

### **God Created an Incubator for Faith**

- Faith involves trust, not sight.
- My intellect and my eternal part (the real “me”) are connected by faith
- Once connected, my eternal part can begin to take control of my mind.
- The good angels cannot develop faith because they live with God (no trust required).
- They learn faith by watching us (Ephesians 3:10)

### **Faith and Behavior**

- God’s character includes justice, so bad behavior cannot be ignored.
- Therefore, God planned before Creation for Jesus (Colossians 1:15 – 18).
- Being forgiven just makes us even with justice; faith makes us able to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

### **Characteristics of Godly Faith**

- Based on evidence
  - Truth of the Bible
  - Realistic hope
- Need for redemption
  - Perfect sacrifice needed
  - Obedience needed
- Doing the humanly impossible
  - Promises of God
  - Obedience
  - Evangelism

### **Results of Faith**

- Transformed into the image of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:29)
- At a rate God knows you can handle (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Faith develops into good character into love (2 Peter 1)
- God adds faith as needed (Romans 12:3)
- God adds gifts as needed (Ephesians 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10)

### **Necessity of Transformation**

- Do you want to spend eternity with you?
- If “the real me” is not repaired before heaven, then “the real me” will have to be changed at the last instant, so I won’t even know myself.
- Transformation in this life is a promise from God. Either we believe it (faith) or not.
- Romans 3:26 God justifies those who have the faith of Jesus.

### **How?**

- The legalists have the right practices but the wrong reasons, so they are ineffective.
- We gather to encourage, stimulate, burst self-deception bubbles...
- We sing to better learn key concepts and be able to communicate them.
- We read the Bible to get a grip on reality.
- We re-enact the Lord’s Supper to re-commit to key concepts.