

## Christian Experiences vs Faith

The Moody Blues once made an album called A Question of Balance. Many aspects of Christianity have to deal with balance. Relating to God by faith versus relating by experience fits this category.



On the one side, someone can believe in God as revealed in Jesus, but relate to God more as a concept than a person. On the other side, two types of people can reside. One is the

skeptic who will not believe unless she or he sees a dramatic miracle and/or revelation of God. Experiences can be part of a journey to initial placing of faith in God. However, as I talked about in a [writing](#) in the website faith section, usually dramatic supernatural encounters don't precede conversion (for good reasons).

Also residing on this other side of the balance lies the believer who is a spiritual thrill seeker. This person wants dramatic experiences for the sake of excitement. Now, it's great to be excited about the Christian walk, but trusting in God consistently builds faith.

That doesn't mean that Christians should not experience God. Post-conversion experiences of God serve two purposes:

1. Produce growth in a relationship with God that includes serving others.
2. Reward our faith steps with confirmation that God is at work.

As I discussed in another site [writing](#), after someone comes to God in faith, God will often give subjective experiences that confirm faith. These can be dramatic or simple. These post-faith experiences are called rewards in Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Here are examples of Christian experiences that can occur dramatically or simply:

- The Bible seems to "come alive"
- A dissatisfaction with sin grows inside
- The ability to walk free from sin increases
- Concern for others improves (though sometimes a person has to start acting before the feelings arrive)
- Understanding of God's will for various situations happens

- There's a willingness to continue in commitment to God even when understanding of God's will is lacking (including when tragedy or disappointment hits)
- A sense of encouragement takes place that goes beyond natural feelings
- A peace that passes understanding develops
- An experience of answered prayer provokes a thrill and gratefulness to God
- Great "coincidences" occur
- Wonders come along; these can be as simple as an appreciation for nature or as dramatic as a divine healing.

This list can keep going, but this gives some examples. In the coming months, I will write more on this subject including evaluating spiritual experiences.

If you want to read more about knowing God's will, I suggest my book [God Leads Personally](#). You can get a free 27 minute video slice of the book's concepts [here](#).