

# The Faith Gamble

The atheist and Christian are in a confrontation of faiths concerning the origin of all things. Think about this for a moment. Both the atheist and the Christian believe in a beginning, whether launched by an imaginary Big Bang, or the quiet whispered word of a Supreme Being who is not composed of that which He created.

## A. Strictly matters of faith:

Neither the atheist nor the Christian was there when it all began. And because neither was there in the beginning, then each must depend on faith in Whom or what started that which now exists. Both fervently analyze extracted bones from the earth, or dig up rocks, in order to seek some answer to the beginning of all things. Regardless of the world view of either the atheist or Christian, each promotes a faith as to how all things began because neither was there when it all began.

**Since both the atheist and Christian were not present when all things came into existence in the beginning, then both must depend on faith in reference to beginnings.**

In order to answer the question concerning the present

existence of life on this planet, the atheist is restricted to **the theory of evolution**. Subsequently, the atheist must labor zealously in order to convince others that evolution is actually a fact of both physiological and biological beginnings. He seeks to convince us that all the physical and biological world in which we now exist is the result of a long process of pyhsiological and biological evolution. No God needed.

The Christian, on the other hand, holds to a faith in the power of an eternal Creator, who, sometime in the past, spoke the material world and life into existence. He too is zealous to convince everyone that his faith concerning the origin of all things must be accepted. He is zealous to convince others of his faith in the God of creation because his faith, too, is based on geological, biological, plus Bible “facts” concerning past events. Though all the evidence “assumes” the existence of this God in which he believes, the Christian must still have faith. As the atheist, he too was not there when all that now exists came into existence.

**Christians must still walk by faith, regardless of our conclusions that all evidence we have in the present points to a Creator as the origin of all things.**

## **B. The debate over beginnings:**

So here we are in a confrontational debate where there is a mutual rejection of one another’s faith. In reference to beginnings, the atheist rejects the answer of a Creator, and the Christian rejects the answer of materialistic evolutionist. It is a passionate standoff between dedicated

“theologians” or “philosophers” who reject the faith of one another because each contends that his faith is the answer for the existence of that which now exists.

Unfortunately, some on both sides of the debate seem to forget that both beliefs concerning origins is a matter of faith, for neither atheist nor believer was there when it all happened. Each faith concerning origins, therefore, depends on deductive reasoning from what we now presently observe or experience. Our faith prejudices us concerning our investigation of that which now exists.

**A rock that is picked up from the earth may be judged to be billions of years old by the atheist, but only thousands of years old by the believer. The judgment of both concerning the age of the rock is determined by their respective faiths.**

### C. The final result of faith:

So with whose faith would you side? When making your final choice in this matter, consider this: Both the atheist and the Christian will eventually die. If the atheist is correct, then the Christian, when he dies, **loses nothing in reference to his faith**, which in the end, was really false. There really was no God. Nevertheless, because of his faith, he lived as if he would give account of his behavior before an eternal Judge. He thus lived a good life in reference to his relationship with his neighbor. He helped others. He lived morally the best he could because of his belief that he would eventually be held accountable for his behavior.

But now consider the gamble of the atheist. When he dies, he may come to the realization that he gambled

with his faith in reference to the origin of all things. The atheist did live according to the mandates of human laws. It was likewise his desire to do good to his fellow man. He sought to be a good citizen only because of the motivation that a peaceful and orderly society is best for the orderly existence of humanity. But if the Christian is right, then **the atheist misses out on everything!** He loses all his stake in the gamble.

Now the question is with whose faith is one willing to gamble? For us, we would rather live with the Christian's faith, with the hope of being right when we die. We are not willing to gamble with the faith of the atheist, with the possibility of being wrong . . . forever. Each person has a choice as to which faith he or she will live in this life, while there is still a chance to change to a faith that there is life beyond death.

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### Group Review Discussion Questions

[After reading the text of this bookito, answer the following questions in a discussion group with others.]

1. Why is the atheists and the Christians' belief in the beginning of all things a matter of faith?
2. Why must the atheists believe in the theory of evolution?
3. What is the atheist gambling in reference to his faith?
4. If the atheist is right concerning beginnings, what does the Christian loses when he dies?
5. If the Christian is right concerning his or her beliefs in reference to beginnings, what does the atheist lose when he or she dies?

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