



Archery is a skill that, though simple in its practice, is based on some amazing dynamics of reality – many of which we cannot see or measure easily:

Gravity:  $F = G (m_1 m_2) / r^2$       Motion:  $F = ma$     Initial Velocity:  $eFd/2$   
 Kinetic energy:  $k \frac{1}{2} m v^2$       Leaving Velocity:  $\frac{1}{2} m v_2 + k \frac{1}{2} m v_2 = eFd/2$ ;  
 Horizontal Components:  $V \times \cos(\theta) = V_x$       Flight time:  $t = 2(V_y/g)$   
 Vertical Components:  $V \times \sin(\theta) = V_y$       Horizontal displacement:  $X = V_x t$ ;  
 Vertical displacement:  $Y = (V_y t) / 2$       Archers Paradox:  $\Delta M_G = l G \alpha$ .

Dizzy yet? The list could go on and on.

The point here is that in the simple and fun discipline of archery we are trusting in realities that we cannot see. And yet, they are present and they are constant and they are real.

Faith is very much the same (with a little bit easier math). Faith is the practice of trusting in reality.

Hebrews 11:1 & 3 read, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

Nowhere in all the universe can we observe something coming from nothing. Everything comes from something...something other than itself. For everything that exists there exists what it takes for that thing to exist.

If this is true of all the things in the universe, it stands to reason that it must also be true of the universe itself. The fact that the universe exists is the evidence that what it takes for the universe to exist also exists.

The “what” is actually a “who” – designer, creator, and sustainer of the universe.

The very first thing we read in the Bible is, “In the beginning, God created...” Later we read, “what can be known about God is plain...because God has shown it...his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.” (Genesis 1:1 & Romans 1:19-20)

When we start to see that the things we observe inside the universe are established by God who exists outside the limits of the universe and who created and sustains everything in the universe, we begin to understand what is meant to live by faith.

Just like the archer is able to loose an arrow because of all the invisible realities at work, so each person exists and moves and has life because God is at work.

**Faith is the practice of trusting in reality – the practice of trusting in God.**

The Bible says that we must live by faith and not by sight and that without faith it is impossible to please God. (2 Corinthians 5:7 & Hebrews 11:6)

How do we live by faith? Simple, we chose to trust in God’s Word – the Bible. We commit to the practice of trusting God a little bit more today than ever before.



A pilot trains diligently to learn to trust that the airplane’s instruments give a more accurate perspective than personal feelings, collective experience, or immediate circumstances. The Christian trusts that God gives us a more accurate perspective on reality than we can give ourselves.

The pilot calls this trusting in an Accurate External Standard of Reference. The Christian calls this Faith.

Without instruments, the pilot would get disoriented and crash. The results are the same when we choose not to trust in the Bible. To live by faith we have to trust in the Bible as our A.E.S.R. The good news is, we can trust the Bible.

The Bible is absolutely trustworthy.

It was written over a 1600 year span, by more than 40 different authors, from all walks of life, in many different places and circumstances, on three different continents, in three different languages, in a variety of literary styles, covering hundreds of controversial topics, and yet communicates in perfect harmony one unified story: God’s redemption of humanity.

The Bible is absolutely useful.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 read, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”



The Bible is absolutely accessible.

**Read, pray, & obey.** Take time every day to talk with God through the pages of his word. Read to know him, ask him questions, search for his answers, and obey his directions. Be real with God and let him be real with you...really.

**Study with trusted friends.** The history we read in the Bible happened a long time ago and on the other side of the world. It takes work to understand what it first said, what it really means, and how to apply it. We can help each other.

**Commit the Bible to memory.** A pilot can’t just glance at some gauges on the ground then hope to fly by the seat of his pants. He needs those instruments with him. We also need the Bible with us...all the time.

Check it out...

Memorized reading is one of the most fulfilling ways to engage God’s Word. Put a word in front of the eye and the mind only has to recognize and repeat it. But, arrange a series of symbols that represent words and the mind readily stores the words in order.	Psalm 119:11 (ESV) I h S u y W i m ♥, t I m n S a y.”
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To continue the conversation, email  
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