can now go out and sin that grace may abound, now that we are no longer under the Law but under grace? Not at all. But if we are in Christ, the curse of the Law has been flipped into blessing. The Law now tells us who we really are in Christ. In Him I shall not have any other gods before me. I shall not worship idols. I won't steal, murder, or commit adultery, or covet, hate, or lust in my heart. If I abide in Christ - by that I mean rely on Him in me, trust Him, trust that He is in fact living in me, through me, as He promised, then my actions will conform to God's holiness, God's love. I don't have to be afraid of sin, afraid of idols, afraid of anything. All I need to do is trust Him inside me, to put the pressure on Christ living in me to be the indwelling, Living Law that flows out of my

inmost being like a river of living water.

What then, when I fall short, when I sin?

Simple. I repent. I recognize that I sinned because I failed to trust God in that particular instance. I headed in the wrong direction, believing somehow that I can be independent of God, that I can cope with this problem, this situation, by my own fleshly outlook. In repentance I can look at the Law, and instead of seeing it as something I must strive again to attain to, I see it as telling me who I really am. I see it calling me back to faith in God to live through me as the One who is love, is righteousness, is goodness itself. "Oh! There's the Sermon on the Mount! I forgot who I was, temporarily, and here's the truth of who I am, right here!" I can Read the Sermon on the Mount as a manifesto of my identity in Christ, rather than a bunch more impossible stuff that I have to strive to do for Jesus. Because He has put Himself inside me and one'd Himself with me, by grace, I can access His limitless riches by simply turning to Him inside me with the trust of a child.

That's a lot better than selfeffort, fear, the endless striving to attain and become. As Christians we've traded the devil's way of identity-through-doing for God's way of identity which is rooted identity-through-being, in "BecauseGod-Says-It'sFact." He said I'm a cup designed to be filled with the Wine of Spirit. I accept and recognize that as solid fact, no matter what anyone else says. God says I'm one Spirit with Him. Well, I don't always feel like I am. But He says it's Fact. So I accept and recognize it, no matter what the world, flesh, or devil say. I can speak back to the devil and say, "If you want, go argue with God about it. But I'm not budging off God's word." That's really what God wants- a people who trust Him in willing dependence. And by that trust He acts as the Ground and Center of our being.

## More from Ron Block

April 10, 2007

Imperfection: The Human Dilemma (Part 1)

Category: [Religion and Philosophy](#)

Every one of us has been created with a desire for security, purpose, worth, meaning. That's what the entire world is looking for. We hope to find it by our performance, by being good, by being responsible - or through hedonism, or materialism, or many other Isms. We even try to find it in having a religion, by doing good works, etc. But what we're looking for can't be found in the things of this world.

The Bible proclaims the standard of righteousness which is required in order to have communion with God; Jesus boiled down all the commandments to these two

1. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

In the Old Testament, God is proclaimed as holy, without sin, pure, so good that sin is repugnant to him and cannot be in his presence. God promises eternal life to anyone who could keep his laws (the Ten Commandments and all the other laws as well). He also promised to curse anyone who didn't keep them. Deuteronomy 11:27, 28, "A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

The Apostle Paul, before becoming a Christian, was one of the most Law-keeping Jews around. He was of the sect of the Pharisees, the top dog religionists of the time, and he was one of the top Pharisees. As far as he could tell he kept every bit of the Law. Paul said, "According to the standard of the Law, I was blameless." But Jesus said of such folk, "They are like whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones. They clean the outside of the cup, but the inside is unclean." Then he said, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Pharisees, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." Jesus took the Law and made it even harder. He said, "If you hate someone in your heart, you're as guilty as a murderer. If you lust after a woman in your heart, you've already committed adultery." He took the Law from being merely about behavior and showed that it's really about heart. If we've ever followed those inner inclinations, even on the thought level, we've blown the whole deal; we've failed to make the grade. The Apostle Paul put it this way: "As many as are under the Law are under the Curse." And "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." "The wages of sin is death." In other words, when we check ourselves against this righteous standard, every one of us knows we're sunk.

We have to be perfectly righteous in order to qualify by our works: The book of James says, "If you stumble on one point of the Law, you're guilty of all of it." And Jesus said, "Be ye perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect." Unfortunately, humanity is infected with a disease called sin. That's why the best-laid plans for society are always laid waste. Human history is largely the history of failure through self-centeredness. That's why idealists who believe in the essential goodness of the human heart eventually

become cynics (Joni Mitchell and George Carlin are two...George Carlin once said, "A cynic is just a disappointed idealist"). Every dream comes crashing down because right at the crux, selfishness kicks in.

That's the dilemma. We must either perfectly love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourself - or be cursed. God doesn't grade on a curve, by our good works outweighing the bad. It's all or nothing. The penalty for failure is death, eternally separated from the God who is the source of all good. Gal 3:10 says, "...those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all these commands that are written in God's Book of the Law.'"

To be continued....

April 11, 2007

Jesus Christ: The Human Dilemma (Part 2)

Category: [Religion and Philosophy](#)

Many churches teach a modified form of Old Testament Law based in the whole "Do this and don't do that" dilemma of perfection in part 1. They take "Trying to be good" and then add "Jesus forgives us when we fail" to it. Don't drink, don't cuss, don't smoke, do good works, etc.

But the Gospel (meaning "good news") is that Jesus Christ came to free us from that whole cycle of striving; he said, "Come all of you who are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He came to offer us himself - to save us from our sins, to put his Spirit in us, and to "cause us to walk in his ways," to give us a totally new indwelling power source, himself, in an inner relationship closer than anything we've ever experienced. All we do is hand over whatever we've done and whoever we are, and God hands over himself. The problem of human imperfection is solved by acknowledging our imperfection and sin to God, and trusting in Jesus Christ to change what needs changing.

Our human dilemma is really an inability or unwillingness to let go and trust God. The whole thing started in Genesis as a choice between "What God says" and "What I think, feel, hear, experience." We choose independence from God, which allows us to continue doing as we please but has a fallout of insecurity, fear, and dependence on everything but God: alcohol, relationships, job, possessions - anything that will make us feel secure, loved, accepted (or numb our insecure, unloved, unaccepted feelings about ourselves). For, of course, to reject God is to reject his offer of total love and acceptance, choosing the opposite. Or if we choose to trust God, we enter into relationship with him through Jesus Christ. And even then, still, trusting fully is something we must learn; it doesn't come automatically, because we're programmed to trust only what we see, feel, think, hear, etc - the sensory input.

To fully let go and embrace faith isn't to abandon reason. Norman Grubb says, "Reason gets us to the nearest thing to a certainty - and then we leap." An old pastor of mine used to say, "You don't have to park your brain at the door to be a Christian."

Everyone has faith. We use it in the natural sense all the time. I have faith in my car, that it won't break down; I trust that my kids will be safe at school; I rely on this office chair to hold me; I trust my wife. In each case, reason brings me to the nearest thing to certainty - but then I have to leap. In fact, faith, this natural faith, is so common that those who refuse to operate in it are considered mentally ill - claustrophobia and agoraphobia are two examples. We can't operate successfully in this world without faith

in this natural sense. Now, we don't know for certain that the car will get us home; we don't know that the chair won't break in pieces. But in order to move forward in life, we must trust, otherwise we waste all our time worrying, in fear, in unbelief, and the time in which we could accomplish anything productive is eaten up by the anxiety. If we have anxiety, we must choose faith, or be enslaved to the anxiety and potentially live our lives according to the lies of "The chair won't hold me, so I can't sit....my car will break down, so I can't drive...my kids will get hurt, so I'll keep them completely sheltered from reality." In each case, life is wasted by the false beliefs.

Biblical faith is similar. In it we choose to trust God, based on his Word - or not. We can base our lives on reality - or not. And the Bible proclaims that reality is centered in Jesus Christ, that he is "the way, the truth, and the life" and that "no man comes to the Father but by Me." He made radical claims about himself, said that he came down from heaven, that he was God's Son, that he came to give his life as a ransom for mankind, and that if a man puts trust in Him, he'll have everlasting life. CS Lewis states something to the effect that Jesus made such radical claims about himself that it is impossible to call him good, wise, and not God. If he wasn't God in the flesh, he was either a lying fake or a nutcase.

So the real question to answer is "Who is Jesus Christ? Was he a fake? Was he crazy? Is he the Son of God, God himself who entered into a human body?" Those are the only three options. If he was a liar, or nuts, we can totally dismiss Christianity lock, stock, and barrel. If he was who he claimed to be, then there are only two options open to us - accept him, or reject him.

Christ, Our Life Ministries  
PO Box 43268  
Louisville, Ky. 40253  
(502) 245-4581  
(502) 417-2110

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[www.colmlouisville.org](http://www.colmlouisville.org)

[sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org](mailto:sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org)