

On What Do You Base Your Faith?

We see people who fall away from
the faith all the time!

Some will tell you those people just
never did really believe, but the Bible
says they did!

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, (6) and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

To be enlightened – Webster: to give knowledge or understanding to (someone) : to explain something to (someone).

Eph 4:20-21 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— (21) assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

Those who have been “enlightened” know about Jesus!

The “Age of Enlightenment,” sometimes called the “Age of Reason,” beginning in the 1700’s centered on reason as the primary source of authority and legitimacy. and came to advance ideals such as liberty, progress, tolerance, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state.

Consider what brought this about – initially in Scotland and England.

It was a knowledge of God's word – hidden for centuries by the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches.

They had the manuscripts in their monasteries, but would not let the people read them.

Tyndale, 1536 –
"Lord, open the
King of
England's eyes,"
woodcut from an
early edition of
*Foxe's Book of
Martyrs*.



How is it that these
Christians would give their
lives rather than forsake
their faith in Jesus in the
face of death?

These ideas, “liberty, progress, tolerance, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state,” were found only in the Protestant Reformation, but the Protestants often failed to follow the Scriptures.

These attitudes are all based on Christianity, but not all Protestants allow themselves to be “enlightened” by God.

“Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson visited Europe from America during this period and contributed actively to the scientific and political debate, and later incorporated the ideals of the Enlightenment into the United States Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.”

Where did they get these “enlightened” ideas?

They were surrounded by them in this new country to which the Protestants had fled in order to be able to practice these ideas.

The author of the Wikipedia article on enlightenment got his facts backward, with the ideals taking root in the US due to the immigration of the Protestants from Europe to the US and their ideas on “liberty, progress, tolerance, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state,” moving back to Europe.

The monarchies of England, France and Germany persisted long after the US and its Biblical idealism had pointed the way to a democratic, constitutional government.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Mat 20:25-26 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (26) It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,



“James Bainham, preacher in the Bow Lane Church of Christ, executed by burning for preaching believers’ baptism and the Lord’s Supper as a memorial” in 1532 -From *Foxes Book of Martyrs*

William Frederick
Yeames, Wyclif
Giving "The Poor
Priests" His
Translation of the
Bible



John Wycliffe, translated the Bible into English in 1382, was said to have “reassumed the cursed opinions of Berengarius,” concerning baptism of believers in 1381. His followers attacked “the veneration of Saints, the Sacraments, Requiem Masses, Transubstantiation, monasticism, and the very existence of the Papacy.”

Wycliffe's followers attacked “ (1) the veneration of Saints, (2) the Sacraments, (3) Requiem Masses, (4) Transubstantiation, (5) monasticism, and the very (6)existence of the Papacy.”

Why?

Mat 20:25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (26) It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, Contradicts 1, 2, 5, and 6

Wycliffe's followers attacked “(2) the Sacraments,
(3) Requiem Masses, (4) Transubstantiation,

According to Canon 1, the Sacraments (things of
primary importance are 7 and anyone who says
differently is “anathema.”

Since we are all equal and all believers are priests, 2
is false.

Rev 1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God
and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever
and ever. Amen.

Wycliffe's followers attacked (3) Requiem Masses,
(4) Transubstantiation,

A celebration of the Lord's Supper for the dead
contradicts the timing and the purpose.

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and
drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes.

1Co 11:20 When you come together, it is not the
Lord's supper that you eat.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week,

Wycliffe's followers attacked (4)
Transubstantiation,

Paul contradicts the bread literally becoming His
body and the cup literally becoming His blood by
referring to them as the bread and cup

1Co 11:24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Paul contradicts the bread literally becoming His body and the cup literally becoming His blood by referring to them as the bread and cup after telling what they represent.

“In France, the central doctrines of the Lumières were individual liberty and religious tolerance in opposition to an absolute monarchy and the fixed dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church.”



But the church didn't lose its power or riches in France as the Cathedral of Notre Dame shows.

Where does the enlightenment of the believer come from?

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

2 Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the
confession of our hope without
wavering, for He who promised is
faithful; 24 and let us consider
how to stimulate one another to
love and good deeds,

How often do you speak of the
deep things of God around your
children?

How often do you play “roast
preacher, song leader or Bible
class teacher”?

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the
calling with which you have been called, 2
with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, showing forbearance to one another
in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity
of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also
am of Christ.

Is it any wonder that a Faith that
will survive death needs a close
association with those of “like
precious faith?”

Do we truly believe that the church was
worth the price paid for it?

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves
and for all the flock, among which the
Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to
shepherd the church of God which He
purchased with His own blood.

Do we put the discipline of our children, the association of brethren, the value of the church, into practice in our lives as of the very highest priority?

Or is the church merely an afterthought, to be attended occasionally when it is convenient?

Let us all ask ourselves what takes priority over our Bible study, especially individually but also collectively.

Ps 119:103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 From
Thy precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate
every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet ,
And a light to my path.

106 I have sworn, and I will confirm it,
That I will keep Thy righteous ordinances.

Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Has your faith wavered? Stop to think about what would restore it.

When we have been enlightened, how do we
“share in the Holy Spirit?”

We receive the Holy Spirit when we are
baptized.

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and
be baptized every one of you in the name of
Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.