'Youn Faith is in Dangen: Prepare for the Assault"

Fall Campus Challenge - October 29, 2016

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strengthen the faith of committed Christians, address the questions of those who have doubts about their Christian heritage, and represent the Christian message to those who are skeptical about its claims. WorldViewEyes is a grant-funded program that helps youth and adults Expand their minds, Engage

their culture, Evaluate beliefs, and Embrace a Christian worldview.

Ir

troduct	ion										
A. You	r Christia	an faith	: How	strong	is it? (d	circle)					
	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Extr	emely we	ak							C	ouldn't be s	stronger
B. Dan	ger signs										
• Lost In S	pace: "Da	anger V	Vill Rob	inson"							
• Music d	uring a Ha	allowee	n movie	marath	on: "Do	n't go ii	there,	you foo	l!"		
C. I Co	or 10:12	"So, if	you thi	ink you	are sta	nding fi	rm, be o	careful 1	that you	ı don't	" <mark>FA</mark>
D. The	"scheme	s" of t	he devil								
(e.	g. I Petei	r 5:8; E	phesiar	ns 6:11;	C. S. Le	ewis, Th	e Screw	tape Lei	tters)		
		,		,			O , .	ower. 1	1 Put or	the full arr	mor of
	that you o		-	_							
	r 5:8-9 or someo			f sober	mind. Yo	our ener	ny the d	evil pro	wls arou	ınd like a ro	aring lion
• It's not	so much o	of an O	UTWAI	RD assa	ult, but a	ın INNE	R invasio	on.			
• The mo	re unnoti	ceable i	t is, the	more e	ffective i	t is.					
• Cf. C. S	S. Lewis, 7	The Scre	wtape Le	etters.							
E. Dou	bt										
Ι.	Room f	for Do	ubt: D	oubt ca	n be a v	ery				GOO[thing.
• Doubt o	an be a v	ery g	ood th	ing.							
• Early o	disciples	all dou	ıbted. B	But that	made th	eir faith	stronge	r and the	eir witne	ess much bo	older.
• E.g. Th e		ubted,	but he b	ecame (convince	d becau	se his do	oubts we	ere more	e than adeq	uately
2.	Doubt	can be	a					DAN	GEROU	<mark>IS</mark> thing.	
3.	"Unexp	oressed	doubt	" is esp	ecially o	langero	us.			_	
"I believ Lost Me)	e unexpr							ers of fa	ith." (D	avid Kinna	man, You

4.	"Doubt is a doorway, either to deeper belief or to greater" DISBELIEF
Your F	Faith Can Falter and Even Fail.
	stions and doubts from youth with a "Christian background."
l.	Significantly doubted their faith? 38%.
2.	Can't ask their most pressing life questions at church?36%.
	ompletely or mostly true of me." You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving and Rethinking Faith (Kindle Location 3044).
3.	At some point, felt like rejecting their parents' faith?32%.
• • About 40	e You Lost Me (Kindle Location 247). 0% of young adults with a Christian background will go through a period of "spiritual n." The wanderer. After period is about 3 years. (You Lost Me. Kindle Location 888)
 Kinnama Prodigals and the cl 	n: Nomads (walk away from church engagement but still consider themselves Christian); (no longer Christian); Exiles (still invested in Christian faith but feel stuck between culture hurch)
,	naman, David (2011-10-01). You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Churchand g Faith (Kindle Location 247). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
B. Perce	ent of youth with Christian background who have "dropped out."% <mark>59%</mark>
B. Self of C. Spirit D. Intell Christian and skep was an o	al destruction doubts (e.g. "I don't have much to offer"; "I'm just insecure"; "I don't know who I am.") tual doubts (e.g. "Am I good enough?" "Can God really use me?" "Am I really saved?") ectual doubts a Smith, Soul Searching: Students leave faith behind primarily because of intellectual doubt officism (page 89). "Why did they fall away from the faith in which they were raised?" This open-ended question there were no multiple- choice answers. 32% said they left faith behind
far-fetche	of intellectual skepticism or doubt. ("It didn't make any sense anymore." "Some stuff is too ed for me to believe." "I think scientifically and there is no real proof." "Too many questions t be answered.")
	innaman (<i>You Lost Me</i>) says that 12% says it's "completely true" and 23% says it's "completely y true" that they have significant intellectual doubts. (Kindle, 3045-3047).
1.	Does God really exist? Is God really "good"?
2.	Is Jesus who Christians claim he is?
3.	Is the Bible really reliable and true?
4.	Doesn't science conflict with faith?
5.	How can nice people really be spiritually "lost"? The idea of hell seems so intolerant. doesn't seem fair.
E. Voliti	ional doubts (e.g. "I don't want to believe"; "I don't want to do it")
• The "circ	cular synergy" of doubts. Do a graphic slide showing cumulative and circular influence.

Informative stats can be found at The Barna Research Group (www.barna.org), Lifeway Research (www.lifewayresearch.com), Pew Research (http://www.pewforum.org), and David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me*.

III. WHO to Watch For

- A. Prominent and popular skeptics
 - I. Richard Dawkins, The God Delusion (2006).
 - 2. Christopher Hitchens, How Religion Poisons Everything (2007).
 - 3. Bart Ehrman (Professor of Religious Studies, Univ. of North Carolina)
 - a. How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee (2014).
 - b. Forged Writing in the Name of God—Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are (2011).
 - 4. Lawrence Krause (atheist cosmologist, Arizona State): "Change is always one generation away. So if we can plant the seeds of doubt in our children, religion will go away in a generation, or at least largely go away. And that's what I think we have an obligation to do" (Salon [Nov 4, 2014]).

B. Internet influences

"When our participants were asked to cite key influences in their conversion to atheism — people, books, seminars, etc. — we expected to hear frequent references to the names of the 'New Atheists.' We did not. Not once. Instead, we heard vague references to videos they had watched on YouTube or website forums" (Larry Taunton, "Listening to Young Atheists: Lessons for a Stronger Christianity," *The Atlantic* online [June 6, 2013]).

• Larry Taunton is the executive director of the Fixed Point Foundation and author of The Grace Effect: How the Power of One Life Can Reverse the Corruption of Unbelief. He also has a book about The Faith of Christopher Hitchens: The Restless Soul of the World's Most Notorious Atheist (Nelson, 2016)

IV. WHERE to Turn for Help

- "Doubt is a doorway either to deeper belief or to greater disbelief." (What famous person said that? Rich Knopp)
- A. Christian prayer.
- B. Christian peers.
- C. Christian parents (biological and spiritual).
- D. Christian publications (e.g. websites, videos, books). See http://www.roomfordoubt.com/recommended-resources.html.
- E. Christian professors (e.g. @Lincoln Christian University!)