

- Don't take a leap of faith.

What is faith?

- text

Now faith is
the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NT p. 388

- Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

Dictionary.com definitions 🔍

faith

[feyth]

[Examples](#) [Word Origin](#)

[See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com](#)

noun

- confidence or trust in a person or thing:
faith in another's ability.
- belief that is not based on proof:**
He had faith that the hypothesis would be substantiated by fact.
- belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion:
the firm faith of the Pilgrims.

- [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)

- Faith

- 1. confidence or trust in a person or thing
- 2. belief that is not based on proof
- 3. belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion

What is faith?

<u>God</u>	<u>Common Usage</u>
faith is	faith
assurance conviction	belief that is not based on proof
Hebrews 11:1	dictionary.com

- What is Faith?
 - God
 - Faith is assurance and conviction
 - Common Usage
 - belief that is not based on proof
- When we are reading God's book, whose definition should we use?

Disparaging Faith

- text

Disparaging Faith

I have found it necessary to
deny knowledge in order to
make room for faith.

— Immanuel Kant
Pure Reason

- Kant (Pure Reason): I have therefore found it necessary to deny knowledge in order to make room for faith.

Disparaging Faith

Faith, noun. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel.

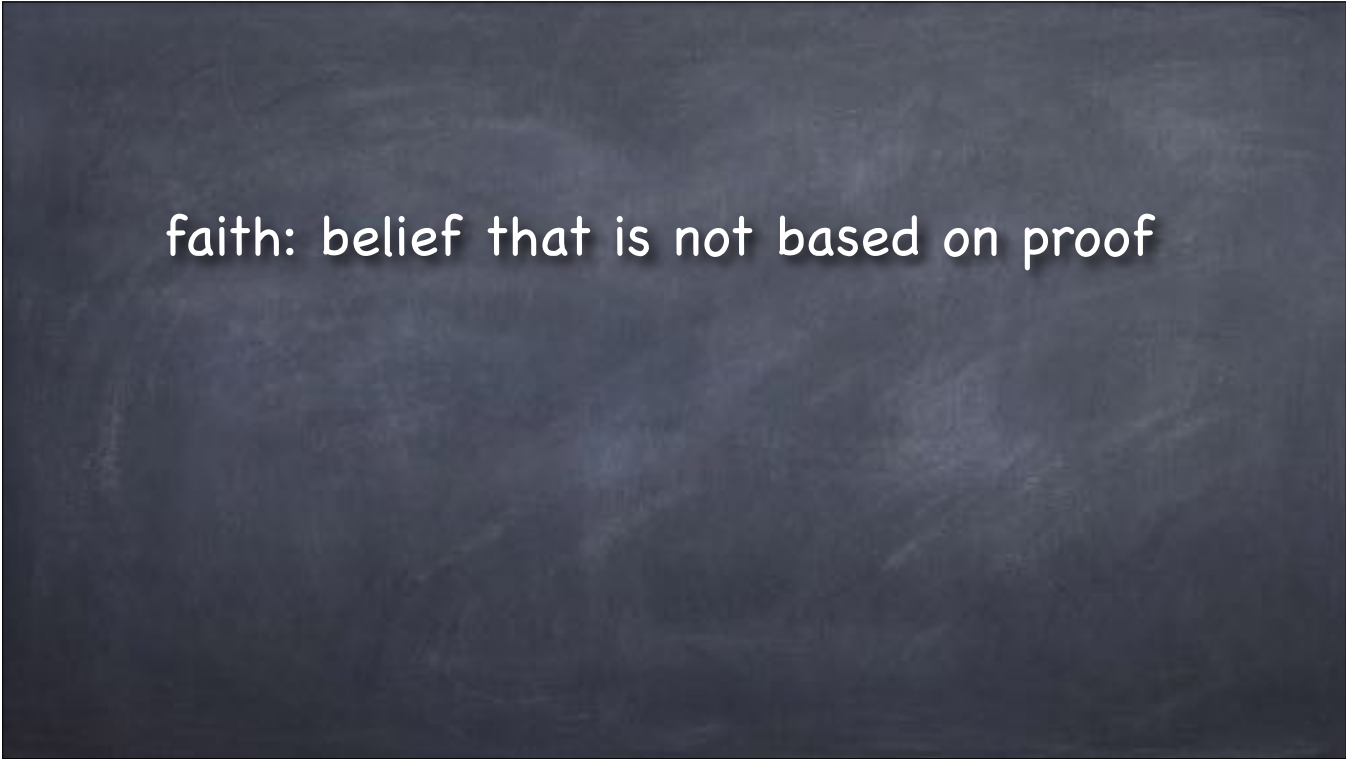
— Ambrose Bierce
The Devil's Dictionary

- Faith, noun. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel
- Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary (A Satire, but it's typical).

faith: belief that is not based on proof



- For those who don't want to know God, this is a self-serving definition
 - makes the very idea of faith ridiculous
 - makes those who have faith to be naive or stupid or gullible
 - like a child who believes in flying one horned horses.



faith: belief that is not based on proof

- Many who call themselves Christians hold this view of faith
 - I completely disagree
 - It doesn't make sense.
 - It's different than what GOD says.

Faith & Doubt



- Faith and Doubt

Faith & Doubt

Unknown?

(god?)



- How can someone KNOW that God exists?
 - We can't, they answer.
 - Knowledge, they say, denies faith.
- The best we can do is guess, assume, or decide it's more reasonable to believe in God than in no God.

Faith & Doubt

Unknown?

(god?)



- They argue that there is not enough proof that God exists.
 - “can’t absolutely prove”
 - “absolute, dogmatic, unequivocal, complete evidence is often not possible, but a strong presumption is demonstrable”
- The argument begins with the assumption that there is someone or something Unknown out there, that we decide to call “god.”

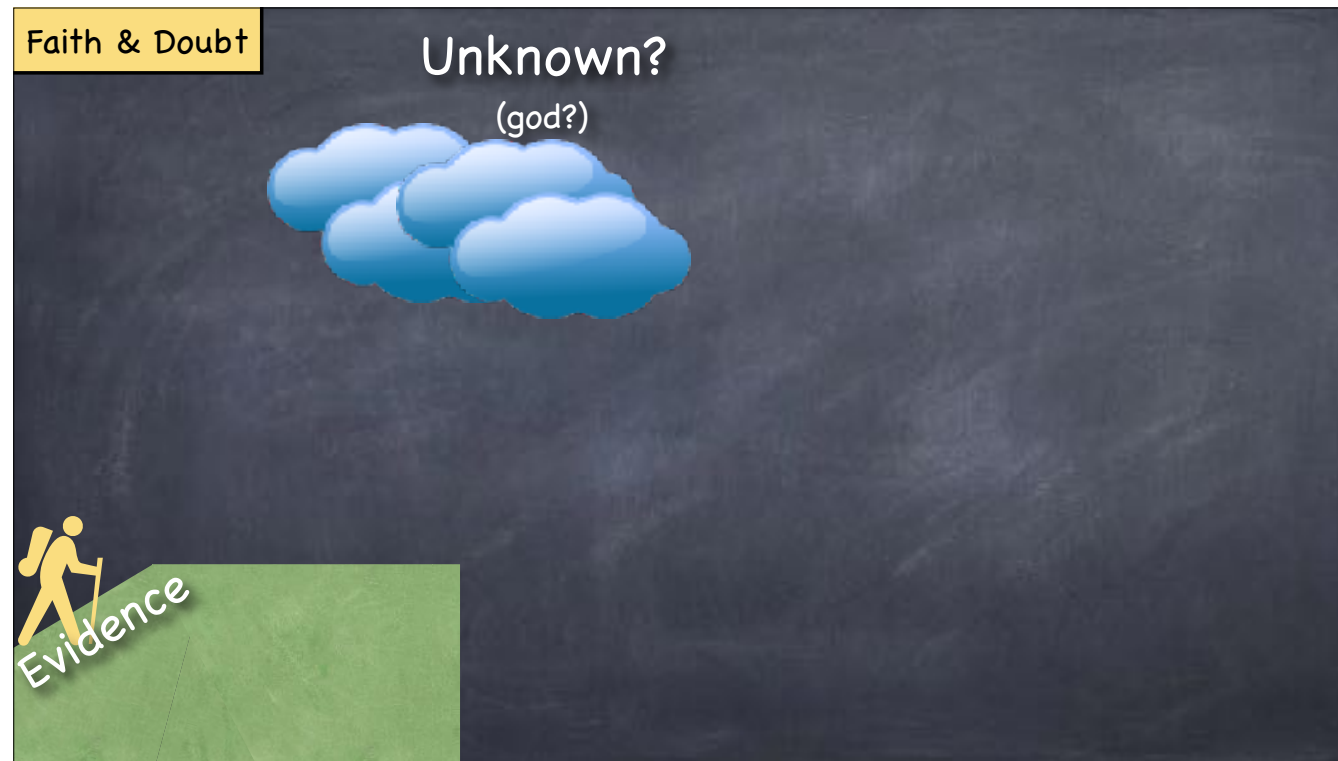
Faith & Doubt

Unknown?

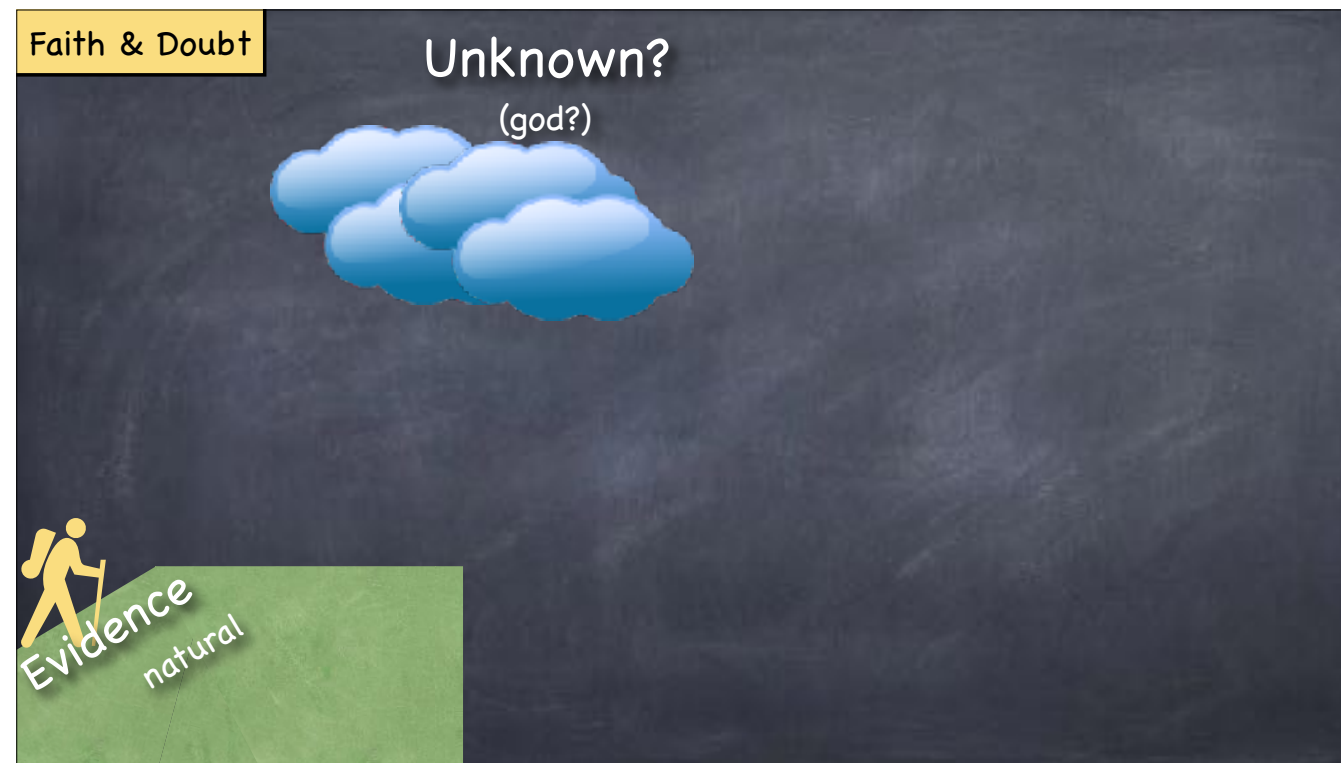
(god?)



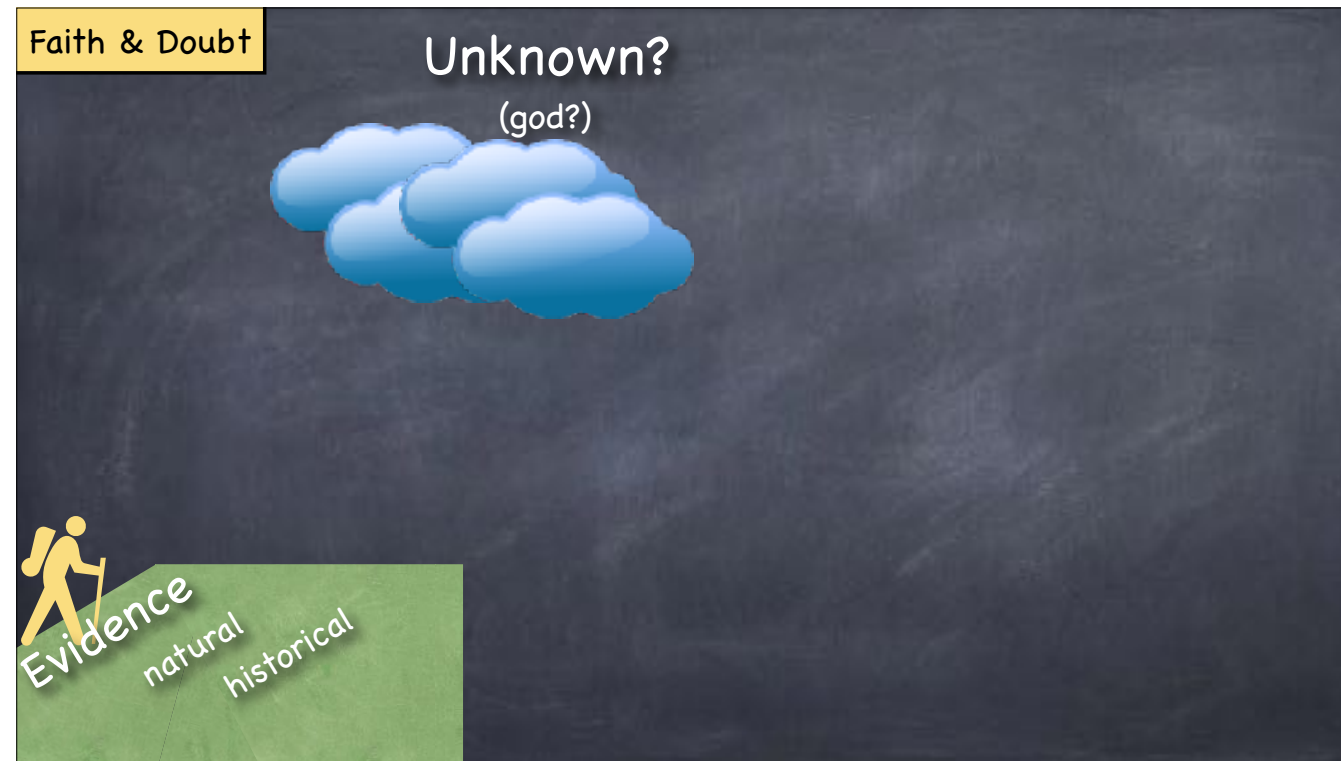
- But, we can't really know: we are finite, and limited.
 - There is a veil between us and the great unknown.



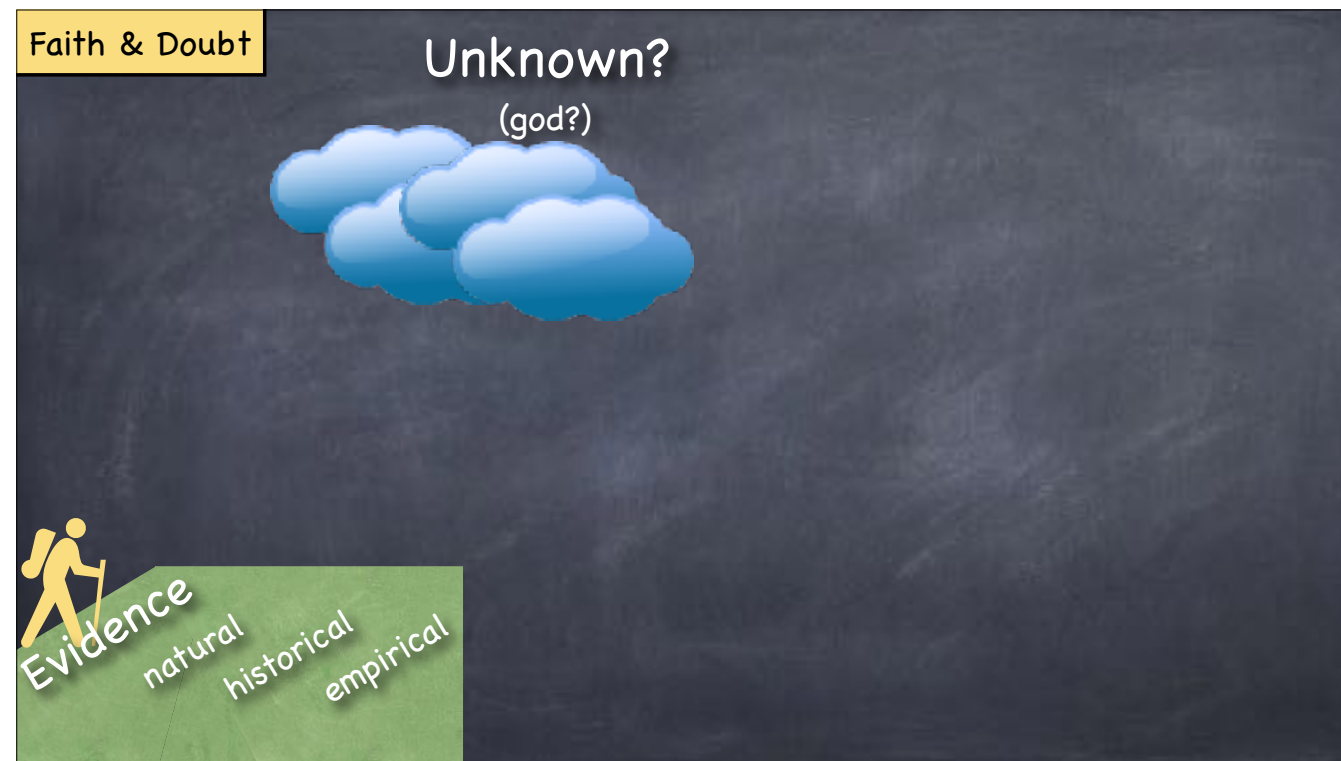
- We can get part of the way to knowing there is a god based on evidence we see in this world.



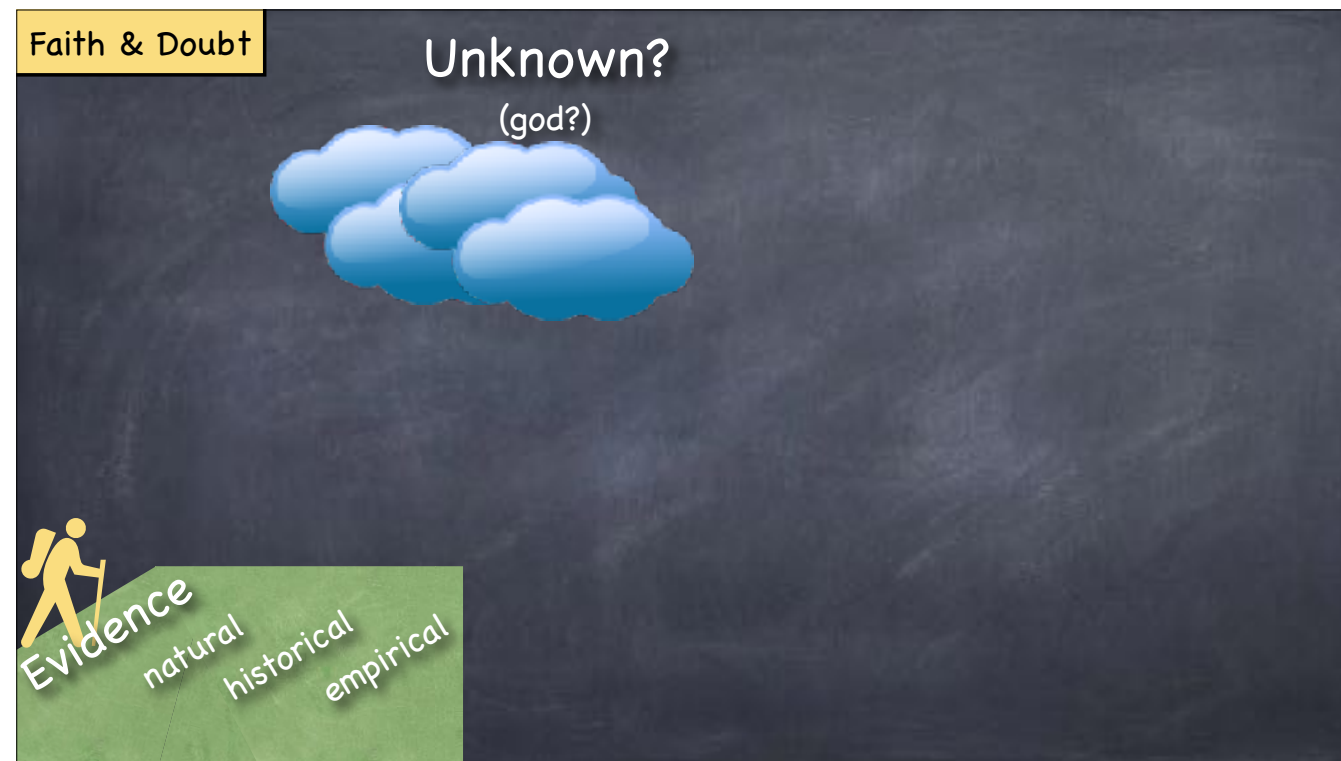
- Evidence in nature
 - but many scientist point to nature and see only chance.
 - they see evolution as the driving factors



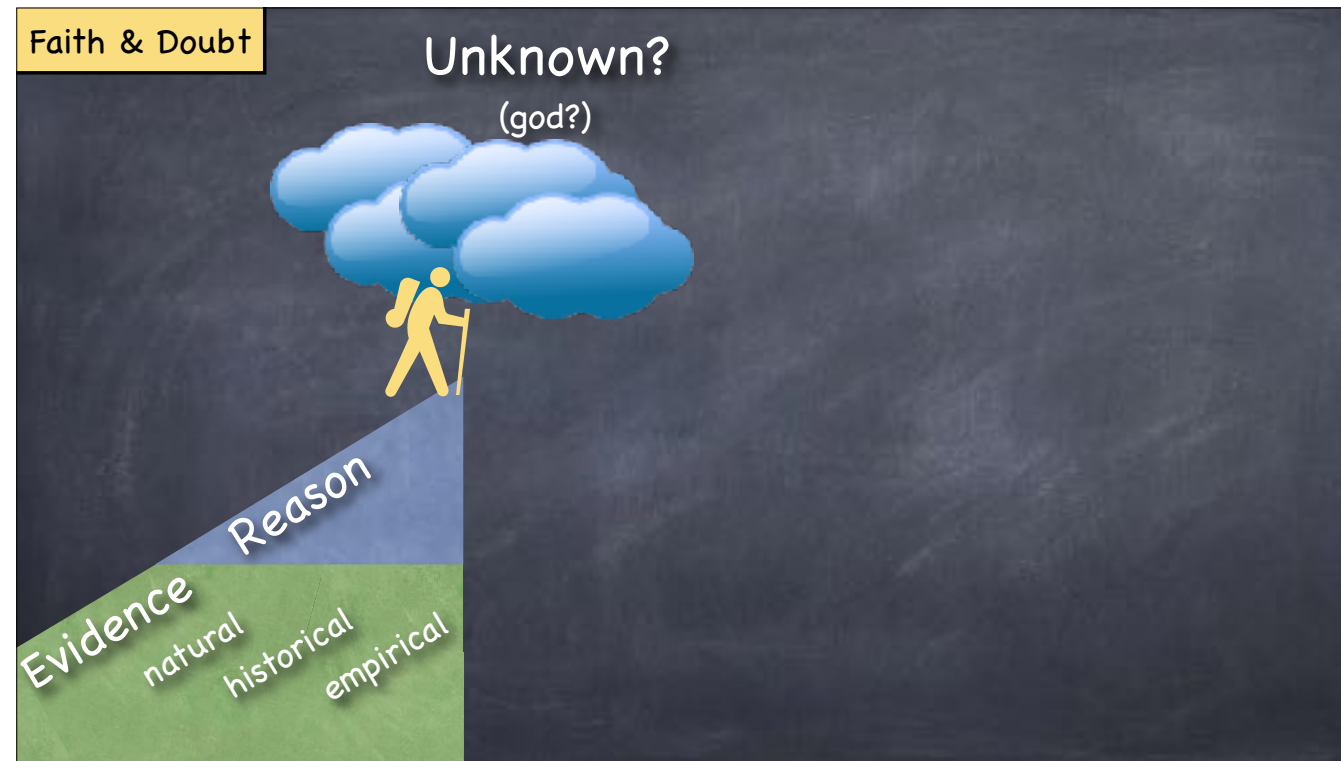
- The evidence of history
 - the teachings, miracles and claims of prophets
 - But historians repeatedly remind us that men are poor witnesses



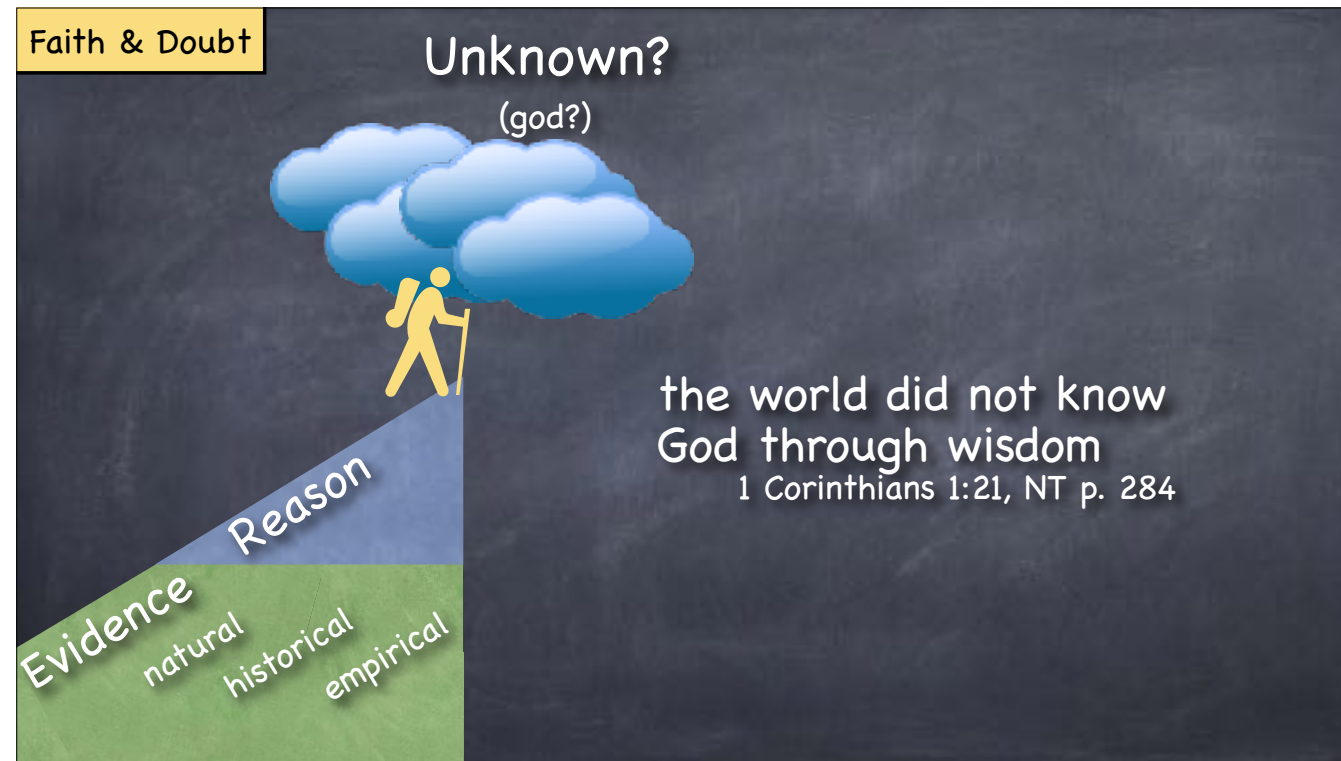
- empirical
 - evidence based on what we can see, feel, hear, taste, touch:
 - focus is on what is natural and of this world, physical
 - but God is spirit (John 4:24)



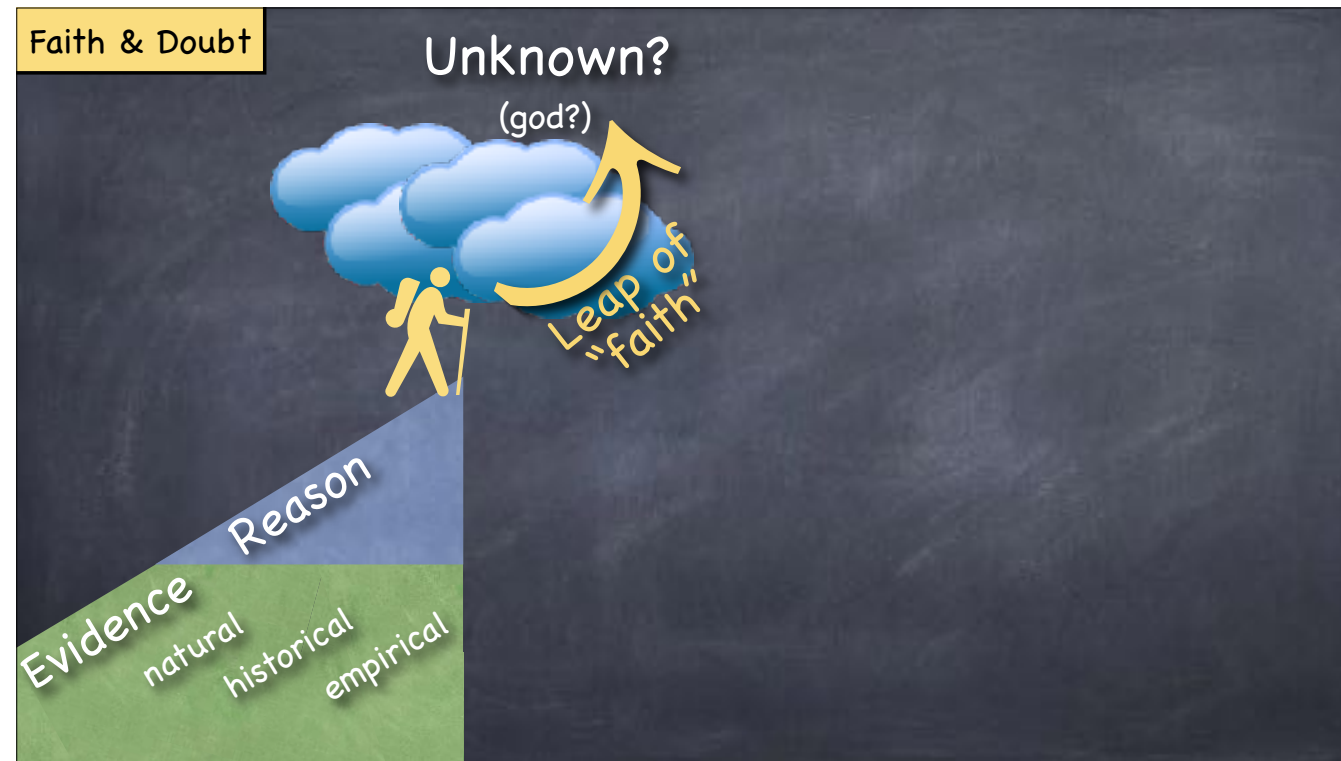
- For those who think we cannot KNOW there is a god,
- all this evidence is but
- a crumbling edifice.
- It's not just limited, it's utterly inadequate.



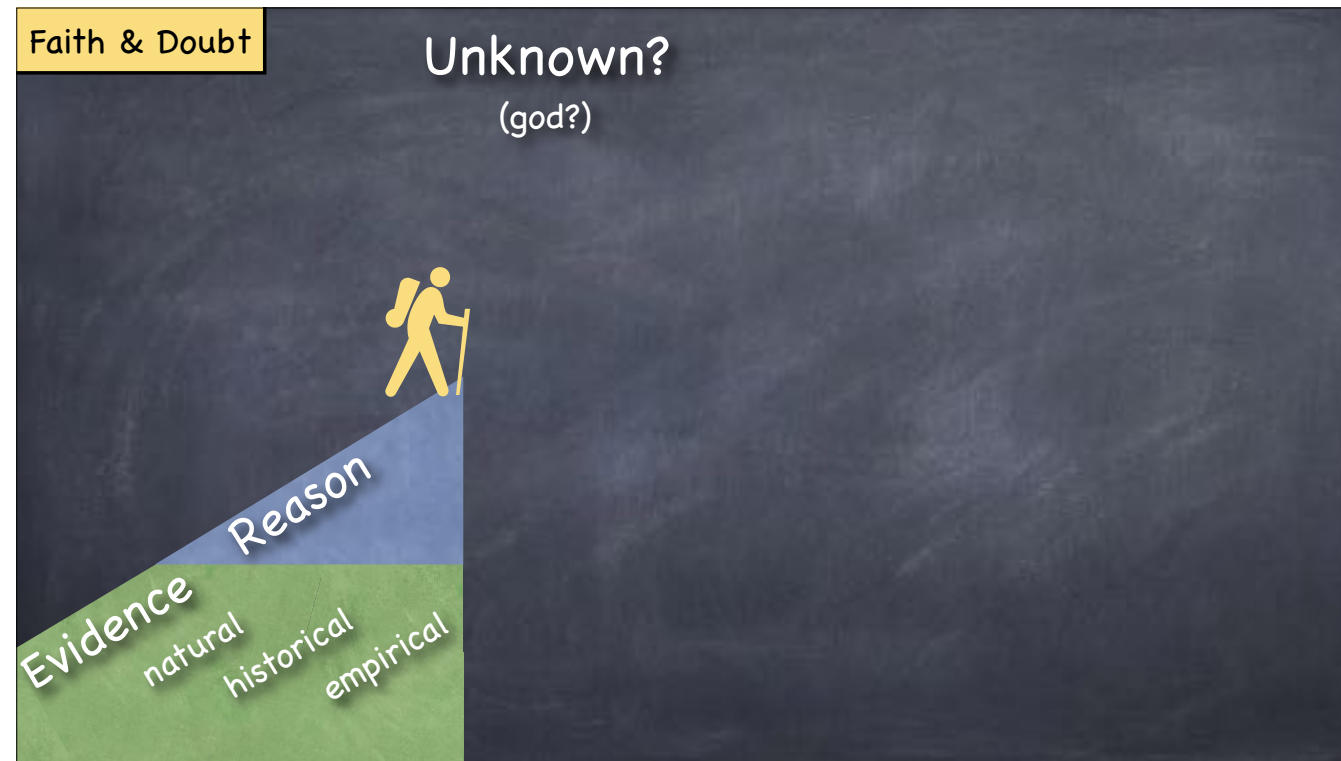
- So, to get closer to “knowing” we must use our reason.
 - We develop various arguments, reasoning that there must be something or someone greater than man.
 - The problem with reasoning is that we are notoriously good at thinking differently and disagreeing with each other



- 1 Corinthians 1:21: For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.



- Because we have "evidence" and "reason" that is inadequate, and since we cannot KNOW
- We must take a "leap of faith".
 - It's a blind leap, for we don't know the result... just hoping.
 - There's really no reason for making the leap
 - And it's because we just want there to be a god.



- But God says that the problem is not on His side, but on our side.
 - God isn't hiding himself from us.

Faith & Doubt

Unknown?
(god?)

they became **futile** in their thinking,
and their foolish hearts were **darkened**.

Romans 1:21, NT p. 259

Reason

Evidence
natural
historical
empirical

- Romans 1:21-23 (ESV) 21 For although they knew God, they **did not honor** him as God or **give thanks** to him, but they became **futile** in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were **darkened**. 22 **Claiming to be wise, they became fools**, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Faith & Doubt

Unknown?
(god?)

Faith and Doubt are INCOMPATIBLE!

if you have faith
and do not doubt
Matthew 21:21, NT p. 40

Reason

Evidence
natural
historical
empirical

- Faith and Doubt are incompatible.
- Matthew 21:21: And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, it will happen.
- Mark 11:23; Romans 4:20-21; 14:23; James 1:6



- God, our creator, doesn't leave us guessing about whether He is real.
- He wants us to know him and come to him.



- Acts 17:24-27 (ESV) 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps
feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet
he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27, NT p. 236



- 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek**
God, and perhaps feel
their way toward him
and **find** him. Yet he
is actually **not far**
from each one of us
Acts 17:27

For what can be known about
God is plain to them, because
God has shown it to them.

Romans 1:19, NT p. 259



- Romans 1:19-20 (ESV) 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

For what **can be known** about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Romans 1:19, NT p. 259



- What can be known about God
 - God — to some extent — can be known!
 - So we don't have to just guess and hope.
 - We can know.
 - God has made it plain!
 - It's not a mystery, enigma, or puzzle to be solved.
 - We can know.


God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

For what **can be known** about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
Romans 1:19, NT p. 259

Creation

A yellow silhouette of a hiker with a backpack and a walking stick, positioned at the bottom right of the green slope.

- God has shown it to them
 - The knowledge of God does not depend on the ability of a man, or myself, to reason or figure it out without evidence or proof.
 - He has revealed Himself to us.
- 20: So they are without excuse.


God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived,
Romans 1:20, NT p. 259

eternal power Creation



- 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his **eternal power**
 - One of the things we should be able to see as we look at this world and universe
 - it is the result of a powerful and wise creator
 - Not random chance.
 - This used to be much easier... it was generally believed that the world didn't just happen.
- As look at world, do you see the wonder of it all?


God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived,
Romans 1:20, NT p. 259

divine nature
eternal power
Creation



- divine nature
 - It could not have been done by man, animal, or any other created being.
 - Only one who is eternal, all-powerful, could have made all these things
 - Complexity of world is too great for any mind to have conceived


God!

Faith & Knowledge

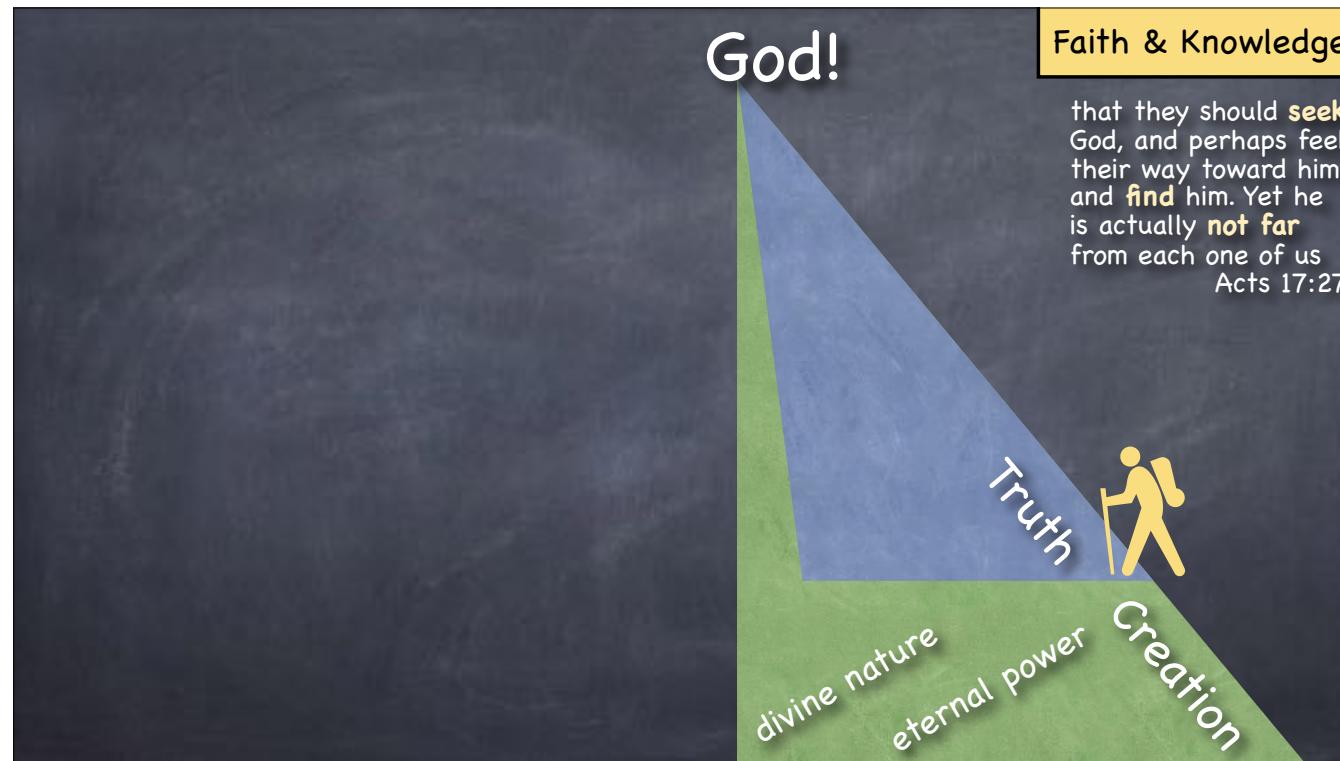
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Acts 17:27

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived,
Romans 1:20, NT p. 259

divine nature
eternal power
Creation



- Clearly this revelation of God is limited in scope
 - We cannot know everything about God from what He created
- But it's enough that He expects us to know!



- God has also given us the truth through his Word.

God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:31-32, NT p. 175

word

Truth

divine nature

eternal power

Creation

- John 8:31-32: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - The Word is truth
 - Psalms 119:160: The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
 - John 17:17: Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

God!

Faith & Knowledge

that they should **seek** God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and **find** him. Yet he is actually **not far** from each one of us
Acts 17:27

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:31-32, NT p. 175

word

Know

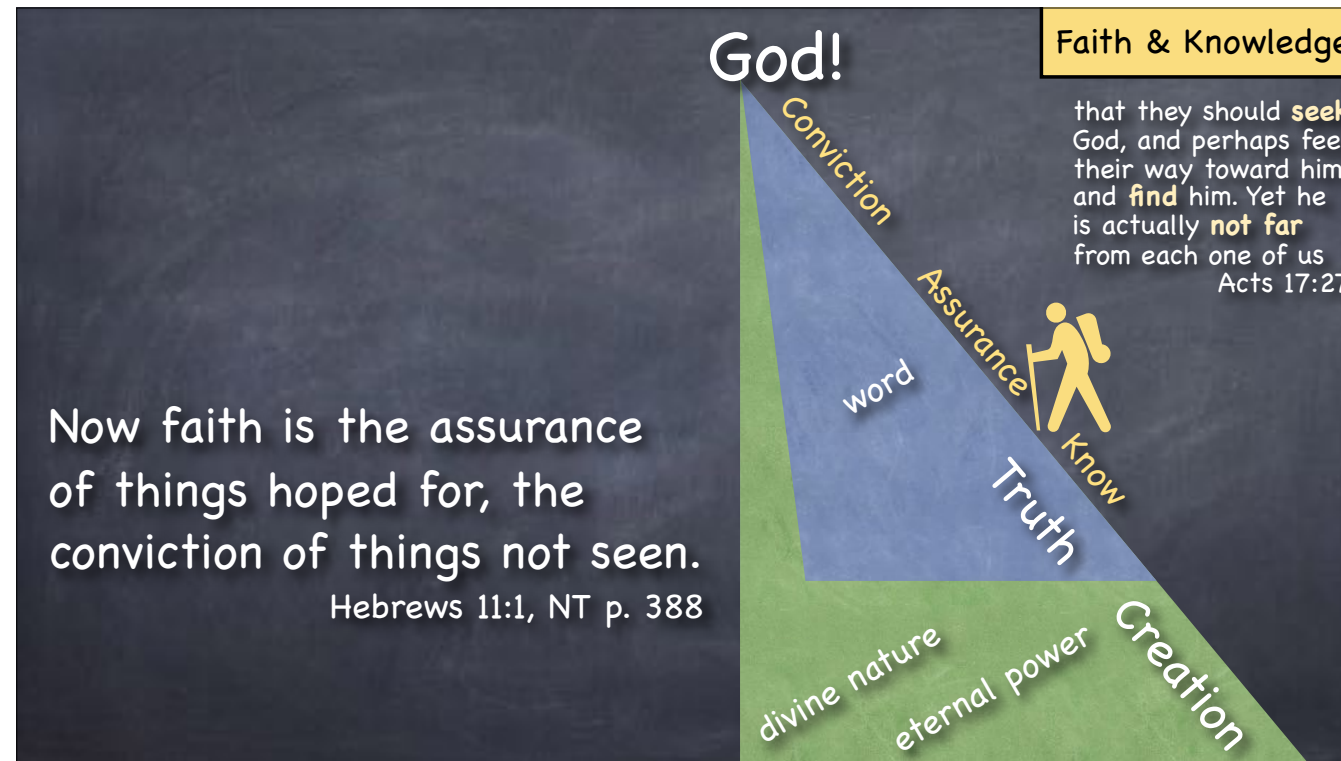
Truth

divine nature

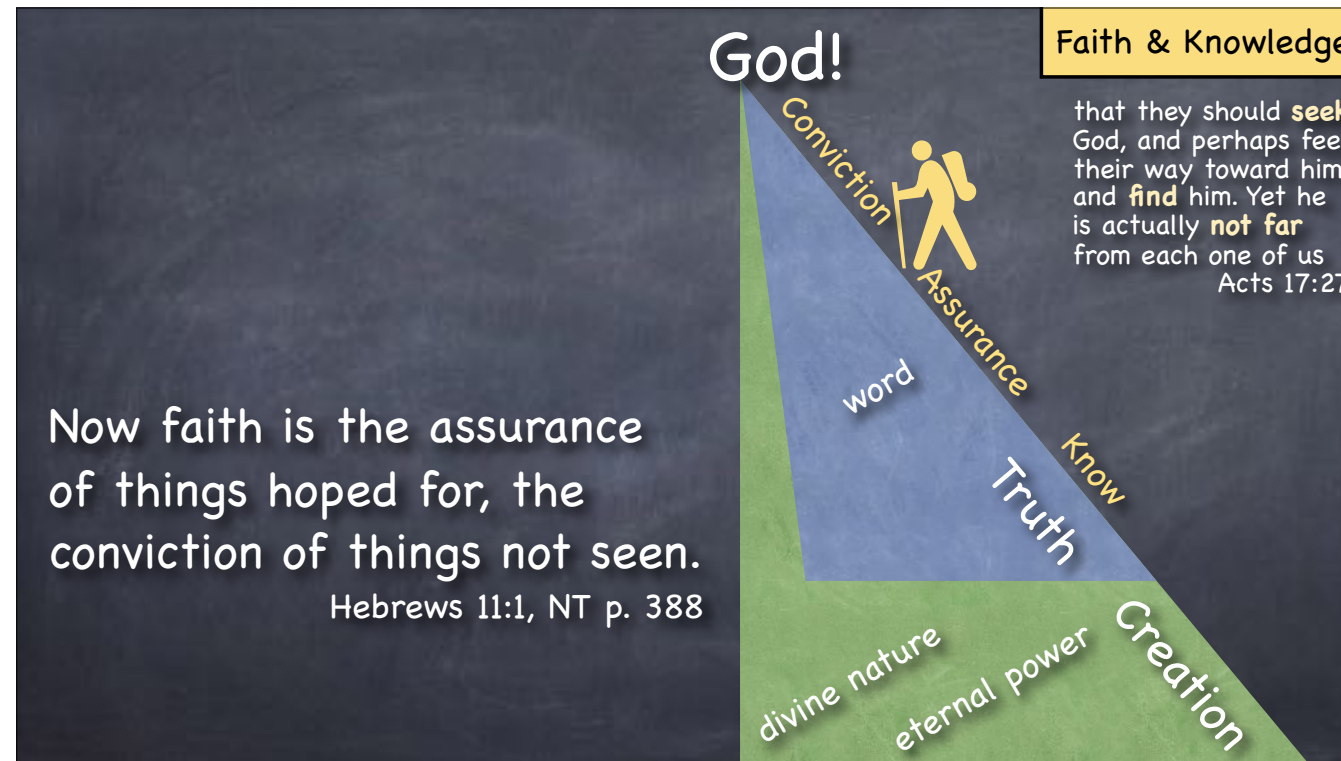
eternal power

Creation

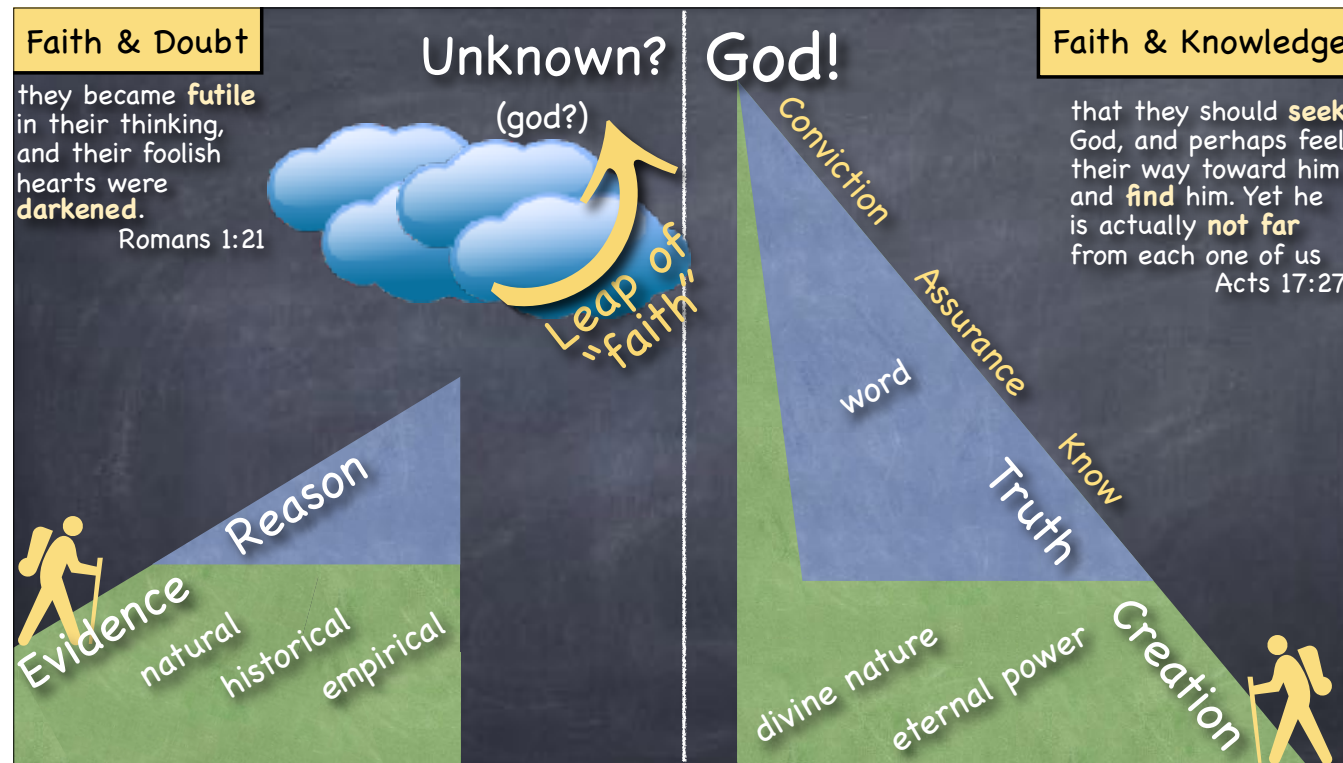
- You can know the truth.
 - He didn't give us something that we cannot understand
- He reveals himself to us in this truth
 - Grace, Love, Forgiveness, Wrath
 - Promises and Faithfulness



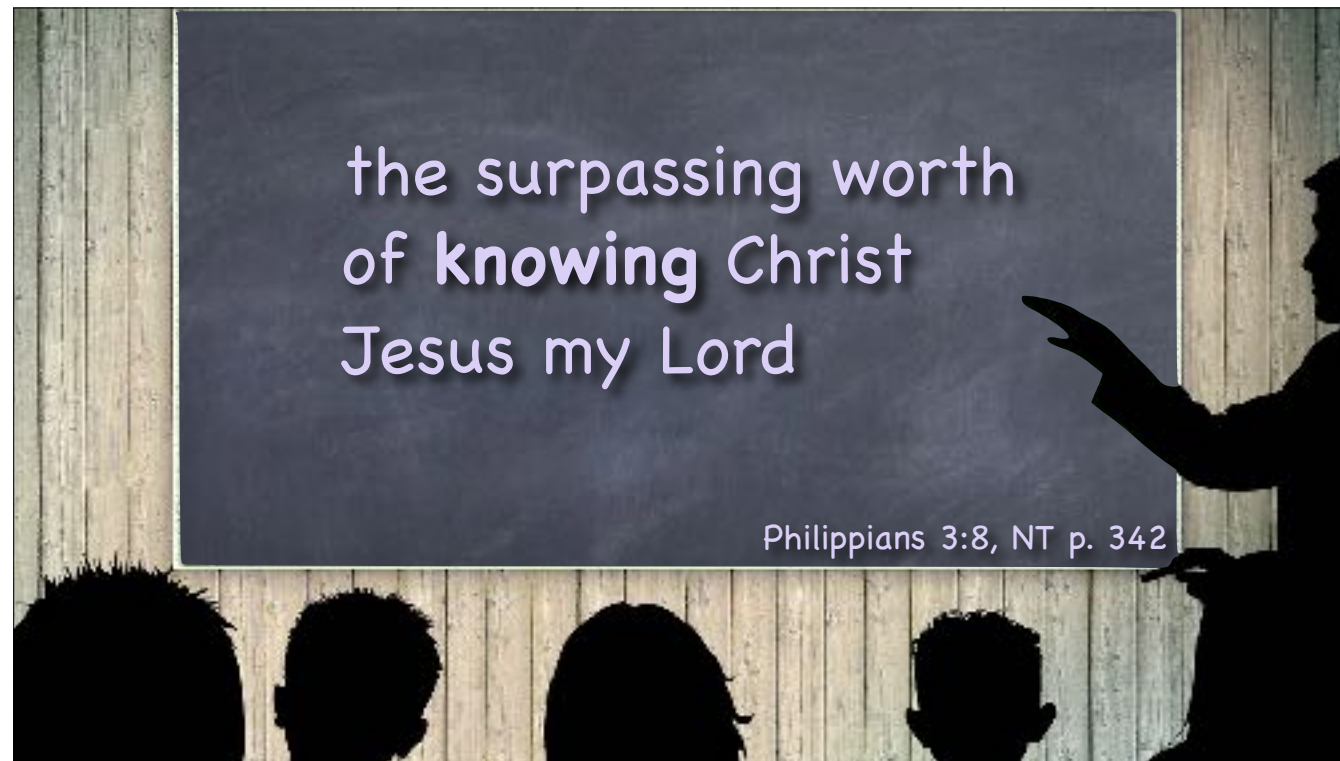
- Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.
 - assurance (substance, confidence)
 - that which has foundation, is firm
 - that which has actual existence
 - a substance, real being



- Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.
 - conviction (Evidence, proof)
 - a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested



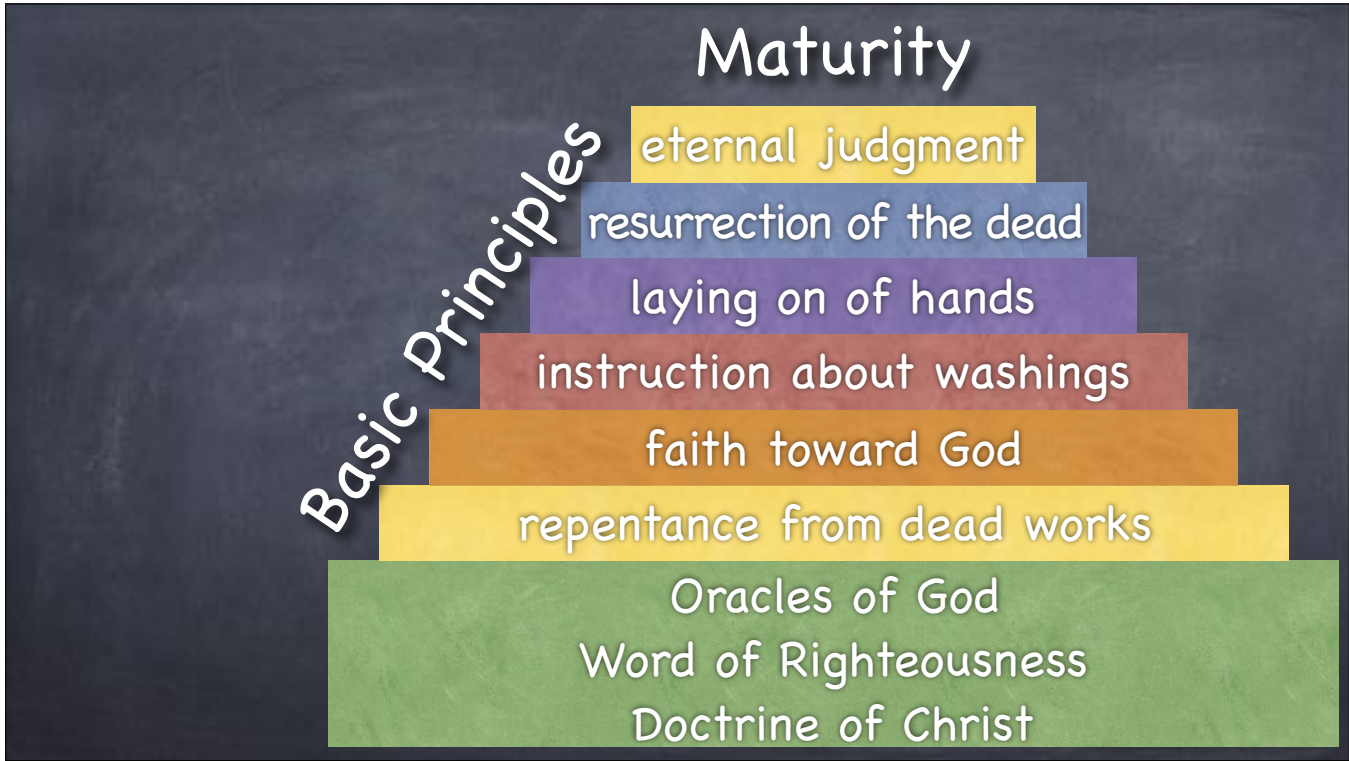
- Choose faith and knowledge



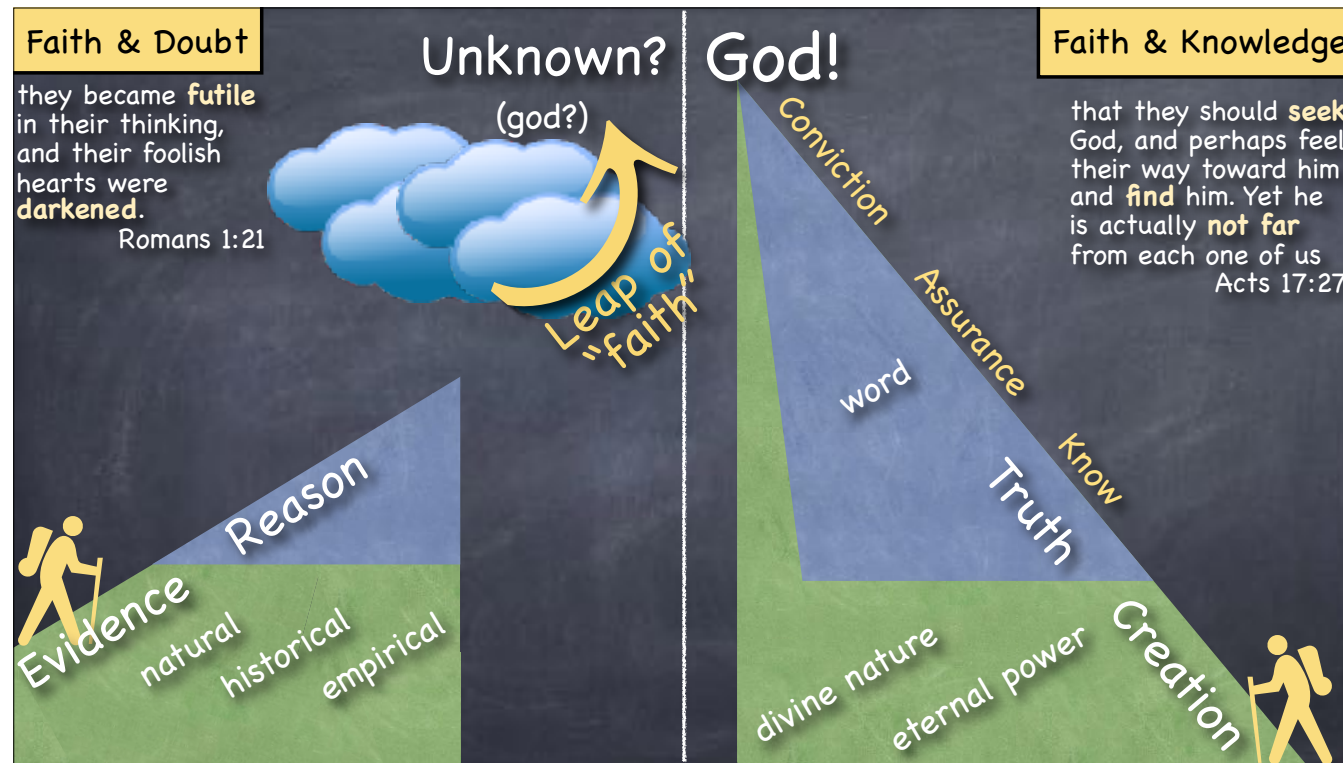
- Philippians 3:8-11 (ESV) 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



- text



- text

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Faith

Hebrews 11:1

Synopsis: The modern definition of faith is the opposite of how God speaks of faith. In this lesson, we'll learn what faith is really about and why it makes more sense than the way it is often disparaged today.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."