

Bible Study Series
**DREAMTHINK.
BE.DO.**

Session One – Faith as Journey

Intro:

“The people that think they’ve arrived are the ones that always get us in trouble”

John Spong

Instant gratification

-simple answers, easy answers

The Christian faith is a journey, a process, an orientation, a way of life

Fundamentalism: “we know the answers”

In the history of the church, the times when we were *certain*, those were the times when we also persecuted people... religious wars

“We *walk into* the mystery of God, we never arrive”

Taking the Bible literally is problematic! ...and we lose the spirit of Christ

Mel White

One answer for every question - if you didn’t agree, you were going to hell

Yvette Flunder

“The more I grow [theologically], the less I seem to be certain about”

It’s not about either/or, it’s not about black or white... Jesus wasn’t offering simple answers - Jesus rarely gave a direct answer to a question. Instead, he responded with another question or told a story. Jesus invited his followers to think for themselves.

Having all the answers can become a barrier to spiritual growth and social change in our world

“There’s more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty.” (The Centre for Progressive Christianity)

“the great concern in life should be to discover which are the right *questions*. Then, even if you rarely get answers, you’re at least journeying in the right direction.” (Paul Tillich)

When you enter into a journey towards the Mystery, you must pass through literalizations of scripture, creed, dogma... even the literalization of *words*. There is no human word that we can speak that will capture the essence of God! It is always a journey beyond human boundaries into an ultimate mystery. (Spong)

The life a Christian person is to find practices that take us closer and closer to union with God - to the heart of God. We find all kinds of ways to do that, but the process of faith is trial and error, it is risk-taking. It’s God leading us to places that challenge us - that can be painful and difficult.



For discussion:

What do you see as an advantage of being on a spiritual journey over arriving at “the truth”?

How does “going literal” conflict with the spirit of Christ?



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