

Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is a kindred word to believe. Faith is when we believe in the things of God. Saving faith is when we trust in the Gospel. Hebrews 11:6 says, “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.”

Faith is what Christianity is built on, faith in Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. God is faithful when we are faithless, 2 Timothy 2:13 declares this truth. Our faith is summed up in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” This verse is one of the most quoted and well-known passages from the Holy Bible.

John 3:17 is just as important as verse 16, but often missed out and not as well known, which teaches that God has not sent his Son into the world for condemnation of the lost, but rather for their saving. The lost are already condemned as they have not believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many false religions out there that will tell that mere faith is what saves us. This is not true; faith in itself does not save you. Many false religions have faith, but their faith is in the wrong thing. Only repentance and faith in the God of the Bible can save. Faith in anything else is vain. Faith in good deeds, faith in baptism and faith in anything outside the teachings of Scripture is in vain. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

You can clearly see in this verse from Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus that you are saved by grace through faith, grace is a free gift from God. As you are saved by the free gift of God, you cannot buy it or earn it. Salvation is by grace through faith when you turn to Christ (John 1:12). Works can never save you; good works should always accompany salvation as you grow in the Lord. James 2:26 says, “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” We are saved to do great things for the Lord (Ephesians 2:10).

Good works are a result of a changed life in Christ and the outpouring of God’s grace. Be not deceived by false teachers, no good work can justify a sinner before the One and Holy God. The blood of Christ that cleanses from sin makes a sinner righteous before God. This alone is what paid the price for sinners.

Romans 5:9 says,

We are justified by His blood. Nothing but the blood of Jesus can cleanse us from sin. The blood is God’s grace shed for us. 1 John 1:7 says, “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself

is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Faith is the essential tool to enable us to grow in the Lord and to go forward in Him. Do not let the Devil invade your faith and trust in God and His promises. Remember, God is faithful; He cannot lie. The Devil on the other hand is the father of lies.

What is faith?

Let's look at our theme verse Hebrews 11:1

What is faith?

Verse 1 of Hebrews 11 is not a definition of faith it is a description of what faith does for a believer. Faith makes the unseen real to us. Before you were saved you did not understand nor know Jesus, but now you have saving faith the Holy Spirit dwells within you.

Turn to Hebrews 12:2, in this verse we learn that Jesus Christ is _____ of our faith.

Turn to Galatians 5 read verse 16-26.

Our main text is verse 22 and 23 where God tells us the fruit of the spirit.

List the fruit of the spirit below?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Turn to Romans 10:17 and fill in the missing words from this verse.

So _____ comes from _____, and hearing by the _____ of _____.

Lesson Summary

We must have faith in order to follow Him and serve Him to the full. Faith does not come from things we can see, touch or hear in a physical sense. Remember what Jesus said in John 20:29, turn to the verse in your Bible to remind yourself. Faith is when we forsake all others and follow Him.

Without demonstrating faith and trust in God, we cannot lead a full Christian life. We believe in God's existence by faith. We believe in Jesus's death and resurrection by faith. We believe that Jesus has saved us and forgives our sins by faith. This kind of faith is not a blind faith, but one of assurance because of the truths of God's holy and inspired Word.

Sadly, far too many Christians have misplaced their faith. These people lack the true faith needed to have a fulfilling relationship with the One true God. Our faith can falter and fail at times when we do not look to Jesus. We must always place our faith in God alone. Christian faith is much more than a "hope so faith" and mere wishful thinking.

Remembrance verse

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight

