

FROM DOUBT TO FAITH

THE LOGICAL FLOW OF OUR EXPLORATION

GOD EXISTS

DEDUCTIVE REASONING CAN PROVE IT
SCIENTISTS, EVEN ATHEISTS, HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT
THE BIG BANG

BEGS THE QUESTION OF WHAT CAME BEFORE THAT
NATURE COULD NOT CREATE ITSELF
ONLY A SUPERNATURAL FORCE

THAT IS OUTSIDE OF SPACE AND TIME COULD HAVE DONE THAT



WHY DID HE CREATE US – WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES?

NOT MONEY, NOT FAME, NOT POWER ----- BUT LOVE

HAPPINESS IS A PROCESS, NOT A PRODUCT

A PROCESS OF CHOOSING **WHO** WE ARE BY **HOW** WE RELATE TO OTHERS

ONE OF THOSE OTHERS IS GOD

GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH US – BUT DOES NOT FORCE IT – GIVES US FREE WILL

GOD'S PLAN IS ULTIMATELY AN ETERNAL LIFE FOR YOU AND ME

THAT IS HIS GIFT – WE DO NOT EARN IT WITH GOOD BEHAVIOR

BUT GOOD BEHAVIOR EVOLVES WHO WE BECOME, WHO WE EVOLVE TO BE

THE DEGREE OF OUR GROWTH = THE DEGREE OF OUR HAPPINESS

THE DEGREE OF OUR GROWTH = THE CHOICES WE MAKE

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD = TO ACCEPT OUR JUDGMENT

HENCE, HOW WE LIVE IN ETERNITY IS DETERMINED BY HOW WE LIVED ON EARTH



THE BIBLE IS A LOVE STORY BETWEEN GOD AND US

GOD GIVES US HELP: INTELLECTS TO UNDERSTAND, PROPHETS TO REVEAL GOD'S WORD
YET, WE ARE UNFAITHFUL, WE SIN, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS



SO GOD SENDS HIS SON, THE WORD BECOMES FLESH

AS A MAN, JESUS CAN REPRESENT HUMANITY

AS GOD, HE CAN REPRESENT US FOR ALL TIMES – PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

ADAM GIVES US ONE PATH --- JESUS GIVES US ANOTHER

LIFE IS A PROCESS OF CHOOSING

WHY WOULD GOD BECOME MAN? BECAUSE HE LOVES US!
REALLY? YES, HE SUFFERED SCORGING AND CRUCIFIXION FOR US

WAS JESUS REALLY THE SON OF GOD?
HE HEALED THE SICK, AND RAISED THE DEAD
HE HIMSELF ROSE FROM THE DEAD
HIS APOSTLES WERE TORTURED AND DIED MAINTAINING IT WAS TRUE



IF GOD LOVES US SO MUCH, WHY DID HE ALLOW A WORLD IN WHICH WE SUFFER?

BECAUSE THIS TEMPORARY LIFE IS BUT A SEQUE TO AN ETERNAL LIFE
BECAUSE THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO CHOOSE HOW MUCH TO LOVE
NOT TO LIVE FOREVER IN A WORLD WHERE WE AGE
SUFFERING

GIVES US A WAKE-UP CALL
REMINDS US THAT THIS LIFE IS TEMPORARY
REORIENTS US TO GOD
SPARKS OUR GROWTH
HELPS US TO BECOME MORE CARING AND EMPATHIC
PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS / TO HELP DOUBTERS TO BELIEVE



BUT IF WE GROW, IF WE CHOOSE TO LOVE, THEN WHY DOES GOD ALLOW BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO US?

BECAUSE
THIS WORLD IS MATERIAL AND SO WE AGE AND ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE EVIL, TO BE MEAN INSTEAD OF LOVE

YES, YOU WILL BE REWARDED FOR YOUR GOOD WORKS, BUT NOT MATERIALLY
IT DOES NOT MEAN YOU WILL LIVE A LONG LIFE, HAVE LOTS OF MONEY, LOTS OF KIDS
IT DOES MEAN THAT
YOU WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY, DEVELOP AND DEEPEN VIRTUES
BEING HAPPIER THE MORE YOU GROW

WHAT DOES GROWTH REALLY GIVE ME?

LOVE AND RESPECT, A FORGIVING ATTITUDE, HUMILITY, PEACE
IF THAT SEEMS LIKE PEANUTS TO YOU, THEN YOU NEED ALL THE MORE TO WAKE UP



ARE YOU SURE THAT THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH?

WANT TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY? ARE YOU? IF NOT POSSIBLE DURING THIS LIFE, THEN GOD, BEING GOOD, MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE IN A LIFE AFTER DEATH.

HOW? THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS WITHIN YOU, BEING ETERNAL, BEING CONNECTED TO YOUR VERY BEING, WHEN YOU DIE, YOU WILL PASS THROUGH TO ANOTHER LIFE, AN ETERNAL ONE.

JUST AS JESUS DID, SO WILL YOU!



SO, CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY, SEIZE EVERY DAY, GROW TO BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE, A WORK OF ART! SOMEONE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, SOMEONE LIKE CHRIST. HAPPY – PERFECTLY HAPPY – FOREVER!

AS LIFE IS A JOURNEY, AND AS WE ALL TRIP AND FALL ALONG THE WAY, I WANTED TO OFFER YOU HELP, A BRIDGE,

TO CROSS OVER

FROM DOUBT TO FAITH,

FROM WHAT YOU CAN PROVE TO WHAT YOU CAN BELIEVE

FROM DISCOURAGEMENT TO HOPE

IF IT GIVES YOU A LITTLE HELP, I AM HAPPY

BECAUSE YOU MATTER

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

The Rev. Peter K. Stimpson