

FAITH

I. What Is It?

A. Definition Read Heb 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Charles Spurgeon gives the following commentary :

Now faith (That is, belief, trust in God) *Is the substance of things hoped for* (It gets a grip of them, and holds them tight) *the evidence of things not seen* (The sight of what we cannot see with our mortal eyes.)

B. More Than Intellectual Assent Read James 2:14-22

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder.

Questions-

1. What is true Faith?

-definition - **True Faith is Loyalty, Trust and Obedience to the revealed truth of the Bible.**

2. True Faith is accompanied by action. Complete the following thoughts:

If I have faith in a bank, I will ...

If I have faith in the weather report calling for tornado warnings, I will...

If I have faith in the craftsmanship of a chair, I will...

If I have Faith in God, I will... (issues like - \$, time, commitment levels, prayer, etc...)

II. Why Is It Important?

A. In Salvation Read: Rom 5:1-2 and Eph 2:8-9

Rom 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

Eph 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

B. In Our Daily Walk With God Read: 2 Cor 5:7 and Heb 11:6

2 Cor 5:7 *We live by faith, not by sight.*

Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Questions-

1. What role does Faith play in salvation?

2. What does it mean to "live by faith," as opposed to living "by sight?"

C. The Power of Faith

1. The results of a Lack of Faith: Read: Matt 13:54-58 and Matt 17:14-20

Matt 13:54-58 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked.

55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?"

56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."

58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Questions-

1. What was the reason for the lack of faith in Jesus' hometown?
2. Do you see the potential for the same problem here? Explain.

2. The results of Strong Faith: Read: Matt 9:22 and Matt 8:5-10

Matt 9:20-22 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." 22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

Matt 8:5-10

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." 7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

3. Jesus' promises for us: Read: John 14:12 and Matt 21:21

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Matt 21:21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

Questions-

1. What kind of things was Jesus talking about in John 14:12?
2. In Matthew 21, Jesus gives a promise that some have claimed to be "unrealistic." Have you experienced faith this powerful? Do you believe it is possible?

III. How Do I Get It?

Read Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

A. Reading - - the word of God

B. Remembering - -What God has done in the past.

C. Pray - - for help from God (Mark 9:21-24)

Questions-

1. According to Romans 10:17, what is the primary source of building faith?
-the Bible (word of Christ)
2. Remembering our definition of true faith, why do you think the Bible helps build faith in you?
3. In the Old Testament, men would build altars (memorials) when they had significant encounters with God.
How could this apply to us?
-keep journals of : answered prayers, prophecies, etc...
4. Understanding the importance of true Faith, what practical things can you do to ensure your faith isn't dead?