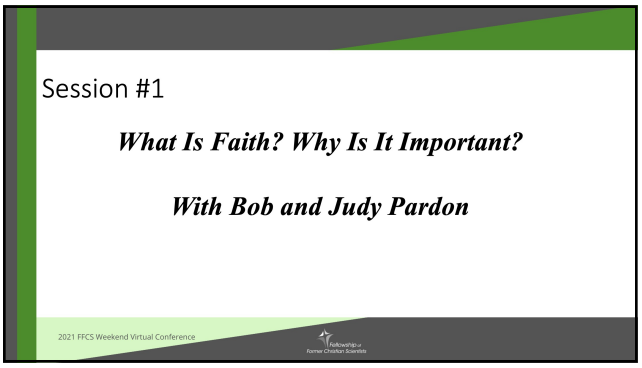
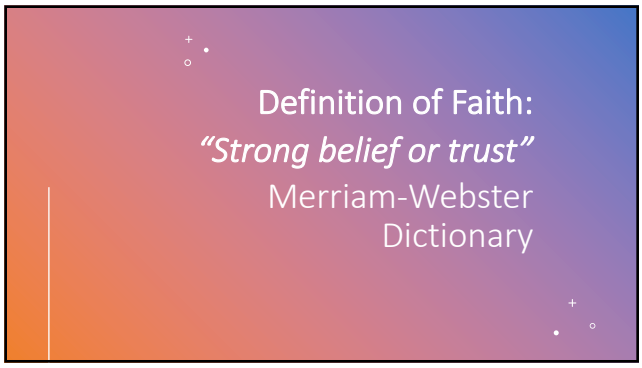



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*"Faith, derived from Latin fides and Old French feid, is confidence or trust in a person, thing, or concept. In the context of religion, one can define faith as 'belief in a god or in the doctrines or teachings of religion'. Religious people often think of faith as confidence based on a perceived degree of warrant, while others who are more skeptical of religion tend to think of faith as simply belief without evidence."* Wikipedia

4

- **Belief in Biblical Christianity (or religion) is often seen as:**
  - Blind
  - Anti-Rational, Anti-Intellectual
  - Un-Scientific

***The implication is that faith is a blind hope that something is real. It is the opposite of a fact based, repeatable experimentation.***

5

**Science:** *"Systems of knowledge of the physical or material world based on facts obtained through observation and experimentation."* J. P. Moreland

**Scientism:** *"The view that the hard sciences alone have the intellectual authority to give us knowledge of reality."* J. P. Moreland

6

# WORLDVIEWS

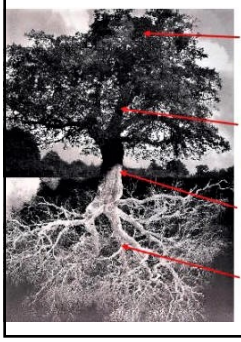
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**Definition of Worldview:**

***"What is a worldview? As the word itself suggests, a worldview is an overall view of the world. It's not a physical view of the world, but rather a philosophical view, an all-encompassing perspective on everything that exists and matters to us."*** Ligonier

8

## *A WORLDVIEW*



| | |
|---|---|
| Behavior: personal and corporate (Fruit) | How we act on a daily basis. Popular culture. The content of public education, rulings of justice system, media priorities. |
| Guiding Principles & Attitudes (Branches) | General conclusions about the value of people, our responsibilty towards them, the weak and needy, creation itself etc. |
| Basic beliefs of which we are self-aware (Trunk) | Conscious broad beliefs about the how we fit into life, how we deal with evil etc. Often vague, not commonly articulated. |
| Worldview: assumptions about reality (Roots) | Our often unconscious assumptions about the origin and destiny of life, the nature of God and God's purposes if known. |

9

***"It is important to realize that all humans, indeed it is the essence of being human, operate with some 'faith system'; either explicit or implicit, known or unknown, thought through or not thought through."***

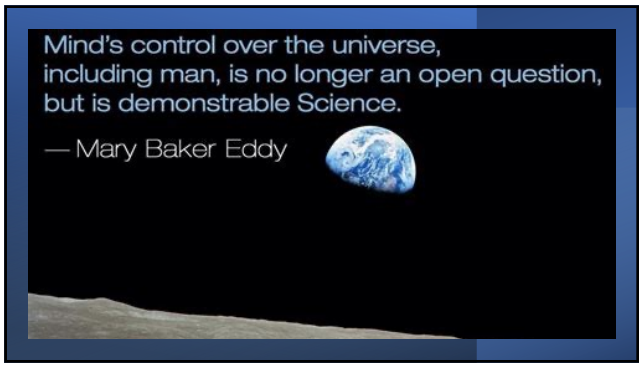
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***"The foundations of a worldview profoundly affect our personal lives as well as every institution of society - political parties, social policies, educational philosophies, views of philanthropy - nothing remains untouched. For this reason, and others, it is important to choose wisely."*** Murray Moerman

11

***"The most important question about reality then is – 'What <u>is</u> it?' - rather then the narrower 'What does it <u>look like</u> to you from your current angle of limited human experience?'"*** Murray Moerman

12




13

*"The very religion that was supposed to be helping me, was, in fact, making my life a daily mental hell. And all the programming that went with having studied the religion all those years, you know, my mental anguish was simply 'Mortal Mind running away with itself', or, the condescending attitude of other Christian Scientists… 'you're only going through a phase', etc. But where do you turn when the religion you grew up in is a daily nightmare?"*

**EX-CS site**

14

## Aspects of the Christian Science' Worldview

- Entire material world is unreal, illusory
- Matter has no real existence even in the mind; it is an illusion held by an illusion: Mortal Mind
- The senses are deceitful and false and the "only sources of evil and error"
- Sin and evil are no-thing, unreal and delusion
- Suffering, disease and death are illusory and only appear to exist due to lack of faith
- True faith eliminates pain, suffering and death

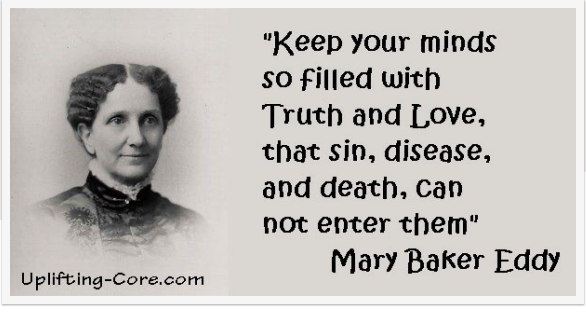
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16

## Authentic Faith/Trust

17




18

## *"I believe; I believe. It's silly, but I believe."*

Young child proclaims belief in Santa Claus, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947).

This is but one example of how faith is often portrayed in our culture as a blind leap into oblivion; deciding to believe for no reason at all.

19

Trust or faith in any person, belief or thing actually consists of three components that are important to identify. Three Latin words have been used to identify these three components:

- *Notitia*, or "knowledge"
- *Assensus*, or "assent"
- *Fiducia*, or "trust"

20

**Knowledge** *(Nottia):* This is the person, belief, or object that is actually believed in based on the study of information such as historical documentation, eye-witness accounts and/or experimentation.

Knowledge is made up of:
- Factual evidence
- Circumstantial evidence
- Multiple eye-witnesses

21

**Assent** *(Assensus)*: It is not enough to just know something (person, belief, thing), so assent is the conviction that the knowledge is true.

**Trust** *(Fiducia)*: Trust takes the knowledge assented to and incorporates it into a complete reliance or dependence. This is a worldview.

22

## *Faith And Probability – Which Is It?*

***Most people have not had a rocking chair collapse on them…***

**Facts** – looks real and solid
**Circumstantial** – built by reputable company, many sales over years
**Witnesses** – no one has reported a collapse



23

## *Faith And Probability – Which Is It?*

***However, if 50% of the time this type of rocking chair collapsed underneath you and you were injured…***

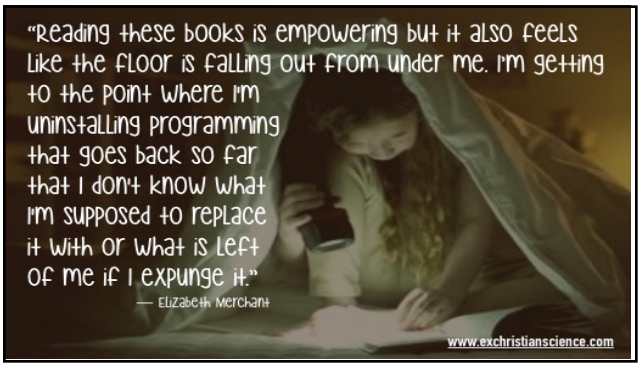
**Facts** – Looks real and solid (observation) is now questionable
**Circumstantial Evidence** – Good manufacturer is now questionable
**Witnesses** – other's reports are unreliable



24

## Authentic Recovery From the Christian Science Faith System Must Be Intentional and Comprehensive

25




26

### Where the Struggles Lie:

1. <u>Difficult to trust self</u>… *Results in feelings of guilt and shame; needing to forgive self and others*

2. <u>Difficult to trust any authority</u>… *Results in feelings of condemnation (God); Bible only condemning, Churches/Christian groups places of abuse*

3. <u>Difficult to trust others</u>… *Results in suspicion, paranoia, anger, isolation and withdrawal*

27




28




29

***"By analogy, it was as if I'd been told all my life that I lived inside a shell, and that the "stars" were just dots painted on the inside of the shell — and then, one day, I discovered that there never was any shell, and the stars were actually gigantic distant balls of plasma, and I COULD SEE THEM JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.***

***It blew my mind. It continues to blow my mind every day. All I have to do is stop and think to myself "I have direct access to reality!" and instantly I'm filled with joy. It's like remembering that I have a superpower."*** **EX-CS site**

30

**There Are Two Critical Principles:**

***1. There is nothing wrong with you; something was done to you.***

***2. You cannot change what you don't understand.***

31

***You were raised in a Bible-based group. Cannot just walk away and not deal with the spiritual dimension***

- Christian Science and Bible used to enslave you to a system and dead founder, Mary Baker Eddy
- Must dismantle CS belief system and hold onto what is good and remove what is bad
- Most difficult and painful part of the recovery journey

32

- ***Christian Science is a worldview that was the foundation that made sense out of life for you in your formative years. You must/will replace that foundation with something chosen, thought through, and reliable or will by default have something unstable and weak against the storms of life.***
- ***Don't see this as a deficit, but an opportunity!!***

33

***As an adult, you have a unique opportunity that most adults who leave cults (or many others in our culture) never embrace, the opportunity to intentionally and rigorously embrace a worldview (a faith system) that can make sense out of your past, give you understanding and peace in the present, and provide solid hope for the rest of your life here and the hereafter.***

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