

Physicalism and Faith

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

1. The presumption that everything in the universe is explainable in terms of matter and forces is called Physicalism. Have you held this presumption? Are you are holding to this presumption currently? Where does faith live in relation to physicalism?
2. Science is the study of observed events, and the development of analytic models that can predict how things will behave. How does science influence your faith? Do you see God as being consistent with science?
3. One of the strengths of science is the willingness to revisit old ideas and reformulate them when discrepancies arise. Can you apply that same willingness to your faith or the traditions of your faith community?
4. Have you questioned the existence of God?
5. Have you experienced cognitive dissonances with your faith? How did you process these dissonances?
6. The Author quotes from Acts 17:27-29, “God... is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.” How do you experience the closeness of God in your conscious experiencing? What can you do to become more aware of God’s presence in your consciousness?