

“Faith Fills in My Ignorance”

You need a couple things to get a really good mystery going:

1. A cool bit of information that would be good to know.
2. A bunch of ignorant people!

The great thing about ignorance is that it's 100% curable. Each of us is thoroughly ignorant, what makes us unique and different is the areas which we know nothing about. Conversely, we're all experts in certain areas.

Life has some pretty deep mysteries, and the church can help us make sense of life's mysteries:

- Why am I here?
- What is the meaning of life?
- How can I overcome the injustice all around me?

----- Funny mysteries:

- How come abbreviation is such a long word?
- Why is there only one word for "thesaurus"?
- If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?
- Why does sour cream have an expiration date?

A. Ignorance is dangerous.

Proverbs 19:2, Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.

When I don't have the information I need I generally resort to emotion or habit to make decisions, I "go with my gut." Sometimes we stumble into brilliance, but usually we end up proving the truth of this proverb, "haste makes mistakes."

Enthusiasm is GREAT, when we're enthusiastic about the right things. You probably know someone who's super-excited about all the wrong things, and not at all interested in the things that will improve his life or make him happy.

----- Funny mysteries:

- Why do they call it the Department of Interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?
- If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?
- If "con" is the opposite of "pro," then what is the opposite of progress?
- How much deeper would the ocean be if sponges didn't grow in it?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

B. Faith fixes ignorance.

Hebrews 11:1-3, Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Faith gives us what I might call "mystery vision." Superman had x-ray vision, he could see through solid objects! The Christian's faith "gives us assurance about things we cannot see." Life's greatest mysteries are spiritual in nature, faith connects us with God's Holy Spirit, which in turn illuminates mystery.

Romans 16:25-27 (ESV)

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Paul is saying the whole book of Romans, in fact the Gospel itself, is all about revealing the great mysteries of God ... faith fixes spiritual ignorance!

----- Funny mysteries:

- If the police arrest a mime-artist, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
- When it rains, why don't sheep shrink?

- Why are there 5 syllables in the word "monosyllabic"?
- Is there another word for synonym?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

C. Faith improves wisdom.

James 1:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

-- The context of this verse is "being in trouble" which is exactly when we need wisdom the most!

-- God's generous nature is at the core of His character, He wants you "in" on life's deepest mysteries.

-- v. 8 is the key, divided loyalty destabilizes our faith, and our access to wisdom shrinks.

ILLY: Try to stand on a board suspended across a pvc pipe. Show how difficult it is to be stable in that situation.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, give us the kind of faith that's 'all in' for You. Lord, our lives are filled with distractions that divide our loyalty. Help us seek the *best* path forward. Reveal the great mysteries of life to each of us. In Jesus' name, amen."