

FAITH

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(All scriptures and answers, in this study, come from the King James Bible.)

INTRODUCTION

The word "faith" is in the Bible 247 times. The amount of times that faith is in the Bible shows us that it is an important part of God's Word.

The "law of first mention" is a rule of thumb for Bible study. By looking up the first mention of a verse or topic, many times you understand the mind of God in regards to that topic.

Deuteronomy 32:19-20 is the first mention of the word faith.

"And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters. And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith."

Deuteronomy 32:19-20 KJV

In the first mention of faith, the Lord said that those who don't have faith are a _____ generation.

Froward means: Perverse, that is, turning from, with aversion or reluctance; not willing to yield or comply with what is required; unyielding; ungovernable; refractory; disobedient.

So, we see that, in God's eyes, a person who does not have faith is perverse, not willing to yield to Him, cannot be governed and is disobedient.

Notice the word that Jesus put after "faithless" in Luke 9:41.

"And Jesus answering said, O faithless and _____ generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither."

Luke 9:41 KJV

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

Colossians 1:23 KJV

I'd like to encourage you to "continue" in the faith.

The Bible says in Colossians 1:23 that our faith needs to be _____ and _____.

It's not time to uproot our faith but to dig it in deeper.

Brainstorm. List 5 ways you can make your faith "grounded and settled".

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
-

Read Matthew 8:5-13

In verse 10, Jesus noticed this centurion's _____.

I wonder, is Jesus impressed with your faith?

Do you impress Him?

Does Jesus look at us and say, "I have not found so great faith, no not in Colorado"?

Think of faith like this:

F ollowing the Lord and His Word
A llowing God to choose rather than you
I ndividually making the choice
T rusting Jesus Christ
H anding everything to God

"I" is in the middle of faith. "I" am the deciding factor if I will be a person of faith. You are the deciding factor if you will be a person of faith. No one can do this for you. Right in the middle of faith is this individual decision to trust the Lord.

Who must decide to put their faith in the Lord every day? _____ must decide.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."
Colossians 2:6-7 KJV

Through this lesson, my prayer and desire is to help you become "rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith".

Let's look at some helpful reminders about faith.

REMINDERS ABOUT FAITH

PEOPLE ARE SAVED BY FAITH

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
1 Peter 1:5 KJV

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."
1 Peter 1:9 KJV

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

I hope that everyone reviewing this study is saved. Salvation (being saved) is needed because our sin separates us from the Lord. The penalty for being sinful is eternal separation from God in a real place called hell. So, that is why Jesus came to be our Saviour. He came to save us from hell, offer us salvation and wash our sins away (Romans 5:8-9). Salvation is when one puts their belief and faith in Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrect, and calls out to Him to be their Saviour (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

Read John 3:15-18

Faith in works, baptism, church attendance, confession of sins, church affiliation or denomination, or anything else is not a Biblical means of salvation. Faith in anything in addition to Jesus Christ is not Biblical salvation. True Biblical salvation puts everything on Jesus Christ and nothing on anything else. We cannot save ourselves. So, we need Jesus to save us, and that can only be done by putting our faith in Him and what He did for us.

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”

Ephesians 4:4-5 KJV

PROGRESS SPIRITUALLY BEGINS WITH FAITH

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”

2 Peter 1:5-9 KJV

A Christian should strive for virtue (moral goodness), knowledge, temperance (balance/moderation), patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. However, faith is the foundation of it all! We add all the things listed in the verse, to our faith.

Becoming fruitful as a Christian begins with _____.

The person who lacks faith is blind and forgets that he was purged from old _____.

Faith is the elementary building block of Christianity.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
Ephesians 2:8 KJV

Christianity actually begins when someone puts their faith in Christ. So, it would make sense that everything builds from there. In short, lose your faith and you lose it all! Have faith and you have it all to gain!

Illustration:

Who has played Jenga? What happens if you remove the bottom blocks? It all comes down.

Likewise, if you stop exercising and utilizing faith, you will see _____ (moral goodness), _____ (balance/moderation), _____ and _____ come tumbling down in your life.

Read Romans 10:17

According to Romans 10:17 how do we get faith and keep faith?

Faith _____ by _____ the Word of God.

There are two main ways you can hear the Word of God:

1. Preaching (I Corinthians 1:21, I Corinthians 15:11)
2. Personal Bible study (Luke 4:4)

PROVISIONS AND NECESSITIES SHOULD BE AN AREA OF FAITH

“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”

Matthew 6:30-31 KJV

Christians should not take _____ for what they eat, drink or wear.

This means that we shouldn't concern ourselves with those things and worry about them.

Read Deuteronomy 8:3-4

Don't forget that the children of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time, they had food, water and clothing that was all supplied by the Lord. Don't you think He can do the same for you today?

PHYSICAL NEEDS CAN BE ADDRESSED WITH FAITH

"And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men."

Matthew 9:1-8 KJV

In this story, the man was sick of the _____.

Palsy is when some is paralyzed or has paralysis.

The spiritual and physical healing for the man sick of the palsy started when Jesus saw their _____.

So, when will your healing start? Obviously, it won't start until you have faith.

In Matthew 17:14-21 the disciples tried to heal a man but couldn't. Later they asked Jesus why. Jesus answered, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith..."

PERSISTENT STRUGGLES IN LIFE REQUIRE FAITH

"And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

Matthew 9:20-22 KJV

How long did this woman have her persistent struggle? _____

Jesus mentioned that something made the woman whole. What was it? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 KJV

In this passage, Paul explains his "_____ in the flesh".

No one really knows exactly what this was; however, we do know he struggled with it for years.

Paul's response was a good response. He said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather _____ in my _____, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9a KJV

He knew that he couldn't fully experience the Lord without the persistent trial he had.

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 KJV

We should rejoice when we are in _____.

Manifold means many.

Keep in mind, temptations can come in many forms and flavors. Many people quit on the Lord because of discouragements associated with persistent struggles in life. However, try to let those things bring you closer to the Lord, rather than draw you away.

When faith is tried it is a time to rejoice because only then can we be found unto _____ and _____ and _____.

Read James 1:1-4

PLEASING GOD HAPPENS WHEN WE HAVE FAITH

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6 KJV

It is _____ to please God if you don't first have faith.

The only way to please God is if you are a man/woman of _____.

In Genesis 4:4 we see that God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice. Later in Hebrews 11:4 it's pointed out that it was by _____.

Faith is a blessing. What?!? Yes, faith is a blessing. Let me explain.

Do you want to please the Lord? Do you want to put a smile on God's face?

Faith is how you please the Lord.

Faith is only necessary in the times when we don't have the answers and we have an aspect of fear and doubt. If you always had the answers and never experienced any fear or doubt, there would be no need for fear. Therefore, pleasing God by faith can only happen if you are first put in scenarios that you don't know what you are going to do. Only in the uncomfortable moments where you are clueless to your next step can faith be exercised.

Pleasing God can only happen if/when you are put in difficult situations in life. In those impossible, helpless situations you have a wonderful blessing and opportunity to please the Lord.

PROGRESSIVE FAITH COMES THROUGH DIFFICULTIES NOT A LACK OF DIFFICULTIES

"And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."

Luke 17:5 KJV

The disciples had a desire to be men of faith. They wanted their faith to _____.

Illustration:

They say, "no pain, no gain." This term refers to the fact that if you want to have increased strength you must first experience the pain associated with adversity and push back. As a person increases in strength

it will take more adversity to get additional results. The same amount of adversity over time will not give increase.

Many Christians want to be people of faith, but faith cannot come without circumstances. The larger the faith the larger the adversity must be to bring increase.

They say, "new levels new devils."

As you grow in the Lord, don't lose your desire to increase your faith. As you increase your faith, know it will only happen through difficult and frustrating circumstances.

Christians want their lives to be perfect, but a perfect life cannot produce increased faith. By the way, a perfect life doesn't exist....

In Acts 7:59 we see Stephen becomes the first martyr for the cause of Christ. Some may say, "how was he able to handle that?" "How did he have such faith?" We see his faith was increased through adversity in Acts 6:9-15. Even before that in Acts 6:5 he had a lot of faith. So, he had obviously been through faith growing experiences before.

According to Acts 6:5, Stephen was "_____ of faith."

PASTORAL FAITH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Hebrews 13:7 KJV

This thought continues through verse 17.

Verse 9 begins to explain why we should follow the faith of our pastor.

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9 KJV

Divers means diverse or various.

You say, "how do I follow someone's faith and why does it matter?"

Someone's faith is more than what they believe. It's many things: what they do, what they stand for, how they behave and operate, and the fruits they produce along with many other things.

Faith is fruit. Fruit is visible faith.

Read James 2:14, 17-18

Observing someone's faith is an observance of fruit. Fruit is an automatic result of true faith.

So, in Hebrews 13:7, following your pastor's faith is not just his beliefs, but also his fruit.

"And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Hebrews 6:11-12 KJV

The Bible says not to be slothful, but _____ of _____ who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 KJV

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

2 Timothy 2:22 KJV

You say, "how could I possibly follow a man's faith." Because a true man of God follows this verse...

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

1 Timothy 6:11 KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Timothy 1:1-2 KJV

Paul's faith literally produced a son in the faith.

PRAYER MUST BE OF FAITH

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

James 5:14-15 KJV

A prayer with oil does nothing without faith. A prayer without faith is not effective. The most important ingredient for this prayer to work is _____.

As a pastor, many times people want me to anoint someone with oil and pray for healing for them. However, don't miss the important factor in this verse. The sick person is the one who must, by faith, ask for the anointing and prayer. Again, faith is an individual choice. No one can have your faith for you.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

James 1:6-8 KJV

When we pray, we are to ask in _____.

I wonder, when you pray, do your words and your thoughts contradict each other? Possibly, when you pray, you are saying one thing but, in your mind, thinking it won't happen. That is being double minded. If/when you waver and are double minded, don't expect an answer.

Now that we have seen some helpful reminders about faith, let's look at some requirements of faith.

REQUIREMENTS OF FAITH

MUST BELIEVE

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6 KJV

It should be noticed that this verse teaches us that when you come to God in faith you must believe two things

1. That He _____ God
2. That He will reward you if you _____ seek Him

Read Matthew 9:27-31

Two _____ men followed Jesus and cried out to Him asking for mercy.

We too have needs and need His mercy.

When they got to Jesus, the first thing He asked them is if they _____.

When Jesus touched their eyes and healed them, He said it was according to their _____.

Jesus heals those who believe in Him and put their total faith in Him.

Belief is to entrust. Faith is a word used to describe the circumstances in life where you hope for or in something that you cannot see.

Illustration:

Imagine getting on a space ship to Mars for the first time. You know there have been some that successfully went to Mars, but you have never done it yourself.

Belief is trusting the craft to transport you safely from point A to B. Faith is a confidence you have that you will arrive, you will actually be brought there and you aren't being misled. Keep in mind, you have never entered a space ship or been to Mars. However, safely reaching your destination won't be possible without belief and faith. How do you know you'll be ok... you don't. That's what makes it belief and faith. The only things in life we can truly be confident in are things that have already happened (Proverbs 27:1); everything else requires belief and faith because they're simply speculations. So, in the speculative things of life, trust the most reliable One out there. Jesus.

When the blind men followed Jesus, they had never been through that before. They had never been healed or attempted this. However, they trusted Jesus with their belief and were eventually healed by their faith.

Remember though, don't miss this. It was Jesus who they believed and trusted, and Jesus was the one who healed them. You can put your faith and belief in anything, but God is the only thing that will work. What would you say to a person who wanted to fly to space in a cardboard box? Sure, they might have faith in it, but it won't get them far.

"... that your faith and hope might be in God."

1 Peter 1:21b KJV

MUST NOT WAVER

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

James 1:5-7 KJV

Real faith is full faith. Partial faith is not faith at all.

Illustration:

Let's do an experiment. Set up two chairs next to each other. Label one chair as "God" and label the second chair as "Other". Now, try to put 100% trust in the chair labeled as "God", while having part of your weight on the "Other" chair.

This illustration describes most Christians. We verbally trust the Lord, but actions prove otherwise.

If a person has PARTIAL faith in themselves, someone else, something else, or anything else besides God, they do not have FULL faith in God. Therefore, their faith is not actually in God.

Read Matthew 14:22-33

In verse 30, Peter began to sink because he was _____.

It's interesting to note that, while Peter felt and experienced fear, Jesus defined his fear in a different way.

In verse 31, Jesus asked Peter, "wherefore didst thou _____."

There are MANY things in life that bring fear. There are storms with boisterous wind all round. In those times, when we feel and exercise FEAR God sees and views that at DOUBT.

Illustration:

Have you ever seen a 3D movie? How about without the silly glasses? The movie without the glasses looks strange and foggy. Then, once you put on the glasses, it all makes sense. Putting on the glasses changes everything.

We physically see life through with our eyes and spiritually perceive life through our understanding. Life tells us to process situations in life with fear. However, once we look through the lens of scripture and through the eyes of God, we realize that fear is just doubt. So, don't waver when the storms come; have faith.

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Mark 11:23 KJV

God can do amazing things through our faith as long as we do not _____ in our heart.

Here is the challenge during trying times, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;..."

Hebrews 10:23a KJV

MUST BE GENUINE NOT NECESSARILY BIG

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Matthew 17:20 KJV

"And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

Luke 17:5-6 KJV

Tell a diamond that size matters and it will show you it's worth.

Tell an ant that size matters and it will lift seven times it's body weight.

Tell a baby that size matters and it will move a crowd with its adorable looks and clear a room with its messy diaper.

Tell a black widow that size matters and you'll receive a bite you won't forget.

Tell a mustard size faith that size matters and it will move a mountain and pluck up a sycamine tree!

Don't be concerned with the size of your faith. Be concern if you don't have faith.

Read I Corinthians 1:26-29 and you'll see that your faith doesn't have to be super special to be used of God.

REMEMBER THAT GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PEOPLE OF FAITH

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

Mark 11:22 KJV

_____ still wants us to have faith in Him.

Read Hebrews 11

By faith _____ offered a more excellent sacrifice.

By faith _____ was translated that he should not see death.

By faith _____ prepared an ark.

By faith _____ obeyed.

Through faith _____ conceived seed.

By faith _____ was tried.

By faith _____ blessed Jacob and Esau.

By faith _____ blessed both the sons Joseph.

By faith _____ made mention of the departing of the children of Israel.

By faith _____ was hid three months of his parents.

By faith the walls of _____ fell down.

By faith _____ perished not with them that believed not.

Faith is the main ingredient that makes up a Christian. Try to make good chocolate chip cookies without chocolate chips. They won't be the same no matter what you do. Likewise, attempting to be a Christian while not having complete faith in Christ will not work.

Take time to write down some areas that you need to renew your faith in the Lord:
