

# Faith Versus Reason

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

<sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

<sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

<sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

<sup>29</sup> so that no man may boast before God.

<sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

<sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

The first battle between faith and reason took place in the Garden of Eden. Spurred on by the serpent’s lies, Eve began to look at her situation from a purely logical perspective and decided that God was cheating her out of something good. Her faith faltered as “**reasonable**” thoughts of self-interest filled her mind ([Genesis 3:4-6](#)).

### **Genesis 3:4-6 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> “The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!”

<sup>5</sup> “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

I am not saying that the way of faith is never logical, but if we operate only on the basis of reason, a conflict with the Lord is inevitable. That is because His instructions and actions don’t always appear reasonable from a human perspective.

Although [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) describes God's thoughts and ways as higher than man's, some people believe they know better than He does.

**Isaiah 55:8-9 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup>“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.**

**<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So, are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

Paul emphasizes this by pointing out that God's choices can come across as illogical by the world's standards—His message of salvation seems foolish, and His messengers appear weak and unimpressive ([1 Corinthians 1:20-21](#)).

**1 Corinthians 1:20-21 (NASB)**

**<sup>20</sup>“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**<sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”**

In an age that thrives on recognition, admiration, and importance, a person who believes the Bible is considered a weakling in need of a religious crutch to cope with life. But God's Word explains the paradox: Recognizing their helplessness, believers lean on Christ, so He can raise them to stand with Him in righteousness.

That day in Eden, sin and self-importance entered the human heart. But all the worldly wisdom that fuels our pride is nullified by God. He is looking not for great and impressive people but for weak, humble servants who can boast only in Christ. The Savior alone is their strength and wisdom.