



Bible Verses: Romans 10-:17, 1 Peter 3:8-17, Titus. 2:1

Websites: *Reason To Believe* - www.str.org

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry -
www.carm.org/bible

Resources:

Faith and Reason (Author-John Piper)

The Language of God (Author-Dr. Francis Collins)

Podcast 13: Faith & Doubt-Fred Schmidt

John Piper writes in *Faith and Reason* (2007), "There is no way to awaken faith or strengthen faith that evades right thinking." In other words, doubt cannot be overcome without using our minds and thinking critically. This is an interesting statement in a world where creationists and evangelicals in general are accused of being thoughtless and not based in reality. Critics will say the faith of Christians is a cop-out to critical thinking. Ashamedly, many "believers" live up to that view by having an inability to intelligently defend the reasons for their faith. So when confronted by a skeptic or someone struggling with doubt about God, under-thinking Christians confirm to that person that there is no foundation for faith and their doubt is valid.

Romans 10:17 reads "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." This is great, but hearing the word without understanding it produces nothing—and certainly not faith. Paul goes on to tell us we must (after hearing the word) think it over.

Critical thinking is critical to faith in God.

Few other topics stir up the tension between faith and doubt like science. The effort to connect faith with science is a huge stumbling block for many people. Can the intellectual reasoning of science lead to faith in a Creator? We would do well to "think over (God's word), (and trust) the Lord will give (us) understanding." (2 Timothy 2:7)

My encouragement to you is to; both think critically about God's word AND trust that the Lord will give you understanding. We do ourselves a disservice when we wait on God to give us understanding without thinking critically and asking hard questions. And we do ourselves a disservice if we think critically without leaving room for God to bring understanding. If we don't want God to be God our sensory and rational abilities will not be able to infer that God IS God. So we must think and also trust or else we will always doubt or have uninformed faith... Neither is worth settling for.

—Luke Burgett

Talk about it:

- What did you connect with the most in today's podcast with Fred Schmidt?

Make it personal:

- Do you have any faith doubts regarding science and creation and what we read in the Bible? If so, what are your biggest struggles? What steps have you taken to deal with your doubts and questions?

Accept the Challenge:

- Use this week to really think critically about what you believe regarding God, His word and your faith in Him. Then, do the work; check out some of the books and websites listed above to help you!

