

# *It Is Written*

*A weekly publication of the  
Junction Highway church of Christ in Kerrville, TX.*

*Vol. 8*

*May 17, 2026*

*No. 20*

## The Nature of Faith and Evidence

By T. Doy Moyer

Contrary to what some think, faith and evidence are in harmony with each other. God does not ask us to believe Him in spite of evidence to the contrary. He wants us to consider the evidence and make a decision to put our faith in Him based upon that evidence (e.g., Matthew 11:2–6). It is our purpose in these article to overview some of the evidences God has provided about the nature of evidence and faith.

### **What Is Evidence?**

“Evidence” is proof that helps to establish something as valid. It helps us to form a proper conclusion about a matter. The type of evidences to which we appeal are not scientific. For something to properly belong to science, it should be observable, repeatable, and testable. This excludes unique, historical events. Science is limited. There are matters of science that have a bearing upon the Bible, but these cannot directly test the historical events.

The kind of evidence to which we appeal is historical. Historical evidence involves data such as eyewitnesses, written documents, and archaeological finds. Historical data leads us to conclude that certain people

existed, or certain events occurred. In this way, we know that Jesus Christ lived, died, and arose again from the dead. Faith in Jesus is based upon the historical validity of the events which are ascribed to Him. In seeking to know and understand history, we are building a foundation upon which to understand and trust God.

The testimony of eyewitnesses is significant. In a court of law, eyewitness testimony can help convict or acquit a defendant. The Bible claims to have been confirmed by eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1–4). The resurrection of Jesus was confirmed by hundreds of eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:1–8). This is of primary importance.

### **What Is Faith?**

The basic idea of faith is “trust.” When we put faith in God, then we are willing to listen and do what He says. Why would one choose to trust God? Because of a conviction that God is true. This conviction comes by examining the evidence God has left for Himself. The evidence is strong enough that it warrants a choice of faith.

Biblical faith is built upon evidence. This is shown in John 20:24–31. After Jesus was raised, He appeared to His disciples. Thomas, not present, later said that he would not believe unless he saw (v. 25). Jesus appeared to the disciples again. When Thomas saw, he responded, “My Lord and my God” (v. 28). The fact that Thomas would not believe did not change the nature of the evidence. Christ had risen whether Thomas believed it or not.

Jesus replied, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and believed” (v. 29). The resurrected Christ was evidence of the power of God. Note that in verses 30–31, the signs Jesus performed were designed to be evidence that would lead one to believe in Him. We have not seen Jesus, but the written records testify to His historical validity.

Faith is a reasonable response to the evidence. “Blind faith,” which has no supporting evidence,

is unreasonable. Faith is not “believing something you know isn’t true.” It is accepting and acting upon that which has credible evidence to support it.

We should not take an approach to God solely on the basis of our reasoning. If we rely too much on our own thinking, we may reject biblical principles and commands because they don’t “make sense” to us (see Proverbs 14:12). We have the ability to reason and think, and God expects us to use our minds. But once we are convicted that “God is” and that He rewards (Hebrews 11:6), then we have reason to trust Him, even if we don’t understand everything (see Hebrews 11:8).

The study of evidences does not create faith, but it does help remove some stumbling blocks and give us greater confidence in the things of God. Faith comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17). Let’s be convicted of this, and accept what God has done for us.

## More Than Followers: Disciple-Makers

By Max Dawson

Among the final words of Jesus to His disciples were these:

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”*

This text contains the marching orders that Jesus gave His disciples as He was about to leave them. The disciples obeyed Jesus and were eminently successful in impacting the world for Him.

According to the book of Acts, these men carried the gospel to “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

What caused these twelve men to be so successful? It was the fact that Jesus had trained them for three and one-half years. When you read through the gospels, you are not merely reading about the travels of Jesus. You are reading much more than Jesus just preaching to the large crowds.

When you read through the gospels, you are reading about Jesus training those twelve men to do His work after He returned to heaven.

### **Mentoring—that’s what Jesus did!**

We may be surprised to learn that in the Lord’s short period of ministry that He did not focus on merely gaining followers. If that was His mission—to merely gain followers—we would have to conclude that He was not very successful. When He left this earth it appears that he had only about 120 disciples who were loyal to Him. Not a very good showing.

Instead of trying to gain thousands of followers, Jesus focused on training a few men to be leaders, to do His work for Him after He left the earth. The three and one-half years He spent with His disciples were consumed in training and equipping them for the greatest task the world has ever known.

The twelve men He trained were more than followers. They were trained by Him to go out and make more disciples.

Can you and I do the same? Whatever your role is in the kingdom, can you mentor someone to do what you are doing? Can you train another who can carry on the work that you presently do?

If you are an elder, deacon, preacher, Bible class teacher, home study teacher, song leader—can you mentor someone to continue your work after you are gone? I think you can. We all can. When you leave the church building each Sunday and Wednesday, find men and women (young and old) who you can disciple/mentor.

It’s what Jesus did. It’s what you can do. “Go and make disciples...”