

Faith Or Imagination

When we consider the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promised future resurrection of all redeemed Christians, we may at times be disturbed by a sense of unreality about the whole thing.

We just cannot picture it, for it is completely unlike anything that has occurred in our personal experience.

Some Christians are fearful that because they are unable to imagine these events that they lack true faith.

Such a fear of lacking faith is completely groundless.

We are confusing two things that are completely unlike each other.

Hebrews 11:1 [Amplified Bible] *“Now faith is the assurance, the confirmation, the title deed of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and conviction of their reality. Faith is perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”*

Faith is confidence in the character of the Creator God whose word is completely trustworthy.

Titus 1:2 [NIV] *“a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,”*

The hope of a resurrection to eternal life is a major part of the Gospel Message brought from God the Father by His Son Jesus Christ.

Imagination is the power to visualise, to create in our mind a picture of things unseen.

We may have one without the other.

Faith and imagination are **not** identical in fact they are only distantly related.

To imagine any situation we have to have past experience to draw upon.

When it comes to the resurrection we do **not** have any experience to guide our thoughts.

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He did what no other human had ever done before, resurrected to eternal life.

We cannot imagine how He accomplished the miracle.

That Jesus Christ came forth alive from the tomb, alive for ever more, has been the firmly settled faith of the Christian Church from its beginning.

How this was accomplished is a secret firmly locked in the mind of God.

We should remember the wise statement of John Wesley, *“Let us not doubt a fact because we do not know how it was accomplished.”*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a proven fact by the personal witness of hundreds of people alive at that time. More than 500 people witnessed the resurrected Jesus Christ. [**1 Corinthians 15:4-8**]

Our own future resurrection is an even harder fact to visualise.

To paint a mental picture of our death is not so difficult because it has been our experience as human beings.

Our resurrection affords no familiar stuff with which to work.

Because we cannot visualise our resurrection we are afraid that we do not have faith in it.

The hope of our resurrection is totally a matter of faith.

It rests upon the character and Word of the Creator God, and draws its comfort from the knowledge that our Creator God cannot lie, nor deceive, nor change. [**Titus 1:2; Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6**]

How God will bring this to pass is **not** for us to know, we are not called to understand but to believe.