

A photograph of a bright yellow door set within a dark, vertically-plank wooden wall. To the right of the door is a small, dark lantern with a warm, glowing light inside. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn. The door has a simple panel design and a small step leads up to it.

HOUSE CALLS

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN COMES CALLING

(un)Belief in a time of virus



Paneloux is a man of learning, a scholar. He hasn't come in contact with death; that's why he can speak with such assurance of the truth—with a capital T. But every country priest who visits his parishioners and has heard a man gasping for breath on his deathbed thinks as I do. . .





... mightn't it be better for God if we refuse to believe in Him and struggle with all our might against death, without raising our eyes toward the heaven where He sits in silence?





*If [one] thought the evidence bad
but tried to force himself to believe
in spite of it, that would be merely
stupid.*

C.S. Lewis





Just when I think I've finally found some balance between active devotion and honest modern consciousness, all my old anxieties come pressuring up through the seams of me, and I am as volatile and paralyzed as ever...

Christian Wiman





C.S. Lewis

I was assuming that if the human mind once accepts a thing as true it will automatically go on regarding it as true, until some real reason for reconsidering it turns up. In fact, I was assuming that the human mind is completely ruled by reason. But that is not so. . . . The battle is between faith and reason on one side and emotion and imagination on the other.





C.S. Lewis

...supposing a man's reason once decides that the weight of the evidence is for it. I can tell that man what is going to happen to him in the next few weeks. There will come a moment when there is bad news, or he is in trouble, or is living among a lot of other people who do not believe it, and all at once his emotions will rise up and carry out a sort of blitz on his belief. . . .





*For moods will change, whatever
view your reason takes. I know that
by experience. Now that I am a
Christian I do have moods in which
the whole thing looks very
improbable. . . .*

C.S. Lewis





Frederica Mathewes-Green

I can't really explain what happened next. I was standing there looking at the statue, and then I discovered I was on my knees. I could hear an interior voice speaking to me. Not with my ears-it was more like a radio inside suddenly clicked on. The voice was both intimate and authoritative, and it filled me.





It said, "I am your life. You think that your life is your name, your personality, your history. But that is not your life. I am your life."

Frederica Mathewes-Green





Frederica Mathewes-Green

It went on, naming that "life force" notion I admired: "Beyond that, you think that your life is the fact that you are alive, that your breath goes in and out, that energy courses in your veins. But even that is not your life. I am your life. "I am the foundation of everything else in your life."





I didn't become a Christian because somebody with a Bible badgered me till I was worn down. I wasn't persuaded by the logic of Christian theology or its creeds. I met Christ.

Frederica Mathewes-Green





Now Faith. . . is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods. For moods will change, whatever view your reason takes. I know that by experience.

C.S. Lewis





Now that I am a Christian I do have moods in which the whole thing looks very improbable: but when I was an atheist I had moods in which Christianity looked terribly probable.

C.S. Lewis





C.S. Lewis

This rebellion of your moods against your real self is going to come anyway... you can never be either a sound Christian or even a sound atheist, but just a creature dithering to and fro, with its beliefs really dependent on the weather and the state of its digestion.





Christian Wiman

Be careful. Be certain that your expressions of regret about your inability to rest in God do not have a tinge of self-satisfaction, even self-exaltation to them, that your complaints about your anxieties are not merely a manifestation of your dependence on them. There is nothing more difficult to outgrow than anxieties that have become useful to us. . .





... one must train the habit of Faith. . . .We have to be continually reminded of what we believe. Neither this belief nor any other will automatically remain alive in the mind. It must be fed.

C.S. Lewis

