

Faith: What is it ?

What does it mean to have faith? +



Opening Prayer

+ Lord, I believe in You:

- + Because You are **Love**, You hold us in existence.
- + Because You are **Truth**, the laws of the universe are ordered.
- + Because You are **Beauty**, the beauty of the world speaks of You.
- + Because You alone are **Good**, goodness in us and the world comes from You.
- + Because You are our ultimate **home**, we long for that place of peace, safety, and love.
- + Because You **fulfill our hearts**, 'our hearts are restless until they rest in You.'
- + Because I am a mystery to myself, **Your Love enlightens me.**
- + Because of the witness of the **Saints**.
- + Because of the witness of the **Gospels**.
- + Because of the witness of **Science**.
- + Because **faith is a gift**, I pray with the father of the mute boy in the Gospels: "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!"
- + **Amen.**

Faith Defined: trust, belief or confidence in someone or something.

Common faith is used all the time by everyone.

- + **We trust** in hundreds of things: the ceiling won't fall on us, cars and planes are built so as not to crash, our food is safe, we won't be cheated or lied to.
- + **We trust** that our family and friends love us and want what's best for us.
- + **We trust** our world is lovely, consistent, designed for us.
- + **We trust** and long for home: that place of comfort, safety, peace, love.
- + We all unconsciously operate in this faith framework.



Evidence for Faith: The 5 Transcendentals, present in the human heart without our having put them there.

- + The examples of common faith illustrate what are called the 5 Transcendentals: **truth, love, goodness, beauty and home.**
- + St. Thomas Aquinas recognized our desire for the **perfection** of these Transcendentals as a reflection of God who is: **Truth, Love, Goodness, Beauty and Home.**
- + The origin of our desire for the Transcendentals is that we are **created by God and in His image.**
- + Take a minute and ask yourself: "Don't I assume these will be in my life: truth, love, goodness, beauty and home?"



Why do I need faith? Who am I?

- + I am a human being, a **unity of body and soul**. Spirit and matter in me **form a single nature**. (CCC 365)
- + I am created in the **image of God**. (CCC 362, Gen 1:26)
- + Because I am made in His image, I can know, love, and choose God, Who has called me to **share in His Divine life**. (CCC 356)
- + (Why did God make me? God made me to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next.) *Baltimore Catechism*
- + Through **Jesus**, I am a **child of God**. (John 1:12)
- + I am **more valuable** than the entire universe because, unlike the universe, I was made to **exist forever**. St. Thomas Aquinas

The Human Heart: Key to Faith.

- + The desire for God is **written in the human heart**, (that deep part of ourselves in which the unity of body and spirit resides) because man is created by and for God, and **God never ceases to draw man to Himself**. (CCC 27)
- + Only in God will man find the **truth and happiness** he never stops searching for. (CCC 27)
- + The human person: With his longings for the **infinite** and for **happiness**. . . Signs of his **spiritual soul**. . . can have his origin only in God. (CCC 33)
- + **“You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”** St Augustine

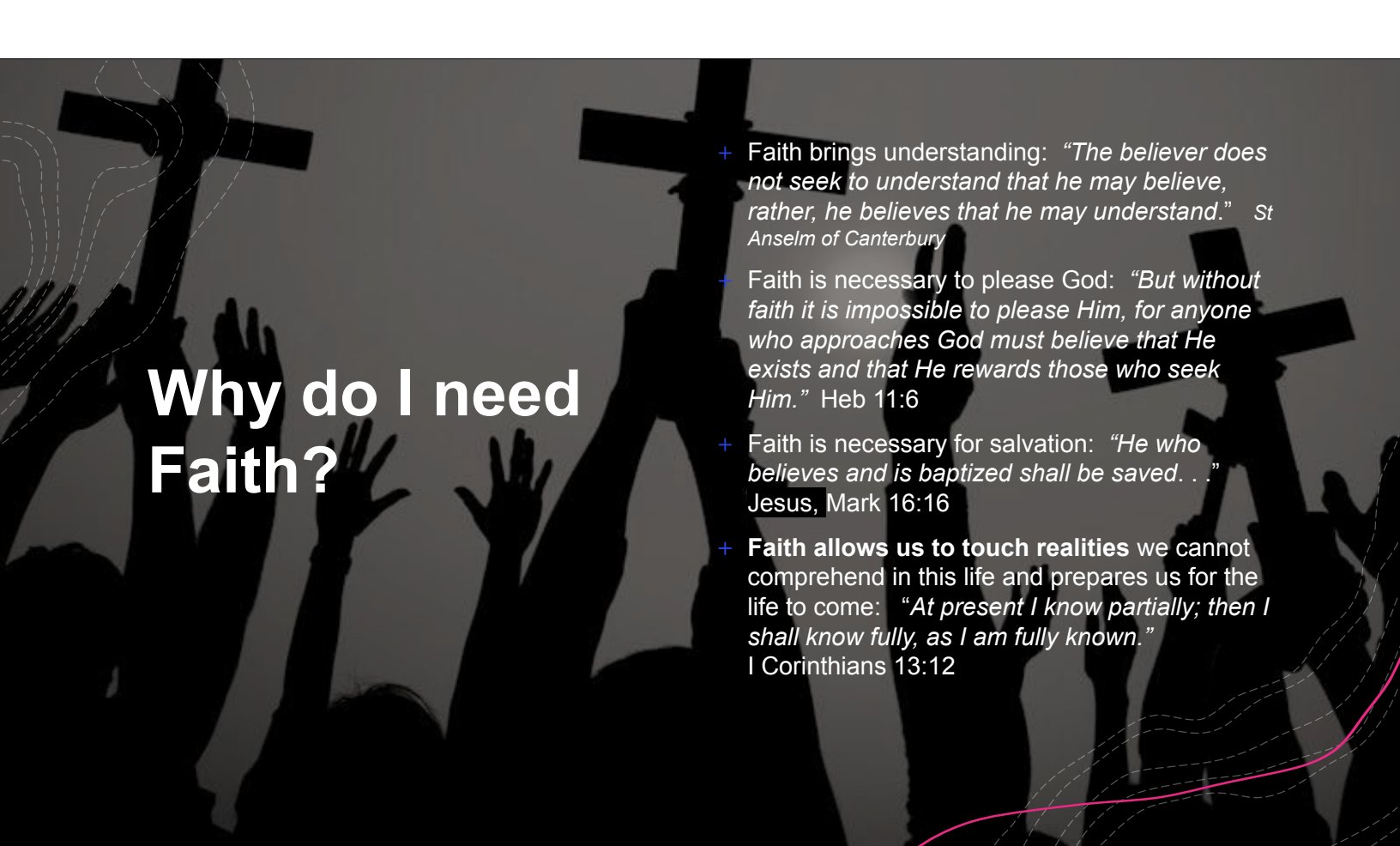
Faith in God



- + We may believe in God but **faith is more than only belief in God**: *“You believe in God, you do well, even the demons believe and tremble.”* James 2:19
- + While not yet knowing God, we **long for God** because **only in God** will we find **the truth and happiness** we never stop searching for.”(CCC 27)
- + In our hearts, we find **evidence** of God by the hope for perfect **truth, love, beauty, home goodness, also by our consciences.**
- + We look at the universe and see God’s **greatness, beauty, consistency, power, and transcendence.**
- + In our present condition and in this life, God and the realm of **God is a reality which is far beyond our ability to understand or comprehend** but is **more real** than we are. **Faith is the link to this realm of God.**
- + Religious Faith is all of these, but most importantly we must: **trust in the Greatness of God’s Goodness, Mercy and Love.**

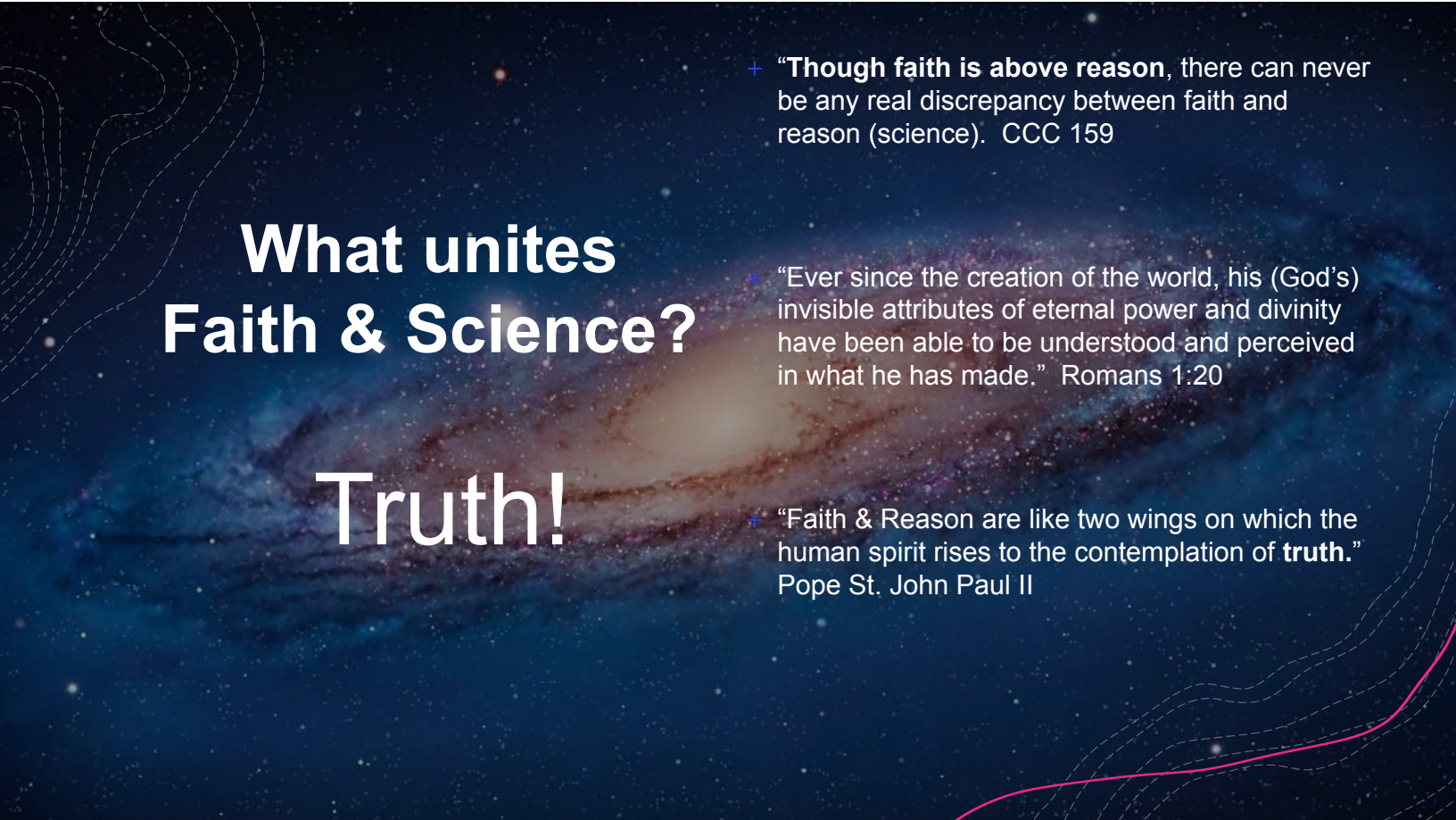
Where does faith come from?

- + “The desire for God is **written in the human heart**, because **man is created by God and for God.**” CCC 27
- + Faith is a **gift from God**. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8.
- + Faith is for God and a gift from God.
- + **Ask God for that gift!**



Why do I need Faith?

- + Faith brings understanding: *“The believer does not seek to understand that he may believe, rather, he believes that he may understand.”* St Anselm of Canterbury
- + Faith is necessary to please God: *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”* Heb 11:6
- + Faith is necessary for salvation: *“He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. . .”* Jesus, Mark 16:16
- + **Faith allows us to touch realities** we cannot comprehend in this life and prepares us for the life to come: *“At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.”* I Corinthians 13:12



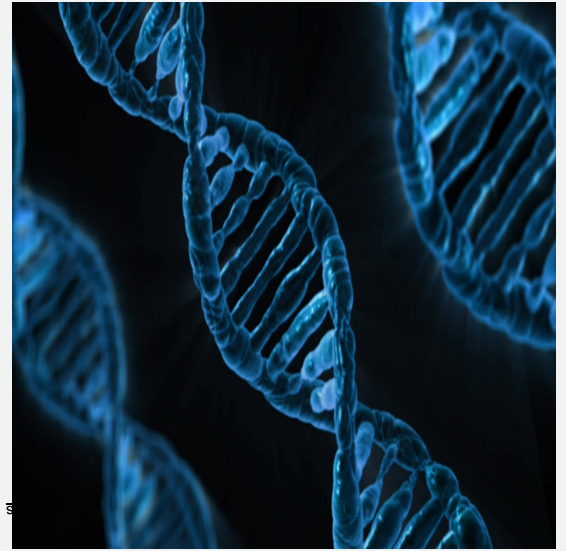
What unites Faith & Science?

Truth!

- + **“Though faith is above reason,** there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason (science). CCC 159
- + *“Ever since the creation of the world, his (God’s) invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made.”* Romans 1:20
- + *“Faith & Reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of **truth.**”* Pope St. John Paul II

Faith and Science

- Science begins with **faith** that the universe is **consistent, understandable and reasonable**, or no science would be attempted or possible.
- The created world has been made so trustworthy that we can discover, describe and predict how our world works through hypothesis, experiment, and mathematics. This is called: **Science**.
- + "Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe." - Galileo Galilei.
- + DNA is the language with which God has described living organisms.



Why Faith and Science Connect

- + Because God creates through wisdom, his creation is **ordered**:
"You have arranged all things by measure and number and weight." The universe, created in and by the **eternal Word (Jesus)**, is destined for and addressed to man, himself created in the **image of God** and called to a personal relationship with God. Our human understanding, which shares in **the light of the divine intellect**, can understand what God tells us **by means of his creation**, though not without great effort. Creation shares in **God's Goodness** and God willed creation as a **gift addressed to man**. (CCC 299)

“You (God) have arranged all things by measure and number and weight.” *Wisdom 11:20*

The Periodic Table of the Elements

Legend:

- alkali metals (orange)
- alkaline metals (yellow)
- other metals (light green)
- transition metals (green)
- lanthanoids (light blue)
- actinoids (dark blue)
- metalloids (light purple)
- nonmetals (purple)
- halogens (dark purple)
- noble gases (grey)
- unknown elements (black)
- radioactive elements have masses in parenthesis

Notes:

- as of yet, elements 113-118 have no official name designated by the IUPAC.
- 1 kJ/mol = 96.485 eV.
- all elements are implied to have an oxidation state of zero.

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Faith & Science

+ Faith answers the questions which science cannot:

“Why is there something rather than nothing?”

**** Because God created the universe out of nothing.**

“Why is that something consistent, reasonable and understandable?”

**** Because God is Good and creates through wisdom.**

“Why is that something intelligible to us humans?”

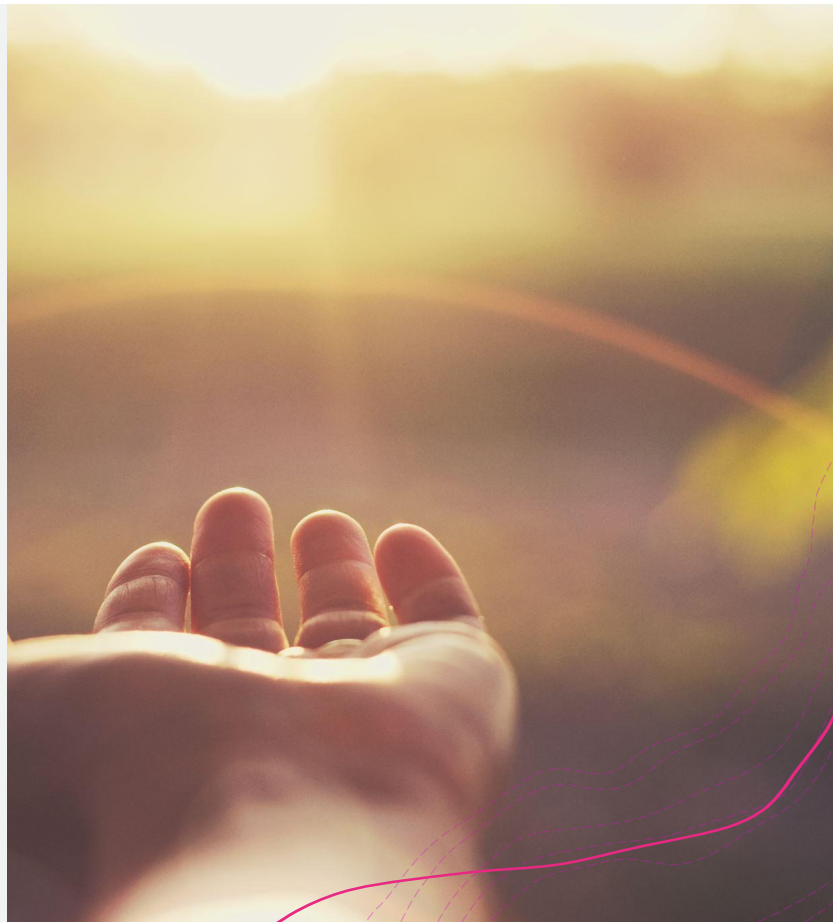
**** Because we are created in God's image and share in the light of His Divine Intellect.**



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Faith gives meaning to our lives.

- + We all want **love, truth, beauty, goodness and home.**
- + We long for God who **is** all those things because we are **created by God and for God out of love.**
- + From the **depths of our hearts** to the **majesty of the universe**, we find **God reaching out to us.**
- + We **need faith** to approach God who is **so far beyond us.**
- + **Faith in God** makes sense of our world and gives it **meaning.**



How much does God want us to have faith?

- + **God sent Jesus, His only son, to become one of us and to die for us.**

“He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible – all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” Colossians 1:15-20

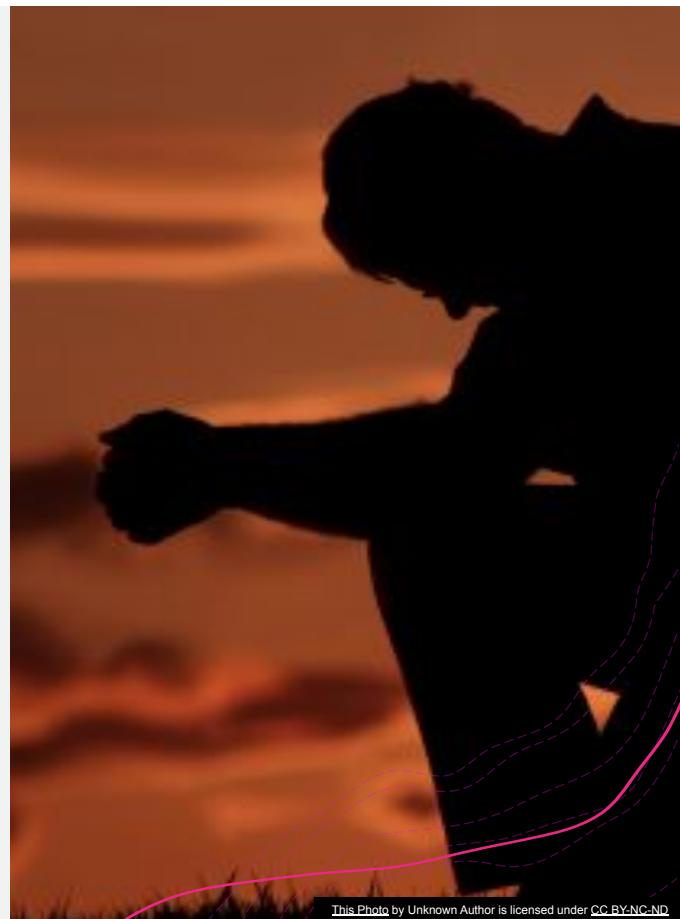
Faith supports us in all life's challenges

- + Faith is a gift from God:
Ask for that gift!!!!
- + Faith is more than belief in God:
Trust in God's goodness, mercy and love.
- + When life is difficult, your faith will bring you through anything!!!
- + **Pray!**
- +



Remember:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that



QUESTIONS

+ (Circle/fill-in answer)

+ 1. Faith is _____ and trust in God. Belief Doubt Freedom

+ 2. I am a _____ of body and soul. Division Union Animal

+ 3. Faith and science are united by _____. Lies Laws Truth

+ 4. Faith gives _____ to life. Meaning Harmony Courage

Closing Prayer

+ Lord God,

+ You know all about me. Help me to learn about You. Give me the gift of faith, so that I can walk with You day by day. Amen.

+ Our Father, who art in Heaven,

+ Hallowed be thy name.

+ Thy kingdom come.

+ They will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

+ Give us this day our daily bread

+ And forgive us our trespasses and we forgive those who trespass against us.

+ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

+ Amen.