

# Faith, Hope & Love





## [Vimeo: That's My King!](#)

### 1 Corinthians 13v8-18

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect.<sup>10</sup>But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end.<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. <sup>12</sup>It is the same with us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me. <sup>13</sup>**So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.**

# What is Faith?

- Belief – Accepting because of reason, proof or experience
- Faith – ‘The next step’, putting belief into **action**, does not rest alone on reason, proof or experience
- Dictionary definition – ‘firm belief, especially without logical proof’



## [YouTube: Atom to Universe Zoom](#)

### Exodus 33v18-23

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory.'

<sup>19</sup>And the LORD said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup>But,' he said, 'you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.'

<sup>21</sup>Then the LORD said, 'There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.<sup>22</sup>When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.'

# Who is GOD?

- God IS – He created time, the Universe, everything
- Life is very grey, hard to see truth
- Why does Jesus speak in parables?
- Freedom of our Will

## Exodus 34v29-35

<sup>29</sup>When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. <sup>32</sup>Afterwards all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

<sup>33</sup>When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup>But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,<sup>35</sup>they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

## Psalm 33

- <sup>1</sup> Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song;  
play skilfully, and shout for joy.
- <sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- <sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.
- <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the people of the world revere him.
- <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- <sup>11</sup> But the plans of the LORD stand firm for ever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.
- <sup>13</sup> From heaven the LORD looks down  
and sees all mankind;
- <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling-place he watches  
all who live on earth –
- <sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all,  
who considers everything they do.
- <sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
- <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death  
and keep them alive in famine.
- <sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the LORD;  
he is our help and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.
- <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
even as we put our hope in you.

## Matthew 13v10-17

<sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?'

<sup>11</sup>He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables:

'Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

<sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

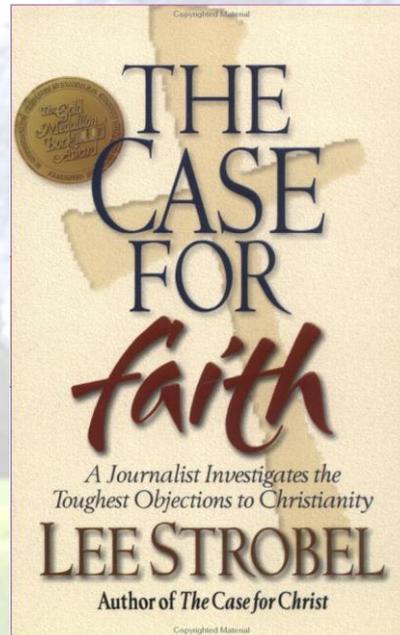
<sup>15</sup>For this people's heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.”

<sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.<sup>17</sup>For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.



[YouTube: Ravi Zacharias - Freewill and Love](#)



The Case for Faith – p10

# Because he loves us!

- Faith vs Reason – CS. Lewis vs Billy Gr.
- Can have unlimited faith in God not because of feelings, reason or experience but because of **who HE** is.
- Living by faith – story of two friends
- In love God has granted us Freedom of our Will

## Ephesians 3v14-21

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family <sup>in</sup> in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

# The Choice

by Max Lucado

He placed one scoop of clay upon another until a form lay lifeless on the ground. All of the Garden's inhabitants paused to witness the event. Hawks hovered. Giraffes stretched. Trees bowed. Butterflies paused on petals and watched.

"You will love me, nature," God said. "I made you that way. You will obey me, universe. For you are destined to do so. You will reflect my glory, skies, for that is how you were created. But this one will be like me. This one will be able to choose." All was silent as the Creator reached into Himself and removed something yet unseen. A seed. "It's called 'choice'. The seed of choice."

Creation stood in silence and gazed upon the lifeless form. An angel spoke, "But what if he...."

"What if he chooses not to love?" the Creator finished. "Come, I will show you."

Unbound by today, God and the angel walked into the realm of tomorrow.

"There, see the fruit of the seed of choice, both the sweet and bitter."

The angel gasped at what he saw. Spontaneous love. Voluntary devotion. Chosen tenderness. Never had he seen anything like these. He felt the love of the Adams. He heard the joy of Eve and her daughters. He saw the food and marvelled at the warmth.

"Heaven has never seen such beauty, my Lord. Truly, this is your greatest creation."

"Ah, but you've only seen the sweet. Now witness the bitter."

A stench enveloped the pair. The angel turned in horror and exclaimed, "What is it?" The Creator spoke only one word: "Selfishness." The angel stood speechless as they passed through centuries of repugnance. Never had he seen such filth. Rotten hearts. Ruptured promises. Forgotten loyalties. Children of the creation wandering blindly in lonely labyrinths.

"This is the result of the choice?" the angel asked.

"Yes."

"They will forget you? They will reject you?"

"Yes."

"They will never come back?"

"Some will. Most won't."

"What will make them listen?"

The Creator walked on in time, further and further into the future, until He stood by a tree. A tree that would be fashioned into a cradle. Even then, He could smell the hay that would surround Him. With another step into the future, He paused before another tree. It stood alone, a stubborn ruler of a bald hill. The trunk was thick, the wood was strong. Stony brow of another hill. And soon He would be mounted on it. He felt the wood rub against a back he did not yet wear.

"Would you go down there?" the angel asked.

"I will."

"Is there no other way?"

"There isn't."

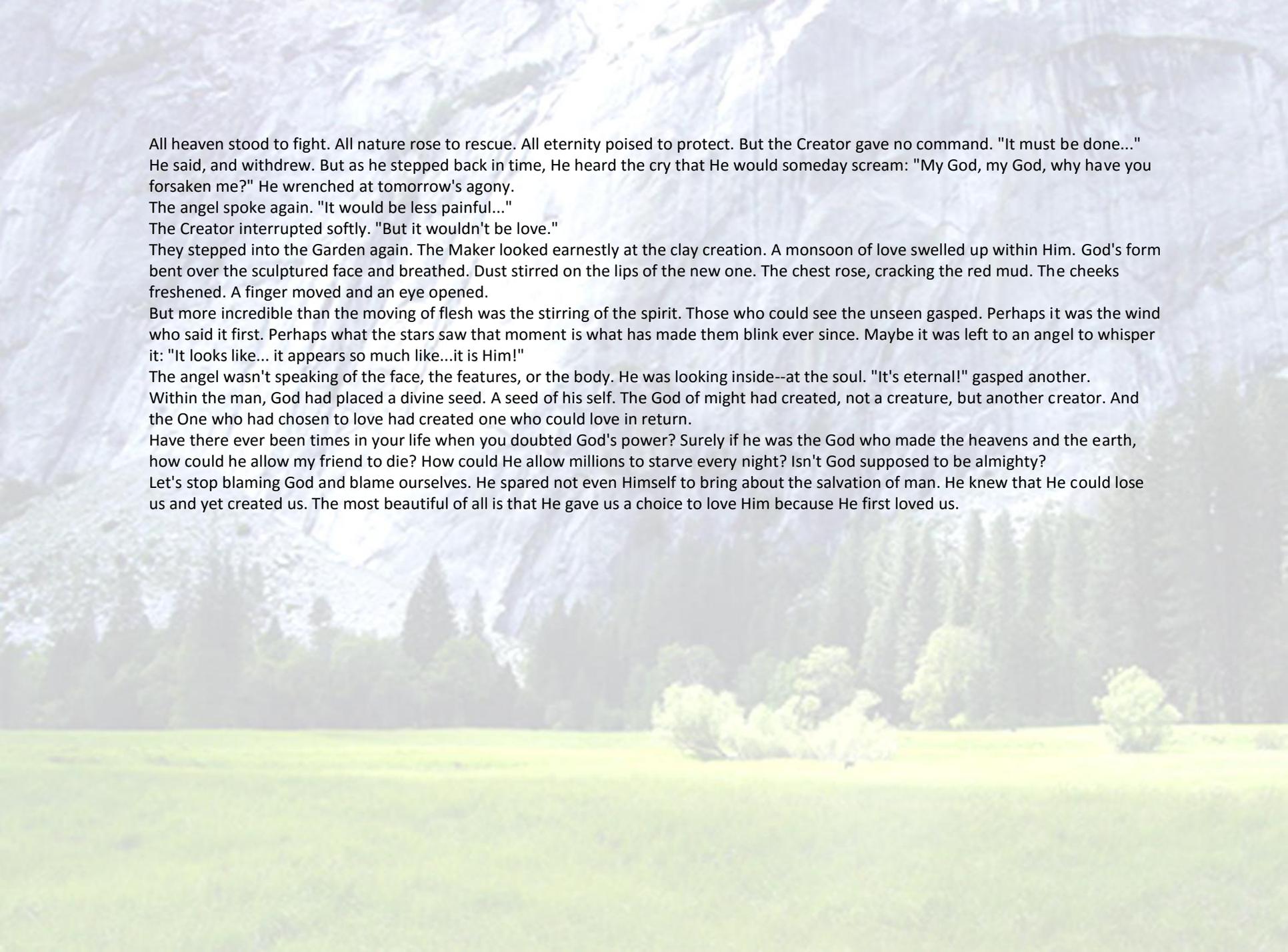
"Wouldn't it be easier to not plant the seed? Wouldn't it be easier to not give the choice?"

"It would," the Creator spoke slowly. "But to remove the choice is to remove the love."

He looked around the hill and foresaw a scene. Three figures hung on three crosses. Arms spread. Heads fallen forward. They moaned with the wind. Men clad in soldiers' garb sat on the ground near the trio. They played games in the dirt and laughed. Men clad in religion stood off to one side. They smiled. Arrogant, cocky. They had protected God, they thought, by killing this false one. Women clad in sorrow huddled at the foot of the hill...

Speechless. Faces tear-streaked. Eyes downward. One put her arm around another and tried to lead her away. She wouldn't leave.

"I will stay," she said softly. "I will stay."



All heaven stood to fight. All nature rose to rescue. All eternity poised to protect. But the Creator gave no command. "It must be done..." He said, and withdrew. But as he stepped back in time, He heard the cry that He would someday scream: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He wrenched at tomorrow's agony.

The angel spoke again. "It would be less painful..."

The Creator interrupted softly. "But it wouldn't be love."

They stepped into the Garden again. The Maker looked earnestly at the clay creation. A monsoon of love swelled up within Him. God's form bent over the sculptured face and breathed. Dust stirred on the lips of the new one. The chest rose, cracking the red mud. The cheeks freshened. A finger moved and an eye opened.

But more incredible than the moving of flesh was the stirring of the spirit. Those who could see the unseen gasped. Perhaps it was the wind who said it first. Perhaps what the stars saw that moment is what has made them blink ever since. Maybe it was left to an angel to whisper it: "It looks like... it appears so much like...it is Him!"

The angel wasn't speaking of the face, the features, or the body. He was looking inside--at the soul. "It's eternal!" gasped another.

Within the man, God had placed a divine seed. A seed of his self. The God of might had created, not a creature, but another creator. And the One who had chosen to love had created one who could love in return.

Have there ever been times in your life when you doubted God's power? Surely if he was the God who made the heavens and the earth, how could he allow my friend to die? How could He allow millions to starve every night? Isn't God supposed to be almighty?

Let's stop blaming God and blame ourselves. He spared not even Himself to bring about the salvation of man. He knew that He could lose us and yet created us. The most beautiful of all is that He gave us a choice to love Him because He first loved us.



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...because...

**HE loves us !**