

Faith Or Superstition

There is a great fixed gulf between faith and superstition. They are as unlike as light and dark.

Yet superstition may have every appearance of faith and may deceive us if we do not stay alert.

Nor is this anything to wonder at, seeing that in every part of life there are opposites which appear alike to the careless observer.

For example, a mushroom and a toadstool look alike, only a sharp eye and knowledge can distinguish one from the other, yet one is nourishing food and the other an agent of death.

How then can we tell who is a true Christian believer and who is the victim of superstition?

How can we know that we are engaged with reality and not simply imagining things?

Without doubt there are sincere people who have communed with unreality and found comfort in what is wholly imaginary.

The problem is not simple, neither is it insolvable.

Faith differs from superstition in its ground of hope.

Faith rests upon character, specifically the character of the Creator God.

Remember a word uttered is only as good as the character of the one who uttered it.

Superstition counts on a word or text, and never thinks of the character of the person who gave it.

For a superstitious person there is a magical power in the word or words quite apart from the person who spoke it.

The very word or words are magical and have only to be spoken under the right circumstances to be effective. Morality or character have **no** place in this scheme of things, words only count.

This in its various manifestations is a sure mark of superstition.

Even in some “*Christian*” circles this ill-grounded trust in sounds and symbols is encountered all too frequently.

Such words as ‘Amen,’ Hallelujah,’ ‘Glory’ and others of like sacred association are repeated endlessly and thus become meaningless, in the apparent belief that they have in them some strange power for good. All this is “high grade” magic.

We need to search our own hearts thoroughly to discover just why we use these words.

Any sound religious experience must begin with a proper conception of the nature of the Creator God.

The terrible power of idolatry lies in its unworthy conception of the character of the Supreme Eternal Creator God.

It may be said that all religious experience that incorporates low and ignoble ideas of God is in essence superstitious.

The god of superstition is an irresponsible god, without character and the superstitious person must constantly try to placate him with words to force a favour out of him.

Such a person is never at peace because they are never sure of anything, for there is **no** trustworthy being back of their "*faith*," only words.

True faith does not rest upon texts alone but upon the God who wrote the text.

The true ground for religious hope is the character of the Eternal Creator God.

To such a person the scriptures are the very words of God, the very expression of His Holy Character, [John 6:51, 63, 66-69].