

What You Cannot Prove is True

BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE

Having participated in many debates about faith I have come to believe that disillusion in general affects our ability to hope in God. When people feel disappointed — in human nature, in the promise of science, perhaps in their own lives, to speak of trust in God seems like another illusory hope.

God is not an immediate hope, but an ultimate hope. God is not the assurance that tomorrow you will wake up without that pain in your back, or that your brother-in-law will stop causing you grief. It is the promise that humanity has a future, that there is something over and above this world, greater than it, greater than us, that does not end.

God defies our passion for quantifying and measuring. God cannot be reduced to probabilities or measured by caliper or decided upon by opinion poll. If you look only for the certainties of reason, God will elude you. If you believe there is nothing but what can be seen, you will remain blind.

But you may have this peculiar intuition that you are not alone and that love exists before and after us and is braided throughout the universe. Don't let the powerful but narrow light of reason convince you the rest is darkness. What you feel you cannot prove. What you feel is true.