



Do you struggle with faith?



SENIOR RE NON-EXAM: A1 / A3 / B1 / D1 / E1 / G2 / G3 / H1 / H2 / H3
JCRE: LO 1.5 / 1.8 / 2.2 / 2.3 / 2.8 / 2.9 / 3.1

IF YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT CS LEWIS AND HIS LIFE, CHECK OUT CS LEWIS: A BITE-SIZE OVERVIEW ON YOUTUBE!

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE FAITH?



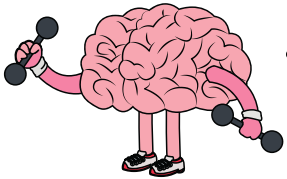
NAME A SITUATION WHERE IT IS EASY TO HAVE FAITH.

NAME A SITUATION WHERE IT COULD BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE FAITH.

WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ' VIDEO: "WHY IS FAITH A VIRTUE? DO WE NEED FAITH?" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

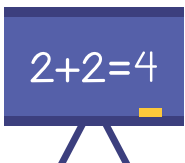


• Finish the sentence: **The only reason to believe anything is if it is** _____.



- Before CS Lewis became a Christian, he could not understand why faith would be seen as a virtue. After he converted to Christianity, he found the reason. He found that faith is about more than just i_____ assent to an idea.

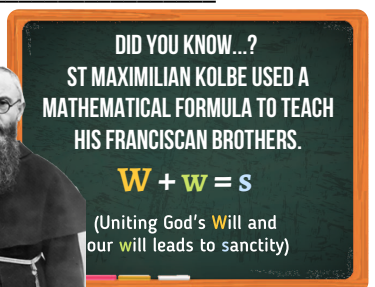
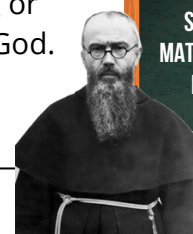
LOOK IT UP: ROMANS 1:5 AND 16:26 BOTH TALK ABOUT O_____ TO THE FAITH.



- CS Lewis used the example of the truth of $2 + 2 = 4$, and how nothing he came across in the course of his day would tempt him to not live like $2+2=4$.
- However, at times, it is easier or more convenient for him **not** to believe truths of faith such as Jesus Christ being fully _____ and fully _____.



- Faith, then, is not just intellectual assent, but submitting or surrendering your heart and will to the _____ of God.
- According to Fr Mike, what shows a depth of character?



STRUGGLING WITH FAITH: MORALITY

Fr Mike suggests that people can often find it easier to live as if faith isn't actually true, especially when it comes to moral issues. Can you explain this idea in your own words?



STRUGGLING WITH FAITH: SEASONS OF LIFE

We can struggle with believing at particular times in our lives too, but remember: **"Never doubt in the dark what you knew to be true in the light."** How would you explain this in your own words?



DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH FAITH?

MARK 10:46-52

WRESTLING WITH FAITH

We can see the Creed we profess as a list of things we believe, or we can see the Creed as describing _____



- Fr Mike proposes that sometimes what seems like blind and simple faith in grandparents is actually a result of them having wrestled with questions throughout their lives, and those questions are no longer objections. Having walked through the questions, they have learned they can still trust the Lord:

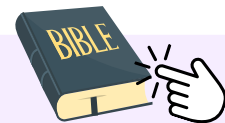
- ♥ **There's a God who is _____ and you can trust Him.**
- ♥ **There's a God who _____ you and you can trust Him.**
- ♥ **You might have _____ but you can trust Him.**



Faith is not a blind leap, but rather a _____ to the One who has His arms _____.



Now Read Mark 10:46-52



In this Gospel Passage, we hear about a well-known miracle of Jesus, when He healed the blind beggar, Bartimaeus and restored his sight. Bartimaeus knew Jesus could help him, and so he didn't stay quiet when the crowd tried to hush him, but called out louder, "Jesus, **Son of David**, have pity on me!" (FYI: This was also a title for the expected Messiah!)

Jesus saw the depth of His faith, and moved by His infinite compassion, He healed Bartimaeus and restored his sight. Do we have this kind of confidence and trust in Jesus? When we pray, do we pray expecting results, or do we assume nothing will really change anyway? God won't always answer our prayers in the way we might like, but He will always answer them. We can be certain of this.



TWO DOCTRINES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH ARE MENTIONED IN THIS VIDEO. CAN YOU NAME THEM?

- GOD IS THREE PERSONS AND ONE BEING, ONE DIVINE NATURE.
- JESUS CHRIST IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN.

THE T _____
THE I _____



MISSION!

TAKE SOME TIME TO HONESTLY THINK ABOUT YOUR FAITH. WHERE ARE YOU AT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? ARE YOU ACTIVELY TRYING TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP? ARE YOU STUCK IN A RUT? HAVE YOU MAYBE GIVEN UP CARING OR TRYING TO GROW? ARE THERE THINGS THAT ARE BLINDING YOU SPIRITUALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY? IF YOU CAN, GO TO CONFESSION THIS WEEK. IF NOT, SPEND SOME TIME IN HONEST REFLECTION AND PRAYER.



PRAYER TIME!

Close your eyes and imagine the following scene: God is there with you, like a Mom or Dad in a swimming pool, arms outstretched and ready to catch you. God looks you right in the eyes, and you hear Him say, "**I know you, I love you, I'm going to catch you... so come here, take that step, I will catch you.**" When you are ready, respond slowly with "**You, Father, You, Son, You Holy Spirit, God Almighty, I trust You.**" Stay with that image; feel secure and loved.



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON THE THEME OF FAITH:



- [Walk by Faith \(Jeremy Camp\)](#)
- [What faith can do \(Kutless\)](#)
- [Can Anybody hear me? \(Meredith Andrews\)](#)
- [You invite me in \(Meredith Andrews\)](#)
- [Take a Moment \(Will Reagan\)](#)
- [Waymaker \(Hillsong\)](#)
- [Overcomer \(Mandisa\)](#)
- [Today \(Brian Doerksen\)](#)

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



[What do we mean by Faith?](#)
(Bobby Angel)



Watch Anna, aged 20, from Cork explain the importance of faith in her life, especially after her diagnosis with a brain tumour. (HM Television)