

Faith & Reason Series - **In Conflict?**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 07/29/2018



I. **Series Introduction**

II. **Meanings**

III. **Misconceptions**

IV. **The Demand For Signs**

Matthew 16:1-4

V. **Believing & Understanding**

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Far too many people believe that faith & reason are competing or are somehow contradictory in their natures. Even worse, many feel the need to take sides, relying on either faith or reason alone as a means of discerning truth.

Faith is belief, trust & loyalty to the God of the Bible. This kind of faith—saving faith, is the highest form of faith that one can exercise. It drives one forward in search of answers to the biggest questions of life. Most importantly, it enables one to know Jesus Christ in a real, personal & saving way.

Reason is the power of comprehending, inferring or thinking in orderly & rational ways. Critical thinking is the outworking of the mind's ability to exercise sound (effective) reason. Sound reason drives one forward in the endeavor to understand others and the world around them. It enables one to see the available evidence & draw conclusions based on rational deduction.

Saving faith & sound reason are gifts from God. The goal of all legitimate faith & reason pursuits is to know & live in the truth.

Where do you stand with respect to saving faith & sound reason? Is your commitment to one being emphasized at the expense of the other? Have you allowed the hunger for meaning & purpose to motivate your exercise of saving faith & sound reason? Is it possible that fear or ambivalence toward spiritual, intellectual & emotional growth is holding you back from God's blessings?

Prayerfully ask God help you appreciate & invest the gifts of saving faith & sound reason. Commit to be diligent in your pursuit of truth. Rejoice in the reality that God loves you & wants you to grow in your understanding, day by day.