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## ***The Logic of Love***

### **Chapter 6: A Definition Beyond Words**

#### **The Gravity Song**

When I was back in college, I wanted for to know  
 All about the gravity and just what makes it go  
 So, I signed up for the science class, sat myself down  
 I asked the professor, "Hey, what keeps us on the ground?"  
     He said, "That's easy, boy. What it is, is the gravity."  
 And I said, "What's that?"  
 And he said, "That is what keeps us on the ground!" . . .

Now the physics professor, he met me with a laugh  
 I asked him about gravity and he drew me up a graph  
 He punched a bunch of numbers on a little calculator  
 And said, "The object with the lesser mass is attracted to the greater!"  
     I said, "Thanks. I can see that. I was wondering why."  
 He says, "Well, it's gravity!"

Well, I talked to them professors. I learned a lot of things  
 About the rate of falling objects and the way a pendulum swings  
 They can calculate it, corner it, predict it like a wiz  
 And there isn't one among 'em that can tell you what it is  
     Of course, I can tell you what it is . . .  
         Gravity is all them folks believing in it  
             keeping you on the ground!

**-Steve Clark**

Trying to define the essence of faith in God is like trying to explain what makes gravity exist. Pushing on the scientific mystery of gravity helps define the difference between philosophy and science. Notwithstanding that philosophy and science are interrelated, they are two different conversations. Talking about the mystery of gravity, however intellectually stimulating that may be, will not help us discover that objects fall at thirty-two feet per second squared. Similarly, pushing on the spiritual mystery of faith helps us respect the difference between offering inspiration and communicating content. Communication designed for inspiration produces deep feelings. Such forms of expression have their own value, but they can cloud the reasoning abilities of the mind. An exploration of the logic of love is an adventure into the highest realms of thought and requires dispassionate analysis.

Gravity is a mystery because we cannot find cause for its existence. Faith is a mystery because human beings are all over the board on this subject. There will always be a mysterious aspect to faith due to its intimate association with freewill and love. We must keep in mind that we are traveling in the realm of the alogical. On a certain level, the answer to "Why have faith in God?" has already been given. The answer is love. But this *explains* nothing. There is value in knowing how gravity works, even though the source of this energy is beyond explanation. Similarly, there is value in understanding how faith works, even though the alogical definitions of love and freewill mean we'll never be able to *prove* anything.

Like gravity, faith has observable qualities and, to a certain extent, acts in ways that are predictable. As a practical matter, understanding how faith operates and using it effectively is similar to observing the how gravity works and applying that understanding wisely. Sometimes all we really need to do is "calculate it, corner it, and predict it like a wiz." Discerning how faith works

is critical for determining whether it best fosters love. Fortunately, as with gravity, when it comes to the issue of application, there is a lot about faith that is not shrouded in mystery. We do not need to penetrate the mysteries of natural forces to roll down a hill. Nor do we need to penetrate the mysteries of faith in order to appreciate the benefit of raising a sail to its favorable winds.

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