

FAITH FACTS 2 :

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE?

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1

Know what you believe

- ☀ Two aspects :
 - “*the Faith*” – body of truth
 - for all time, all people, everywhere
 - “*living by faith*” – daily direction
 - for me here today
- ☀ One common basis for both?
- ☀ First – a current example...

2

AFFIRMATION [Savage Garden]

I believe the sun should never set upon an argument
I believe we place our happiness in other people's hands
I believe that junk food tastes so good because it's bad for you
I believe your parents did the best job they knew how to do
I believe that beauty magazines promote low esteem
I believe I'm loved when I'm completely by myself alone

*I believe in Karma, what you give is what you get returned
I believe you can't appreciate real love until you've been burned
I believe the grass is no more greener on the other side
I believe you don't know what you've got until you say goodbye*

3

AFFIRMATION [Savage Garden]

I believe you can't control or choose your sexuality
I believe that trust is more important than monogamy
I believe your most attractive features are your heart & soul
I believe that family is worth more than money or gold
I believe the struggle for financial freedom is unfair
I believe the only ones who disagree are millionaires

I believe in Karma ...

I believe forgiveness is the key to your unhappiness
I believe that wedded bliss negates the need to be undressed
I believe that God does not endorse TV evangelists
I believe in love surviving death into eternity

4

AFFIRMATION [Savage Garden]

- ☀ **Marks out of 20?**
- ☀ Modern society = *pick-n-mix* spirituality
- ☀ Does it matter what you believe?
 - ... as long as you're *sincere*?
- ☀ So what do **you** believe?
 - ... and why?

5

The alternative?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven & earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead, he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Marks out of 24?

6

Does it matter?

- ☀ Faith cannot exist in a vacuum
- ☀ Need to have faith **in something** [or someone]
- ☀ The creed summarises “*the Faith*”
 - Based on the Bible
 - God’s written word (*logos*)
- ☀ What about *faith for daily life*?
 - Based on what we hear him say each day
 - God’s spoken word (*rhema*)

7

Faith for today : 7 opposites

FAITH = HEAR + BELIEVE + ACT

- ☀ **Deafness** : not listening
- ☀ **Deception** : hearing someone else
- ☀ **Denial** : hearing God but ignoring him
- ☀ **Doubt** : hearing but not sure
- ☀ **Disbelief** : hearing but not accepting
- ☀ **Distraction** : going in wrong direction
- ☀ **Disobedience** : not acting

8

So what?

- ☀ One common basis for faith :
 - What God says
 - The Bible for "*the Faith*"
 - Today's word for "*living by faith*"
- ☀ Do we know what we believe?
 - Do we have a "basis of faith"?
- ☀ Are we *listening*, *believing* & *acting*?
- ☀ "*Do whatever he tells you*" (Mary in John 2:5)