

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<p>TITLE In this module we discuss Faith and the role of evidence.</p>
2	<p>What is Faith? Faith is the first principle of the gospel that few people can explain very well. Anim1: Depending on whether you are coming from a "God-outside-the-box" or "God-inside-the-box" perspective you will get two very different answers. Anim2: Quote Elder Orson Pratt</p> <p>Anim3: Why is it essential to understand Faith? Anim4: Quote Hebrews 11:6...Without faith it is impossible to please God. Anim5: Quote Elder Orson Pratt...The wrong kind of Faith will be the very damnation of those who follow it.</p> <p>CHARACTERISTICS Anim6: So what are the characteristics of TRUE FAITH vs FALSE FAITH?</p> <p>Anim7: The Restored Gospel says one thing, and as you would expect, Traditional Christianity says the opposite.</p> <p>Anim8: Quote Elder Orson Pratt Elder Pratt...without evidence men cannot have faith in anything.</p> <p>Anim9: Quote Webster Dictionary Traditional Christianity (and consequently most of the world) says Faith is not based on proof (evidence).</p> <p>Anim10: Quote Mortimer Adler Because of this false definition of faith, modern philosophers have ridiculed religion, rejecting it's attack on reason.</p> <p>Anim11: Quote Elder Orson Pratt The restoration clearly has a very different definition of Faith, separating ourselves from this attack on man's reason.</p> <p>There is no such thing as faith without action. There is belief without action, but not faith without action. True faith leads to correct actions. False Faith leads to false actions.</p>
3	<p>BLIND FAITH, ANTI-REASON: Historical Christianity declares war on reason and the human mind. Anim1: Quote St. Thomas Aquinas. Anim2: Quote St. Augustine. Anim3: Quote Martin Luther Anim4: Quote Martin Luther...Emotional attack on reason * Notice when you pull the alpha-monkey from the barrel (unreasonable God-outside-the-box), it brings along its friends further down in the chain....Must continue undercutting reason. Anim5: Quote Martin Luther...Emotional attack on reason * Interestingly, while Martin Luther was an attacker of reason when it came to proclaiming <i>God-outside-the-box</i> religion, he was more than happy to employ reason when it suited him. * Notice his use of the term "self-evident" in the quote, which assumes the use of reason at the same time he is attacking it. * Perhaps Luther's most famous use of reason is in his "Ninety-five Theses" list of propositions for academic debate prompted by the selling of indulgences (remission of sins) by the Catholic Church. * With reason gone how easy it becomes to lead people blindly wherever you want to take them. This attack on reason is required for what they want you to swallow next.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>INCOMPREHENSIBLE: An incomprehensible, <i>God-outside-the-box</i>, with all of the inherent contradictions that come with that belief.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Donald G. Bloesch Faith must be on guard against clarity (evidence) because according to historical Christianity the clearer (more logical) things are the less faith you have...</p> <p>You may ask, what is this "new foundation" that undercuts reason? With reason gone, what are you left with?</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Karl Barth The answer of course is "blind faith" in an inexplainable mystical feeling...Just hang out there believing without having to have any foundation at all. But then, how do I know if my Faith is real or not?</p> <p>FEELING</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Donald G. Bloesch The next coherent step is for Mind and Reason to give way to Blind Faith and Feelings. He who has the strongest feelings has the strongest Faith.</p> <p>Anim4: Quote Martin Luther * Feeling takes over (lead with your willful heart, not your rational mind). Faith now is not evidence based but feeling based. Not just feeling but willfulness as well. * In fact, the strongest emotions become a stimulant to your whole being, and become equated with revelation and feeling the spirit.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Soren Kierkegard vs. Orson Pratt... Compare and contrast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Soren Kierkegaard wrote about what he called "The Knight of Faith" * Elder Orson Pratt wrote a pamphlet called "True Faith" * As you can imagine, these two men detail completely opposite perspectives on Faith. <p>Anim1: Quote Kierkegaard...Follow your passions, even if they are absurd. * Apostasy: Just believe (even if it is absurd) and anything is possible because God is absolute...He can do anything including unreal things. * The more desire (willfulness) and ignoring of doubts the more the Faith...</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Orson Pratt</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>FAITH SCALE Who is the true "Knight of Faith"?</p> <p>Anim1: * For Kierkegaard, the perfect ignorance (blind obedience) of Luther and Calvin is not enough...We must go further and actually risk AGAINST what our reason is telling us in order to have Faith.</p> <p>Anim2: In other words, the scale no longer stops at 0 (blind faith/perfect ignorance)...It now goes negative (into willful rebellion) to contradict things you KNOW to be true.</p> <p>Anim3: * Contrast this with Orson Pratt...Without evidence no one can have Faith. * The more supporting evidence, the greater the Faith. Faith becomes Enlightened and Rational...Pure Lawfulness.</p> <p>What do you call those who rebel against perfect knowledge? Sons of Perdition</p> <p>Anim4: Sons of Perdition...open rebellion to the truth. (D&C 76:25-49).</p>

	<p>* These become a "Knight of the Absurd"...The more opposing evidence to rebel against, the greater the Faith. Faith becomes rebellious and irrational...pure Willfulness. Like seeing the sun shining at noon day and claiming it doesn't exist.</p> <p>What do you call those who have Perfect Knowledge? Anim5: Sons of God (Moroni 7:26)...Those who see Christ with a perfect knowledge. "and by faith, they become the sons of God."</p> <p>* If willful thinking is True, then the whole universe will obey your willfulness. * If willful thinking is not True, and the universe is lawful, you just invited a universe of problems into your life.</p>
7	<p>EXISTENTIAL PROOF</p> <p>* Consider the modern marvel called the jumbo jet, with all the science and engineering involved in building and flying it using man's reason. * Orson Pratt (The Knight of Reason) as the pilot (Reason over Faith). * Flight A-1 (Good Shape), a well maintained and staffed is statistically safer than driving on the freeway.</p> <p>Anim: Now consider Flight Z-1 (the last flight you'll ever take), with Soren Kierkegaard (The Knight of Faith) as the Pilot. * Ignoring flashing warning lights, smoke coming out of the engine, rusty holes through the fuselage...He painted every emotional slogan on the plane to help boost the Faith of the crew and passengers. * Statistically very low odds of it NOT crashing, but Faith is expected to make up the difference.</p> <p>You get to choose...Which one are you going to board? * It makes obvious the insanity of the Apostasy...If you board that "Abominable Plane" you have no chance of getting to your Eternal destination. * It makes obvious the sanity of the Restoration...A well-oiled and well maintained machine that will get you to where you want to go.</p>
8	<p>Remember our first philosophical walk with Aristotle and Plato? We are now going to take our second philosophical walk, with oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Anim1: Using our Evidence-Faith scale... Q: Which Couple A, B, C has the most Faith?</p> <p>Anim2: Couple A: Exercise their Faith by looking both ways to make sure it is safe to cross, then cautiously step into the street Only after seeing evidence of no oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Anim3: Couple B: Exercise their Faith by NOT looking either way. They close their eyes and let their feelings guide them as to the best time to cross the street.</p> <p>Anim4: Couple C: Exercise Their Faith by stepping into the street ONLY after looking both ways and KNOWING it is unsafe to cross. They make sure that traffic is coming. In fact, the bigger vehicles coming as fast as possible, the better to show their faith.</p> <p>Anim5: This is an obvious absurdity and Death Wish associated with both blind or willfully disobedient Faith. * Satan really does have this version of faith...He even tempted Christ with it: Matthew 4:5-6 "Then the devil taketh him [Christ] up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee..." * In other words, show your Faith by taking a giant, absurd leap.</p>
9	<p>You will often hear stories given advising us to take leaps of faith.</p>

Anim1: Quote Elder Packer

So are Pres. Lee and Elder Packer suggesting a Kierkegaard form of blind Faith?

Anim2: The real question is:

Which has primacy: Look or Leap?

But don't Latter-day Saints believe in acting on faith even though we can't see perfectly?

Anim3: Three Tier Resolution

* Pres. Lee's advice was not a blind leap...Elder Packer was told to walk as far as he could in the light. Then take a few steps and pause to wait for the illuminating light.

* He wasn't told to take a running, flying blindfolded, jump into the darkness, and never look around.

* Tier 1-2 says: Look1 both ways before you step into the street. Pay attention, listen to your reason, and observe the evidence that it is safe to cross.

* Tier 2-3 says: Only after you see that it is safe to cross do you take a leap of faith by actually stepping into the street. When you do so, it is with true faith with the utmost trust and confidence with that you won't get run over! All the while that you are exercising your rational faith, you Look2 for any opposing evidence that may come up during your leap of faith crossing the street.

* The Future is always darkness that's why we tackle it carefully.

10

Questions? Rating?