

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND HEARING

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

1 HUMAN FAITH DEPENDS ON

the knowledge and experiences of others

accurate observations

truthful testimony

reliability of the witnesses

number of witnesses

(Napoleon at Waterloo)

weight of the testimony

trust in others

(existence of London and Paris)

hearing the testimony of others

FAITH IN RELIABLE TESTIMONY

RESULTS IN CONFIDENCE

2 HISTORY DEMANDS FAITH

historical facts are based on historical testimony

(Abraham Lincoln)

eyewitness accounts

accurate observations

reliable and truthful witnesses

historical probability rather than absolute certainty

(absolute certainty only in axioms of logic and mathematics)

statements may be imprecise or of high probability

(bias, conflicting testimony, sanitize or rewrite history)

all historical knowledge is a matter of belief

we possess partial and even enigmatic evidence

belief in the reliability of the evidence

belief in a reliable reconstruction of the evidence

all historical study involves imagination and faith

must take some leaps in the dark

FAITH IN HISTORICAL TESTIMONY RESULTS IN CONFIDENCE

3 BIBLICAL FAITH

faith is the reception of truth on the ground of testimony

(Emperor promotes a soldier to Captain)

testimony and hearing supply the objects of our faith

(you can't believe what you haven't heard)

our beliefs rest on divine testimony (revelation)

the testimony of God is true (1 John 5:9-12)

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)

our beliefs rest on the eyewitness testimony of Jesus

(John 3:11-13, 31-32)

our beliefs rest on human testimony (prophets, apostles)

eyewitness reports of dreams, visions, and events

(Luke 1:1-3; Acts 10:39-42; 2 Peter 1:16; 1 John 1:1-3)

interpretation and mediation of historical events

mediation of commands, promises, and doctrines (1 Thess 2:13)

inspiration guarantees the accuracy of human testimony

(1 Cor 2:10-13; 2 Tim 3:16)

certainty rests on the reliability of the testimony

inspiration guarantees the authority of the Scriptures

faith becomes knowledge

when the testimony is certain

(1 John 3:2; 5:18-20)

you can't prove the testimony is true

faith is not based on sight,

feelings, or objective evidence

(warning of the flood and command to build the ark)

faith apart from testimony is presumption

(stepping out in faith without a specific promise)

("If I have enough faith, my son will be healed!")

FAITH IN RELIABLE TESTIMONY

RESULTS IN CONFIDENCE (HEBREWS 11:1)