

FAITH

Faith is one of the greatest attributes that a child of God can possess and is both proper and necessary to live a life pleasing to God. If we want to obtain the ultimate goals and satisfaction in our Christian life, it is mandatory that we obtain strong faith. Without strong faith, we will not be able to walk in power and victory. The Bible declares that God has given to every man (person) a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). So everyone possesses a portion of faith. But faith beyond that measure must be nurtured and developed.

What is faith?

Faith is complete trust and confidence in God. It is belief that is not based on logical proof or material evidence. Faith then is simply, BELIEVING GOD.

The first and most important aspect of the subject of faith is to understand that having faith is not optional. It is absolutely mandatory if we want to live a life pleasing to God. The bible declares in Hebrews 11:6 ***“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”***

Faith is developed as we hear the word of God. Romans 10:17 states, ***“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”***

Notice that it did not say so then faith cometh by reading or by having heard but “by hearing.” The more we hear God’s word, the more faith will come alive in our hearts and in our life. There are many that believe that it is not necessary to come to church to hear the word of God. While that may be true, it is in the church setting that we hear the word the most and being there places us in an atmosphere where we frequently hear the word of God.

Faith must be acted upon. It’s not enough to say, “I have faith,” or “I believe God.” One must act upon that faith. The Bible declares that faith without works is dead. (James 2:17) Another way of saying that is, “Saying that you have faith without putting that faith into action is of no effect.” One must hear the word, believe that word and then put that belief into action to receive the result of believing the word.

Examples of people who believed God and acted on their faith:

Noah (Hebrews 11:7)

God warned Noah, Noah believed God, Noah acted upon that belief by literally building an ark.

Abel: (Hebrews 11:4)

It was by faith that Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-9)

God spoke to Abraham to go to another country. He believed it was God, then acted upon that belief and moved to that country without even knowing exactly where he was going.

Sara: (Hebrews 11:11)

By faith Sara received strength to conceive a child when she was past childbearing age.

Hebrews 11 mentions many others examples.

Faith is the most important part of the Christian armour. (Ephesians 6:16)

“Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

It takes faith to be saved because we are saved by faith. (Ephesians 2: 8-9).

Everyone that believes in God is not necessarily saved. When you believe that there is a God, then you must accept him by faith. (You cannot see him with the natural eye; therefore, if you accept him, it is by faith.)

It takes faith to be an overcomer. (I John 5:4). There are literally thousands of people who are merely professing to be Christians. In this time of lukewarmness, hypocrisy, religiosity and “forms of Godliness.” the only way one can truly walk in victory and power, is by faith. It takes faith in God to live righteously, godly and soberly in this present world.

Unbelief/Doubt is the opposite of faith:

Faith moves the hand of God where doubt prohibits the hand of God to move in the believer’s life. The Bible states that in some cities, Jesus could do no works because of their unbelief. This is not to say that because people doubted and had unbelief made Jesus any less able to perform – it did not. But, where doubt and unbelief are, God is prohibited to perform simply because faith is what moves him towards us. God honors faith.

Unbelief will stunt your growth as a Christian. You can be a Christian without strong faith as it were, but that life will be very shallow and will bring along with it much defeat whereas a believing life will bring with it answered prayer and spiritual growth. As the old adage says, “Big beliefs bring big rewards and little belief brings little rewards.”

Unbelief is a sin and is always found in scriptures that also mention sins such as fornication, lying, murder, etc. This would indicate that unbelief is not a small sin (as some would categorize it), but can be tragic, in that it always brings with it the results of unanswered prayer and an unproductive life.

Miscellaneous thoughts on Faith

As Christians, we live by faith. Hebrews 10:38 states “***Now the just shall live by faith...***” Every man or woman that ever accomplished anything for God had their faith tested. A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted. The Bible declares that the trying of our faith is more precious to God than gold. God tests our faith simply to mold us and make us more prevailing and valuable instruments for his glory. He already knows what his capabilities are but we don’t always know what our capabilities are and as we go through tests, overcome situations and mountains in our lives, we not only become giants in our faith, but we are more equipped to help others to deal with their mountains. Dare to step out on faith. If there is a need, a mountain, a work you desire to do for the Lord, read his promise(s) for that situation, believe that promise and act upon that promise and don’t let go until it comes to pass. God’s word is true. It cannot fail. It has already been tried. We must strive diligently to contend for more faith that we may move forward and be tools in God’s service and live a life of joy and victory in Christ.