

“Feelings, nothing more than feelings,” sang Morris Albert in his 1974 hit song titled “Feelings.” While these lyrics may have served Albert well in recording a hit song they also unfortunately describe the attitude held by many Christians today concerning their faith. When discussing the concept of faith today in the postmodern Christian era in which we live there seems to be a wholesale aversion to speak of logic and reason. Instead, many Christians today believe that their feelings and intuition serve as the ultimate litmus test for truth and spirituality. Indeed, when Christians today are asked why they believe certain things the answer that is often given is, “I just take it on faith,” or that, “it just feels right.”

Many Christians believe that a person’s faith cannot be judged by brute natural faculties such as reason or logic, but that it operates on a much higher spiritual plane than that. Those who would dare to talk about logic and reason when discussing matters of faith are considered to be unspiritual or immature Christians at best. Faith and spirituality then, in this regard, requires a sort of “crucifixion of the intellect,” where one must leave his mind in the church foyer and leap across the dark abyss of reason. Emil Brunner, a neo-orthodox theologian, has even gone so far as to say that, “The hallmark of logical inconsistency clings to all genuine pronouncements of faith.”

FAITH & REASON

—TODD GROSSMAN—

Dr. John Gerstner in his work titled *The Rational Biblical Theology of Jonathan Edwards*, argues that this concept of faith has nothing to do with orthodox Christianity. Gerstner goes on to say that for the orthodox, “contradiction is fatal to truth and meaning” (p.98). Echoing Dr. Gerstner sentiments on this matter, Dr. R.C. Sproul in an article written for the August 1st 2008 edition of *Tabletalk* magazine points out that this modern day attitude concerning faith and reason is very much akin to the ancient heresy known as Gnosticism, where “true knowledge was found not through reason or sense perception, but through a highly developed mystical intuition.”

With these different views of faith the question that needs to be asked is, “What is faith?” The biblical answer to this question according to the author of Hebrews is that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (11:1). The first thing we notice using the Bible’s definition is that faith has substance and is therefore more than an intuition or feeling. Secondly, we are told that faith involves evidence and so rather than leaping into the dark without any evidence it is instead as John Calvin maintains, acquiescing or surrendering to

the evidence. In like manner Augustine says, “Reason does not produce faith, except as God leads the heart to accept it.”

To be sure, faith is not the same as rationality for faith includes trust, but we are trusting in light of the evidence not without it. God has created us as rational beings and has so constituted us that we cannot truly love or embrace that which is utterly unintelligible to our minds. God himself bids us to reason with Him (Is 1:18), and our Lord reminds us that the greatest commandment includes loving God with all our minds (Matt 22:36-37). We have been commanded to give an apologia or a defense for our faith (1 Pet 3:15), but our apologetic must go beyond a perceived burning in our bosom and we should be able to give a reasoned and rational defense for our faith and the hope that we have within us.

If we allow the intrusion of irrationality and mysticism espoused by the neo-Gnostics into Christianity the end result will be the death of apologetics, the unintelligibility of God’s natural and special revelation and a mindless Christianity characterized by a shallow love for God.



FEATURED PHOTOgraph

ARTIST: HANNAH ORTMAN



LOVE'S FIRST DATE

NEAL AND KATHY LOVE

Neal and Kathy were just two people who went to Puget Sound College of The Bible who hung around with the same group of friends. The annual Zelotai (girl-ask-boy) banquet was coming up. Kathy had missed going the first two years of college, and wanted to go this time. They discussed going together if their "dream" dates didn't work out, and that way they would still be able to have fun. The guy Kathy asked said no, and Neal didn't get asked by the girl he had wanted.

Neal showed up when Kathy was at work, and got down on his knees and begged her to go to the Zelotai banquet with him. It was embarrassing for Kathy but also very funny. She said "yes" in front of everyone. Neal borrowed his friend's TR7 sports car and they went to the banquet and had a great time. Their relationship after the banquet was pretty much the same for a few months but they started dating near the end of the school year, which was their last year at PSCB. They were married in Redmond the next year on September 8, 1979.

Three-Bean Salad

JAN KROEKER

SALAD INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can red kidney beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 can garbanzo beans
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 stalk celery, thinly sliced
- 5 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 C. of chopped parsley
- 1 can diced green chilies

Combine ingredients in a bowl.

DRESSING INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 C. salad oil
- 1/4 C. red wine vinegar
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/4 tsp. cumin
- Dash of pepper

Mix ingredients, and pour over the salad mixture.

FAVORITE recipes

God's Undercover Agent

By, Brother Andrew

RECOMMENDED READING

BENJAMIN KROEKER

As a kid, Andy Van Der Bijl was nothing but mischievous. Every Sunday Andy's family went to church. Once the congregation started singing Andy would slowly move back on the benches until he was at the very back of the church. He would quietly slip out of the church, never noticed as far as he knew.

Soon, World War II started. Andy hated the German soldiers; they took everything away from his already poor family. Andy lived with his family until he was about 18. His father wanted him to do something with his life; he would be kicking him out of the house by the end of fall. Within a few weeks Andy signed up for the army. He would be joining the following spring, his father was satisfied. That spring he left for the Dutch East Indies. There he became wild. He wasn't able to control himself; he and his buddies came up with a slogan, "Get smart, Loose your mind."

Once when Andy was fighting he seriously hurt his ankle, and could no longer fight. While in recovery, his nurse, who was a Catholic, spent a long time trying to minister to him. She would tell him stories from the bible and explain what they meant. Toward the end she came up to him more seriously, she asked Andy, "What are you holding on to? What is it that will cost you your soul?"

In January 1950, circumstances led Andy to pray, "Lord, if you show me the way, I will follow you. Amen." Andy first felt God calling him to bring bibles behind the Iron curtain. That was when he decided to go to a country called Yugoslavia. Andy started preaching at churches. Everyone at the churches were so glad to see that people outside of the Iron curtain cared. He also noticed that almost no one had bibles. Brother Andrew was heart broken when he told people at one church that they needed to have bible studies and they had no bibles! He decided his call was to deliver bibles behind the Iron curtain. For six years, by himself Andy faithfully brought bibles to these hungry people everywhere behind the Iron curtain. During this time Andy refused to let others help him. After awhile, he knew he could no longer do it by himself. So slowly Andy started to allow people to help him until he had a small organization. He named it Open Doors International.

Today, Brother Andrew's organization is still striving to do God's purpose. Brother Andrew made a huge impact and brought many to Christ.