

## Faith and Science

It is commonly believed that faith is belief in the absence of evidence while science is belief that is based on observation and testable methods. This is a faulty conception of faith that is designed to stack the deck in favor of scientism. You don't need to take my word for it (I wouldn't want you to). Virtually all cognitive behaviors and beliefs are grounded in faith.

Many people believe that science has satisfactorily explained life's greatest mysteries and that science allows people to bypass faith altogether. Science is perceived as the final arbiter of truth—declaring all that is and all that has ever been. This is a gross overreach of scientists. This overreach is apparent when considering the fundamental question: the question of ultimate causes.

Any over-arching explanation for the universe as a whole must involve some force that transcends the universe itself. You can think of it like this: the universe is the *effect*. The *cause* for the universe is different than the effect. To explain the universe, to explain what came first, one must clearly reference a force *beyond* the universe. And anything that transcends the universe (how the universe exists and operates in its present state) does not fall within the jurisdiction of science. C.S. Lewis put it like this, "But why anything comes to be there at all, and whether there is anything behind the things science observes--something of a different kind--this is not a scientific question. if there is 'something behind,' then either it will have to remain altogether unknown to men or else make itself known in some different way."

Logic *demand*s that we look beyond the purview of science when we're considering the big "whys" and "whethers" of our universe as a whole. There are only two basic options: that personal forces are ultimately responsible for the universe or that impersonal forces are. It is not rational to remove the option that includes a person simply because it's a person (i.e. God). A personal force (God) is a legitimate and logical possibility, as it always has been.

Faith is exercised whether a person believes in impersonal forces or personal ones. Faith is simply belief in something that cannot be verified with the senses. Merriam Webster defines faith as “firm belief in something for which there is no *proof*” (emphasis mine).<sup>1</sup> When faith is defined as “belief in the absence of evidence,” the insinuation is that faith ignores or runs counter to evidence while those who defer to science manage to bypass faith. Neither contention is true.

Life and the full scope of human experience *is* the evidence. Every facet of our world is evidence because every facet of our world provides a clue as to the ultimate nature of reality. All people rely on faith because the facts alone do not spell out the full story about our world. The facts do not reveal whether the ultimate cause for our universe is personal or impersonal. Each person makes this call on his own, coming down on one side or another. And each person uses faith in that process. If a person presumes that the material world is all that exists, he has not bypassed faith and he has not taken the more rational route. His belief rests on faith, the same as it does for the person who settles on personal causes.

Any person who restricts his purview to the empirical evidence alone, as empiricists ostensibly do, will have no worldview at all. Before a person can form any values at all, he will first have to decide *why* he exists and *how* he should behave. *Why* he exists, the question of ultimate causes comes first. No one bypasses this question. A person’s answer is revealed in their everyday life and choices.

The scope of science is quite limited in the entire process of investigation. Science simply gives us a closer look at the things we *can* see (while we are hopefully aiming to know the *truth* about our world). No matter how good of a look science gives, it’s in no position to answer even life’s most basic question (personal or impersonal causes). Each person answers this question for himself, and hopefully he will explore the avenues that logic sets before him in that process.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith>