

Thoughts

Faith

Compiled by

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Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881) said: "Action and faith enslave thought, both of them in order not to be troubled or inconvenienced by reflection, criticism, and doubt."

Matthew Arnold (1822 - 1888) said: "Miracles do not happen."

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said: "Man prefers to believe what he prefers to be true."

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said: "If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."

The Bible (Heb 11:1) says: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Ambrose Bierce () said: "Faith, n. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks, without knowledge, of things without parallel."

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) said: "Do as we say, and not as we do."

Buddha () said: "Believe not because some old manuscripts are produced, believe no because it is your national belief, believe not because you have been made to believe from your childhood, but reason truth out, and after you have analyzed it, then if you find it will do good to one and all, believe it, live up to it and help others to live up to it."

Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682) said: "To believe only possibilities is not faith but mere philosophy."

Anton Chekhov () said: "Man is what he believes."

Arthur C. Clarke () said: "A faith that cannot survive collision with the truth is not worth many regrets."

Condorcet (), while he was in prison and facing the guillotine, he said concerning "intelligent faith": "No bounds have been fixed to the improvement of the human faculties; the perfectibility of man is absolutely indefinite; the progress of this perfection, henceforth above the control of every power that would impede it, has no other limit than the duration of the globe upon which nature has placed us."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) said: "The process of scientific discovery is, in effect, a continual flight from wonder."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) said: "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Henry S. Haskins () said: "Treat the other man's faith gently; it is all he has to believe with."

Robert Heinlein () said: "The faith in which I was brought up assured me that I was better than other people; I was saved, they were damned... Our hymns were loaded with arrogance - self-

congratulation on how cosy we were with the Almighty, and what a high opinion he had of us, what hell everybody else would catch come Judgement Day."

Herman Von Helmholtz () said: "We each tend to believe what suits us."

Eric Hoffer () said: "Faith in a holy cause is to a considerable extent a substitute for the lost faith in ourselves."

William James () said: "Faith means belief in something concerning which doubt is theoretically possible."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) said: "Question with boldness even the existence of God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason than that of blindfolded fear."

Francis Jeffrey (1773-1850) said: "Nothing is so firmly believed as that which is least known."

Benjamin Jowett () said: "My dear child, you must believe in God in spite of what the clergy tell you."

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) said: "I had to set limits to knowledge in order to make place for faith."

Walter Kaufmann () said: "Faith means intense, usually confident, belief that is not based on evidence sufficient to command assent from every reasonable person."

Martin Luther (1483-1546) said: "Faith must trample under foot all reason, sense, and understanding."

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956) said: "Faith may be defined briefly as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable."

Michel De Montaigne (1533-1592) said: "Nothing is so firmly believed as that which is least known."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "Convictions are more dangerous enemies of truth, than lies."

Ovid (43 B.C. - A.D. 17) said: "A middle course is the safest for you to take."

Bertrand Russell () said: "Christians hold that their faith does good, but other faiths do harm... What I wish to maintain is that all faiths do harm. We may define faith as a firm belief for which there is no evidence. When there is evidence, no one speaks of faith. We do not speak of faith that two and two are four, or that the earth is round. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence... We are told that faith could remove mountains, but no one believed it; we are told that the atomic bomb can remove mountains, and everyone believes it."

Kurt Vonnegut () said: "Say what you will about the sweet miracle of unquestioning faith. I consider a capacity for it terrifying, and absolutely vile!"

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) said: "A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."

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