

BYSTANDER

JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

Momma Says

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Scripture: *John 2:1–12, 20:30–31*

Idea: God does not ask us to take anything by faith. That's hope.

Christian faith is not hope. Christian faith is a response to evidence. Jesus came to show us the Father and punctuated his teaching with evidence that he spoke on behalf of the Father.

Jesus' first-century followers didn't believe until they saw. They didn't "take it by faith." That's not Christian faith.

Introduction/Teaser:

Before we jump into the narrative, I want to address a tension John addresses throughout his account.

Perhaps the two most misunderstood and misused words in Christianity are "faith" and "believe."

Faith/**Believe**

Setting religion and theology aside for a moment...

We **believe** based on **evidence**.

We believe based on **confidence** in the person delivering the information.

Taught $8 \times 8 = 64$. Did you stop to make eight rows of eight things and count 'em? No. Sometimes conflicting information.

We don't know what to believe. Is coffee still good for us?

Religious **faith** and **belief** are often divorced from **reason** and confused with **hope**.

"Well, you just have to **believe**, brother."

"You just have to **take it by faith**, sister."