

FAITH TOWARD GOD

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Faith is one of the most basic foundations of the Christian life. Without a true understanding of biblical faith, it will be impossible to come into the spiritual maturity that God desires us to walk in. Faith makes the difference between defeat and victory in a Christian's life.

1. By what do we live (or walk)? (2 Corinthians 5:7)

2. How does the Bible define faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

The word translated "assurance," "conviction," or "substance" of things hoped for has the connotation of a title deed for a house. After you pay the down payment for a new house and fill out all the paperwork, you would be given a deed for your house. Before you ever slept there, ate there, or moved a single piece of furniture into the house, it would still be yours from that moment. You would have no question that the house was yours or that you would be able to experience all the benefits of owning that house because the deed would be your proof of ownership. It is the same way with faith. Faith is an inner knowing (not a hope) that a promise of God is yours in a particular situation and that you will certainly experience the full benefits of that blessing.

3. What does God give to every believer? (Romans 12:3)

4. What will Jesus be looking to find in people when He comes again? (Luke 18:8)

5. What is the relationship between faith and pleasing God? (Hebrews 11:6)

6. What must everyone who comes to God believe? (Hebrews 11:6)

7. From what does faith come? How is faith cultivated in our lives? (Romans 10:17)

Read the following passages and list the benefits of faith recorded in each:

8. Ephesians 2:8

9. Galatians 2:20

10. 1 John 5:4

11. Ephesians 6:16

12. Romans 4:20

13. What principles of faith did Jesus outline in Mark 11:22-24?

14. When we pray for something, what is a critical condition for receiving an answer to our prayer? (Mark 11:24)

Sometimes our circumstances appear to completely contradict the promises of God. But Jesus teaches that we are to believe God's promise first in our hearts, and then we will see the answer to our prayers and the fulfillment of His promise manifested in our lives. All of us who have been saved have experienced this.

15. By what are we saved? (Eph. 2:8)

Before we were saved, none of us had seen God with our eyes, we had not seen Christ die for our sins, and we did not have absolute scientific proof that He had paid the price so we could be forgiven and set free from our slavery to sin. None of us had any reason to have faith that God would choose us on our own merit. But each of us put our faith in Christ, believing He was who His word said He was and that He had done what His word said He had done. Then we acted on that faith by repenting of our sins and surrendering our hearts to Christ, and we were saved and gloriously transformed. Our belief preceded our experience in entering the Kingdom of God, and we will find this is typically the case as we progress in faith and obtaining God's promises.

Read John 4:46-54.

16. How did the official prove his faith in Christ? (v. 50)

17. What were the results? (Vv. 51-53)

There are two types of faith:

1. Head knowledge faith—seeing is believing (or simple mental assent)
2. Heart knowledge faith—I believe it because God says it is true.

18. Describe Abraham's heart faith. (Romans 4:17-21)

Note that Abraham did not consider his body. He did not meditate on the problem; he looked only to the promise of God.

19. How does this kind of heart faith—which changes circumstances rather than being weakened by apparently contrary circumstances—grow strong in your life? (Proverbs 4:20-22)

20. How can we have true confidence for what we ask for in prayer? (1 John 5:14-15)

We can have confidence in whatever we ask God if we know what we are asking for is according to His will. And God has not left us stuck in a guessing game as to what His will is! His word reveals His will! The Holy Spirit has been sent to guide us into all truth (John 16:13) and His word is truth (John 17:17). As we ask the Holy Spirit to teach us and give us wisdom and we consult the principles, commands and promises of God's word, we can know God's will! When we have this knowledge and pray accordingly, we can do so with all faith and confidence, knowing God will answer!

21. What assurance do we have from God concerning the truth of His word? (Numbers 23:19, Isaiah 55:11)

- a) _____
- b) _____

True faith ultimately rests on the character of God and asks no further proof than the moral perfection of the Holy One who cannot lie.

22. How would you describe God's willingness to give us access to all of His promises through Christ? (II Corinthians 1:18-20)

We must speak our “Amen” to all of God’s promises! The word Amen means “let it be so.” When you see a promise of God, your response should be, “Lord, let that be so (in my life, in this situation, in this place, etc.)!”

23. According to these scriptures, what will we have to combine with our faith in order to obtain God’s promises? (James 1:3-4, Hebrews 6:12, Hebrews 10:35-36)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Faith flourishes in our hearts when our conscience is clean and languishes if it isn’t. And obedience is often a proof of our faith and an essential step of acquiring the aim of our faith. Faith is not an excuse for laziness or disobedience! Faith requires action. The Israelites had to march around Jericho and shout before the walls fell! (Anyone can shout after the wall falls; that doesn’t take any faith.) We must be careful not to sit and wait for something to come to us. We must have an active faith and go up and possess the land God has given for us as an inheritance.

24. While Jesus was teaching in a house, some men brought a friend to Him to be healed. Because they had difficulty reaching Him, did they give up? (Luke 5:18-25)

25. What did they do? (Vv. 18-19)

26. What did Jesus “see”? (v. 20)

27. How did the invalid demonstrate his faith? (Vv. 24-25)

28. Of what value is faith without proper corresponding action? (James 2:14, 17, 26)

29. How is faith perfected? (James 2:22)

Faith is completed when we step out and put into practice what we believe, regardless of how we feel. Consider God’s many promises to heal the sick. If you never experience any thoughts or feelings of doubt regarding those promises but you never step out and pray for the sick, you do not have true faith. If, however, you do experience feelings and thoughts of doubt but step out and pray for the sick in spite of that because you know God’s word is true, you are demonstrating real faith!

30. How much faith is necessary to accomplish amazing things? (Matthew 17:20)

31. What should our focus be on as we seek to live by faith? (Hebrews 12:2)

We must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith! It is not wise to focus on yourself or to attempt to gauge the level of your faith. Excessive introspection always hinders faith. Instead of analyzing your faith, fix your eyes on the God of your faith, the One with whom nothing is impossible (Matthew 19:26)! Continually look to the Lord, His promises, and His infinite love and power, and then step out obediently with corresponding action, and God will lead you from one victory to another!