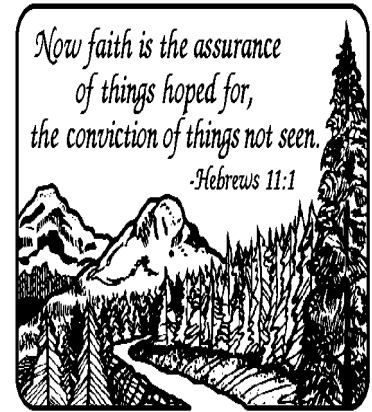


## FAITH TOWARD GOD

### I. HOW IMPORTANT IS FAITH?

Faith is the foundation of the entire Christian life.

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (**Hebrews 11:6**)



In order to know God or receive Him, man must believe that He exists and that He has revealed Himself in His Word the Bible.

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'" (**Romans 1:17**)

### II. WHAT IS FAITH?

A. Faith is to trust in or believe in, to rely upon a person or thing, or to commit to the power of that person or thing until the reality of a promise comes to pass.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (**Hebrews 11:1**)

### III. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TRUE FAITH?

A. The source of true Biblical faith is the Word of God.

"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (**Romans 10:17**)

B. The Word of God comes in a variety of ways:

1. The Word was spoken in creation.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come."

(**John 1:1-3**)

2. The Word comes to us in writing.

"And He said unto them, 'These are My words which I spoke unto you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about me in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'" (**Luke 24:44**)

3. The Word comes by prophecy.

"But knowing this first that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

**(II Peter 1:20-21)**

4. The Word comes to us as the Living Word.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." **(John 1:14)**

#### **IV. ARE THERE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FAITH?**

A. God gives to every believer a "measure of faith".

"For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." **(Romans 12:3)**

B. There is "little faith".

"But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today, and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith." **(Matthew 6:30)**

C. There is "great faith".

"Now Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, 'Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.'" **(Matthew 8:10)**

D. There is "perfect faith".

"You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected." **(James 2:22)**

#### **V. IS FAITH A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE?**

Faith is not an escape from reality or a hiding place for weak character. Rather, obedience proves our faith.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house and test Me now in this said the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.'" **(Malachi 3:10)**

"And Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.'" **(I Samuel 15:22)**

#### **VI. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF TRUE FAITH?**

- A. True faith rests upon the character of God and asks no further proof than the moral perfection of the Holy One who cannot lie. It is enough that God said it even if it contradicts all of our conclusions or logic.

"The one who believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar: because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son."

**(I John 5:10)**

"May it never be: let God be found true, though every man be found a liar; as it is written, That Thou mightest be justified in thy Words and mightest prevail when thou art judged." **(Romans 3:4)**

- B. True faith is confidence in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ; it is the response of our soul to the divine character revealed in the Bible.

"And those that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, O Lord, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee." **(Psalm 9:10)**

- C. We must be convinced beyond any possible doubt that God is altogether worthy of our trust. As we question the wisdom of any of God's ways, our faith is still shaky.

## VII. WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS OF FAITH?

- A. We are saved by faith.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God."

**(Ephesians 2:8)**

- B. We live by faith.

"I have been crucified with Christ: and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

**(Galations 2:20)**

- C. It produces overcomers.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith." **(I John 5:4)**

- D. Our faith quenches the darts of the enemy.

"In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one." **(Ephesians 6:16)**

- E. Our faith glorifies God.  
"Yet with the respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God." (**Romans 4:20**)

#### **VIII. IN RELATIONSHIP TO FAITH, HOW DO WE APPROPRIATE GOD'S WORD?**

- A. Locate the promises of God's Word that fits the need.  
"For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (**II Corinthians 1:20**)
- B. Fulfill all conditions attached to the Word.  
"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." (**Psalm 37:5**)
- C. With patience, accept the trying of our faith.  
"Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (**James 1:3-4**)
- D. We must stand firmly on the promises of God.  
"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."  
(**II Peter 1:4**)
- "Fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith; who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:2**)