

UNDERSTANDING FAITH

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Many people talk about faith, and claim they have faith, but do not truly understand what faith is. What exactly is faith? What are the signs or proof of faith? In this study, we are going to answer all these questions.

FAITH is to trust. It is to persuade, to draw towards anything, to conciliate; to believe, to obey. In the Greek Lexicon of Hederic it is said, the primitive signification of the verb is to bind and draw or lead, as signifies a rope or cable. But this remark is a little incorrect. The sense of the verb, from which that of rope and binding is derived, is to strain, to draw, and thus to bind or make fast. A rope or cable is that which makes fast.

Faith as a belief is the assent (to admit as true; to agree, yield or concede) of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgment that what another states or testifies is the truth. Example: "I have strong faith or no faith in the testimony of a witness or in what a historian narrates".

Faith is the assent (agreement) of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another; belief, or probable evidence of any kind.

In theology, faith is the assent of the mind or understanding to the truth of what God has revealed. Simple belief of the scriptures, of the being and perfections of God, and of the existence, character and doctrines of Christ, founded on the testimony of the sacred writers, is called historical or speculative faith; a faith little distinguished from the belief of the existence and achievements of Alexander or of Cesar.

Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith, is the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony, accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unreserved surrender of the will to his guidance, and dependence on his merits for salvation. In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will, and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation.

Being justified by faith

Rom 5:1-2

5:1 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.

NIV

Without faith it is impossible to please God

Heb 11:6

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.

NIV

For we walk by faith, and not by sight

2 Cor 5:7

7(For we walk by faith , not by sight :)

KJV

2 Cor 5:7

7 We live by faith, not by sight.

NIV

With the heart man believeth to righteousness

Rom 10:10

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

KJV

Faith is an action word

The faith of the gospel is that emotion of the mind, which is called trust or confidence, exercised towards the moral character of God, and particularly of the Savior. Faith is an affectionate practical confidence in the testimony of God. Faith is a firm, cordial belief in the veracity of God, in all the declarations of his word; or a full and affectionate confidence in the certainty of those things which God has declared, and because he has declared them.

Faith, in its true idea, is a reliance as simple as possible upon the word, power, love, and the person of God. It is precisely that which, on man's side, *adjusts him* to the living and merciful presence and action of a trusted God.

Faith is rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary cross. Faith is rest in the faithfulness of God to His words and promises. Faith is rest in the ability and willingness of God to meet one's needs and answer his prayers.

Isa 30:15

15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

NIV

Faith is based on the word of God and rooted in the heart.

Faith means absolute trust in God. Faith in God means rest in the ability and willingness of God to answer and meet your needs. Faith in God means confidence in God and calmness of spirit, mind and emotions as one waits on God to fulfill His promises.

Faith is more of an action word. It is acting upon that which a man believes. Faith excites, and moves a man to action. Faith is a force that propels action to actualize one's conviction and desire. Faith is a deep-rooted conviction that makes a man to see the things that are not as though they were. This is the reason why a man cannot have faith and not take steps to act out his faith. When faith is in the heart, the mouth cannot be silent but speak out what is in the heart.

Heb 11:1

11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

NIV

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. It is not just the assent of the mind to the truth of God, but a passionate, affectionate, practical confidence in the testimony or word of God that results in acts that produces results. Faith is never passive, but active. Faith is now – a current active state geared towards achieving a definite result.

Faith and the tongue

The world was created by God through the spoken word of the mouth. Nothing was created without the word, including man. God's authority is exercised through the spoken word.

John 1:1-5

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

KJV

There is power in the mouth of every man. There is life and death in the tongue of man. You can give life and take away life through what you say. With faith in your heart, your mouth will speak into existence that which you have faith for and are expecting to come to pass.

Prov 18:21-22

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. 22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

NIV

You cannot believe and not speak. You cannot have faith and not speak. What your heart believes, your mouth will speak with intention to see it come to pass. That is what faith is – confessing your belief with passion, affectionate, practical confidence. The spirit of faith is about believing and speaking out what you believe. Faith is speaking out your belief and acting on it.

2 Cor 4:13

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;
KJV

Faith is seeing yourself the way God sees you

Rom 6:11

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

NIV

Faith is counting, reckoning, considering or seeing yourself as God sees you. If you truly believe what the word of God says you are, have or can do, the law of faith demands that you change the picture you have in your head to comply with what you now believe based on your discovery from the word of God. Apostle Paul in the above passage teaches that the believer now delivered from sin and its power, and under grace and not under the law, should start seeing himself as free from sin, for that is the only way to experience freedom from sin. Faith is believing you are who God says you are, you have what God says you have, and you can do what God says you can do. Faith is constantly seeing yourself in the way the scripture describes you as you face challenges, pursue your dreams, and expect God to manifest in your life and situation.

As you continue to see yourself as free from sin, sin will start losing its power over you and you will discover you are walking in victory over sin daily. It doesn't matter what your current situation is, what is important is what God says about you. Keep your eyes on it and prove your faith by changing the picture in your head and start seeing yourself the way you are described by God. Talk of yourself as spoken by God in His word. Package and carry yourself as God has described you. Always act upon the word of God that you believe. The proof of faith is acting out your faith. The proof of faith is obedience to the demands of the word of God.

Keep seeing yourself the way God sees you and has described you the believer in His word. The more you do that, the more your life will manifest the word of God. Your seeing yourself the way God sees you is faith in action. What you think and say about yourself and what men say about you does not matter. What counts is what God says about you. For that is the truth about who you really are. No one can know you more than the one that made and saved you. His description of you is perfect and true. Accept it and begin seeing yourself in the light of it, and soon you will become it in daily practical living.

Faith and renewing the mind

If you have believed a certain truth of God, you allow that truth to change the way you think to show your faith and confidence in it. You drop your old opinion and belief and you start seeing yourself in the light of the truth of God. A renewed mind has stopped seeing with the old eyes, but now sees with the eyes of God (the truth received from God's word). A renewed mind is a mind that has dropped the old belief and has accepted the new and is disciplining self to make sure his life complies with the knowledge received. When a man has faith in a certain truth, he never lets go off it. He holds on to it

no matter the challenge or temptation that will come his way. He never goes contrary to it from the moment of renewal till death. Let the word of God renew your mind through faith.