

Empirical!!! It's an interesting word; it implies and describes non debatable, absolute proven facts, as compared to declared history or speculative theory. Two plus two equals four; that's an empirical fact. No one can argue its validity.

Intellectuals and highly technical reasoning folks, many times, seem to want to demand empirical evidence before buying into any form of faith driven hope. I know!!! I was a mechanical engineer before becoming a pastor many years ago.

Now, can we say it is empirical that creation was initiated as we observe galaxies, stars, universes, along with our planet and its moon, all progressing with plant and animal life here? Included, as we observe animal life, we see various degrees of mysterious sophistication such as unexplainable instinctive behaviors and abilities. It's not empirical, some would say, if we apply the most basic definition of the word.

Let's look further and observe humanity; that would be us, you and me! Is it empirical to say a Creator's final endeavor came with this creation of humanity to provide the relationships and fellowship He desired as Scriptures declare? Deep relationships could never be possible with instinctive behavior. Relationships, either with God or with each other must be motivated by the freedom to choose or deny them.

Think about this. If God had provided empirical proof for all the historical declarations in Old and New Testament Scripture, *and He could have*, our faith would not be required!!! Empirical evidence would direct all of humanity toward a universal fear driven robotic obedience with very limited incentive or even the ability to enjoy unconditional agape type love (*A purpose driven verb, not just some emotional feelings*) motivated relationships.

Scriptures tell us, "*without faith it is impossible to please God*" and that after a faith driven expression initiates the revelation of Christ's Spirit to accept the invitation to possess Biblical truth God will confirm the new relational position with Him by imparting a spiritual awareness to the recipient, but not before that faith is declared. Usually it is the recipient's faith, however not always. It can be faith with no known source. God provides the Spirit; faith releases the mutual Relationship.

This old engineer experienced the spiritual confirmation with its relationship and fellowship many years ago, and when it happened the joy of anticipating eternity with my Creator was confirmed, as though it was an "empirical" fact, an interesting word, YES???