

Inquiring Minds: Should faith lean on science for proof?

#58 May 2020 "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." -Einstein ([misquoted?](#))

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Occam's Razor Cuts to the Bone

While it was cool to imagine [Col. Steve Austin](#) in the 1970's *The Six Million Dollar Man* running while an onscreen speedometer recorded his speed at 60 miles an hour, I was more fascinated by the implications of running that fast: his pants and shoes would also have to be made of a special material otherwise they would be ripped to shreds, and the hero once stationary would probably be charged with indecent exposure.



In more modern times I was given a link to an eight-minute video of this young zealous minister ecstatic researching "eight facts that prove the Shroud of Turin was that of Jesus Christ." (1) I found the comments below the video more interesting. To the "scientific theory" presented in the video which seriously espoused that the 3-D image on The Shroud was only possible if the Resurrection process turned matter into energy for a micro-second with enough power to light up a football stadium, one skeptic said that that would also mean that the shroud itself was of some miraculous fabric which would not be vaporized in the process. That comment reminded me of Lee Majors' need for super pants all over again.

When Confronted with This and Other Controversies My First Goto is Wikipedia

What I like about Wikipedia is it's a well-organized summary of the subject matter, its many authors footnoted and vetted by a team of editors. It has often been called "liberally biased" by some, and "fake news" by others, but I have found it to have both sides of a controversy well represented. More importantly, [wikipedia itself admits some errors](#) may seep in even though it is vetted by a staff, and has [excellent ratings by an independent and credible fact-checker](#).

For example, the wiki article on The Shroud opened my eyes to a history and a controversy of the "most

written about and controversial relic of all time." It brought up the three separate carbon dating tests, and the arguments by others trying to discredit those, and the fabric studies which found the sophisticated weave to be that of the 1300's and not consistent with that of the first century. It also notes that the Catholic Church of recent times itself has never confirmed or denied the validity of The Shroud. Wiki concluded that this is a controversial and much disputed subject. (2)

I also found many studies on the "Efficacy of Prayer" on Wikipedia, many of which said that it brought more hope and solace to the giver than the receiver. (3) And yet I believe that....

Science itself is Not All Knowledge

Just as Jesus himself is reported to have said, "Render unto Ceasar that things that are Ceasar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21), it seems to me to let matters of fruitful faith and good science keep to their own domain—if possible. In faith and in science what is wrong with just admitting that which we do not understand is a mystery, at least until otherwise found, discovered, or believed.

Why do some people of faith try to stretch science to prove the matters of belief? "Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because you have seen me you believe; blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29) And as [Joseph Campbell](#) would say in his studies of "wisdom traditions of the world," there is much power, wisdom, and direction therein.



Joseph Campbell

And, people of science, what right have you to criticize or debunk those of faith and belief which bring great peace, solace, and motivation to love and help each other and the planet and cosmos in which we are a part? Both need and nourish each other. while respecting each's space, just like marriage. **Best, Joe**