THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER.



1st Corinthians 4:20

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Faith, what is it and why do I really need it?

Introduction:

- 1. Faith, a new testament precept:
- 2. Why do we need faith?
- 3. How to access faith and put it to use.
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Introduction:

This paper is intended to be a guide on faith, discussing what faith is, why we need it, how to access it and how to put it into use.

Faith was not presented in the Old Testament as something that people needed to walk in in-order to fulfill God's plan, however it is a requirement in the New Testament.

The word "faith" appears only twice in the Old Testament:

- 1. God, describing the Israelite that did not take the promised land, but rather wandered in the wilderness for forty years, "in whom *is* no faith", Deuteronomy, 32:20.
- 2. The prophet speaking of a vision where, "the just shall live by faith", Habakkuk 2:4.

Before reading the summary that follows, I encourage each reader to read the scriptures that are at the end of this document, that I have condensed each to one line. This will give you a better understanding of the subject, before you read the papers conclusion.

Faith, a new testament precept:

And the just shall live by faith, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 & Hebrews 10:38.

The faith that the new testament believer is to use is the faith of Jesus Christ, for we go from faith to faith, Romans 1:17. Our personal faith or what we think is our personal faith, is to bring us into a belief of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. After we are born-again we go from using our personal generated faith, to accessing and operating under the faith of Jesus Christ. This is how it needs to be and must be, for no matter how strong our personal generated faith is, it will always come an end, but the faith of Jesus Christ will never fail us.

Our faith must be in the person of Jesus Christ, not just in a religious concept. In the last paragraph I said that we need to use the faith of Jesus Christ and not our faith. When we realize that Jesus is the Word made flesh and if we are in Him, if we are partakers with Him, His faith will actually become our faith. And we can only access this kind of faith through having a relationship with Him, (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). For further insight on this, you can access my paper on, relationship with God.

The one scripture that most people know about faith is Hebrews 11:6, and they usually recite it as: "without faith it is impossible to please God". The scripture does not say; "please God", it says; "please Him", where Him is in italics, meaning the translators added that word in. When we get into a mind-set that we can please we also then start believing that we can displease and this take us back into a works mentality. God is pleased with us today, at this very moment. We do not need to achieve a certain standard to please God, whatever that metric may be, (healed, rich, literate, intelligent, etc.). What the scripture actually refers to is, "becoming and being well pleased". For without faith it is imposable to access God's gifts that He has provided for us, and hence we will not be pleased. The Young's Literal Translation version of Hebrews 11:6 reads, "and apart from faith it is impossible to please well, . . . ", (YLT). The verse is telling us of the importance and necessary of using the faith that we have been given so we can be pleased, rather than giving us a measuring stick to see if we please or displease God. Also to be consistent with other scripture, we must acknowledge that, God has dealt to every man the measure of faith, Romans 12:3.

Why do we need faith?

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father, John 14:12.

This may seem pretty elementary, we need faith to do the works of God. But before we can get to a place where we can actually start doing the works of God, we need to be able to operate in faith and see that faith work in our lives.

How to access faith and put it to use.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, Hebrews 11:1.

Two things are required for faith to come alive:

- A belief in God's Word and a knowledge of His promises. We have all heard a similar story of someone living in poverty, even though they had a vast sum of money in the bank but, they did not know about it. We must first know the truth before the truth can set us free.
- We also need hope, "faith is the substance of things hoped for". It is imposable to have faith for a given thing if there is no hope for that certain thing. Hope can be defined as a positive imagination. We need to operate in hope, thinking about the promises in God's Word, then imagining those promises apply to us and speaking them into our life. For we also have a God of hope, Romans 15:13.

Established truths, about faith:

- Every believer has an amount of faith:
 "..., according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith", Romans 12:3.
- After being born-again the believer operates by the faith of the Son of God. "and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me", Galatians 2:20.

Appendix of scriptures of faith and their use:

Healings in the Gospels where "faith" was part of the equation:

- . Centurion's servant, "great faith", Matthew 8:10, Luke 7:9.
- . The paralytic, "when His saw his faith", Matthew 9:2, Mark 2:5, Luke 5:20.
- . Woman anointed Jesus feet with ointment, "your faith has saved thee", Luke 7:50.
- . Woman with issue of blood, "her faith saved her", Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34, Luke 8:48.
- . Two blind men followed Jesus, came into house, "according to your faith", Matthew 9:22.
- . Blind men by roadside, "according to your faith", Matthew 20:29, Mark 10:52, Luke 18:42.
- . The Canaanite's Woman's daughter, "great is your faith", Matthew 15:28.
- . The leper who was a Samaritan, "your faith has made you whole", Luke 17:19.

What Jesus said about faith and having faith, in the gospels:

- . And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God, Mark 11:22.
- . If God clothed the grass, which is in the field today, and tomorrow it is gone; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Matthew 6:30, Luke 12:28.
- . If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, be removed; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you, Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:6.
- . Jesus answered, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done, Matthew 21:21, {Mark 11:23}.
- . I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?, Luke 18:8.
- . But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren, Luke 22:32.

The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith:

. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith, Luke 17:5.

When Jesus rebuked His disciples for their lack or little faith:

- . He said to them, Why are ye fearful,
 - {O ye of little faith / how is it that ye have no faith / where is your faith?}

Then He arose, rebuked the winds and the sea, {Matthew 8:26 / Mark 4:40 / Luke 8:25}.

- . And immediately Jesus stretched forth *His* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?, Matthew 14:31.
- . When Jesus perceived, He said to them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?, Matthew 16:8.

When Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees:

. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone, Matthew 23:23.

Faith as seen in the book of Acts:

- . On the faith of the name of Jesus, was this man made whole, Acts 3:16.
- . they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, Acts 6:5.
- . a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith, Acts 6:7.
- . Stephen, full of faith and power, did great miracles among the people, Acts 6:8.
- . For he was a good man, [Barnabas], and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, Acts 11:24.
- . Elymas the sorcerer withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 13:8.
- . Paul, perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Acts 14:9.
- . Confirming the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, Acts 14:22.
- . how He, [God], had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles, Acts 14:27.
- . God put no difference between us and the Gentiles, purifying their hearts by faith, 15:9.
- . the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily, Acts 16:5.
- . Testifying, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 20:21.
- . Felix sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ, Acts 24:24.
- . Paul's mission after his conversion was to: let God's people receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance which are sanctified by faith that is in Me, Acts 26:18.

Faith spoken of in Epistles and letters:

- . Remaining obedient to the faith, Romans 1:5,
- . Your faith is spoken of, Romans 1:8,
- . Our mutual faith, Romans 1:12,
- . The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith: Romans 1:17,
- . The just shall live by faith, Romans 1:17,
- . mans unbelief cannot make God's faith of none-effect, Romans 3:3,
- . The righteousness of God is by faith of Jesus Christ, Romans 3:22,
- . Jesus Christ, our propitiation through faith in His blood, Romans 3:25,
- . The law or principle, (structure) of faith, Romans 3:27,
- . Man is justified by faith apart from the law, Romans 3:28,
- . The righteous are justified by faith and the unrighteous through faith, Romans 3:30.
- . However, the law has been established by faith, Romans 3:31,
- . Faith is counted for righteousness, Romans 4:5,
- . faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness, Romans 4:9,
- . It is not by circumcision, (outward markings), but by walking in faith, Romans 410-14.
- . Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end, Romans 4:16.
- . Abraham not weak in faith, wo/unbelief, accepted God's promise by faith, Romans 4:19-20.
- . being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Romans 5:1.
- . By whom also we have access by faith into this grace, Romans 5:2.
- . The righteousness of faith cannot be obtained through the works of the law, Romans 9:30-32.
- . The word that we preach, that is the word of faith, is nigh unto thee, Romans 10:6-8.
- . So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God, Romans 10:17.
- . stand by faith, and be not highminded, Romans 11:20
- . God has dealt to every man the measure of faith, Romans 12:3.
- . Therefore, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; Romans 12:6.
- . receive also your brother who is weak in the faith, Romans 14:1.

- . Keep your faith in God, for happy is he that does not condemns himself, but dammed is he that condemns himself, for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin, Romans 14:22-23.
- . by the scriptures of the prophets, the obedience of faith is made known to all, Romans 16:26.
- . your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God, 1 Corinthians 2:5.
- . there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit and faith by the same Spirit, 1 Cor 12:4-9.
- . though I have faith to remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing, 1 Cor 13:2.
- . now there is faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love, 1 Corinthians 13:13
- . if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins, 1 Corinthians 15:14,17.
- . Watch! Stand fast in the faith! Be men! Be strong!, 1 Corinthians 16:13.
- . Not that we have rule over your faith, but by faith shall ye stand, 2 Corinthians 1:24.
- . We having the same *common* spirit of faith, 2 Corinthians 4:13.
- . (For we walk by faith, not by sight:), 2 Corinthians 5:7.
- . abound in faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, and love, abound in grace also, 2 Cor 8:7.
- . having hope, when your faith is increased, 2 Corinthians 10:15.
- . Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; that Jesus Christ is in you, 2 Cor 13:5.
- . The Apostle Paul, now preached the faith which once he destroyed, Galatians 1:23.
- . A man is justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law:, Galatians 2:16.
- . the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Galatians 2:20.
- . Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?, Gal 3:2.
- . He that ministers to you in the Spirit, he does it by the hearing of faith, Galatians 3:5.
- . they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham, Galatians 3:7.
- . God would justify the heathen through faith, Galatians 3:8.
- . then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham, Galatians 3:9.
- . no man is justified by the law in the sight of God: for, The just shall live by faith, Gal 3:11.
- . the law is not of faith: but, The man that does them shall live in them, Galatians 3:12.
- . that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith, Galatians 3:14.
- . that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe, Gal 3:22.
- . Before faith came, we were under the law, until the faith should be revealed, Gal 3:23.
- . The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith 3:24.
- . But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster, Galatians 3:25.
- . For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, Galatians 3:26.
- . For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith, Galatians 5:5.
- . For in Christ it is not our works that avail; but faith which works by love, Galatians 5:6.
- . the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Gal 5:22.
- . Let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith, Gal 6:10.
- . after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Ephesians 1:15.
- . by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Eph 2:8.
- . In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him, Ephesians 3:12.
- . Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Eph 3:17.
- . one body, one Spirit, one hope, One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Ephesians 4:4-5.
- . Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, Ephesians 4:13
- . (putting on the full armor of God), Above all, taking the shield of faith, Ephesians 6:16.
- . Peace to the brethren and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus, Eph 6:23.
- stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel; Philippians 1:27.
- . if I be sacrificed for the service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all, Philippians 2:17.
- . that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, Phil 3:9.
- . we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of your love to all the saints, Colossians 1:4.
- . to present you holy in His sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, Col 1:22-23.
- . beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ, Colossians 2:5.
- . As ye received Christ Jesus, walk ye in Him: established in the faith, Colossians 2:6-7.

- . Buried with Him in baptism, you also are risen with *Him* through faith of the working of God who did raise Him out of the dead, Colossians 2:12.
- . Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, 1 Thessalonians 1:3.
- . the Word went out, every place your faith toward God has gone out, 1 Thessalonians 1:8.
- . (ministers are) to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 1 Thes 3:2.
- . For this cause, I sent to know your faith, lest our labor be in vain, 1 Thessalonians 3:5.
- . But Timothy brought us good news of your faith and we where comforted, 1 Thes 3:6-7.
- . praying that we can see you and perfect that which is lacking in your faith? 1 Thes 3:10.
- . let us, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; 1 Thessalonians 5:8.
- . we thank God for you, because that your faith grows exceedingly, 2 Thessalonians 1:3.
- . we glory in you for your patience and faith in all your persecutions, 2 Thessalonians 1:4.
- . that our God would fulfill the work of faith with power: 2 Thessalonians 1:11.
- . that we may be delivered from unreasonable men: for all men have not faith, 2 Thes 3:2.
- . Timothy, my son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, 1 Timothy 1:2.
- . don't entertain fables or genealogies but rather godly edifying which is in faith, 1 Timothy1:4.
- . the end of the commandment is love, and a good conscience, and faith unfeigned:, 1 Tim 1:5.
- . grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ, 1 Tim 1:14.
- . Having faith and a good conscience; however some have shipwrecked their faith, 1 Tim 1:19.
- . Paul, a preacher and apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth, 1 Timothy 2:7.
- . she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and love and holiness, 1 Tim 2:15.
- . Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, 1 Timothy 3:9.
- . For deacons should have great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 3:13.
- . in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to doctrines of devils, 1 Tim 4:1.
- . be a good minister, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, 1 Timothy 4:6.
- . be an example in word, in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity, 1 Timothy 4:12.
- . if any provide not for his own, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel, 1 Tim 5:8.
- . (widows), having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith, 1 Timothy 5:12.
- . the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows, 1 Timothy 6:10.
- . but you Timothy, flee these things; follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, 1 Timothy 6:11
- . Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, 1 Timothy 6:12.
- . Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen, 1 Tim 6:21
- . When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee (Timothy), 2 Timothy 1:5.
- . Hold fast sound words, which you have heard, in faith and love in Christ Jesus, 2 Tim 1:13.
- . Who have erred, saying the resurrection is past; and overthrow the faith of some, 2 Tim 2:18.
- . Flee youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, 2 Timothy 2:22.
- . in the old testament: men of corrupt minds, resist the truth, concerning the faith, 2 Tim 3:8.
- . But you have known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, 2 Tim 3:10.
- . you know the scriptures, to make thee wise unto salvation through faith in Christ, 2 Tim 3:15.
- . I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:, 2 Timothy 4:7.
- . Paul, a servant of God, and apostle of Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, Titus 1:1.
- . To Titus, mine own son after the common faith:, Titus 1:4.
- . This witness is true, that they may be sound in the faith; Titus 1:14.
- . That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience, Titus 2:2.
- . Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen, Titus 3:15.
- . Hearing of thy love and faith, toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints;, Philemon 1:5.
- . That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus, Philemon 1:6.
- . For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*, Hebrews 4:2.

- . leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Hebrews 6:1.
- . That we be followers who through faith and patience inherit the promises, Hebrews 6:12.
- . Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, Hebrews 10:22.
- . Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering;, Hebrews 10:23.
- . the just live by faith: but if any draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him, Hebrews 10:38.
- . Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, Hebrews 11:1.
- . Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, Hebrews 11:3.
- . By faith Abel offered a sacrifice to God, and gained witness that he was righteous, Heb 11:4.
- . By faith Enoch was translated by God, for he pleased God, Hebrews 11:5.
- . apart from faith it is impossible to please well, Hebrews 11:6. (YLT)
- . By faith Noah, prepared an ark and became heir of righteousness which is by faith. Heb 11:7.
- . By faith Abraham, went out, not knowing where, and received an inheritance, Hebrews 11:8.
- . By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, Hebrews 11:9.
- . Through faith Sara his wife received strength to conceive a child, Hebrews 11:11.
- . All these died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off,11:13.
- . By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac:, Hebrews 11:17.
- . By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come, Hebrews 11:20.
- . By faith Jacob, blessed the sons of Joseph; and worshiped the Lord, Hebrews 11:21.
- . By faith Joseph, when he died, gave commandment concerning his bones, Hebrews 11:22.
- . By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, Hebrews 11:23.
- . By faith Moses, when he was come to age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh, Heb 11:24.
- . By faith he forsook Egypt: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible, Hebrews 11:27.
- . Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, Hebrews 11:28.
- . By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: Hebrews 11:29.
- . By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after being compassed about seven days, Heb 11:30.
- . By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, Hebrews 11:31.
- . And many others, who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, etc, Hebrews 11:33.
- . And these, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise, Heb 11:39.
- . Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; Hebrews 12:2.
- . Remember them who have spoken the word of God and whose faith follows, Hebrews 13:7.
- . Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience, James 1:3.
- . Let him ask in faith, not wavering. For he that wavers is tossed about, James 1:6.
- . My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, James 2:1.
- . Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, James 2:5.
- . if a man say he has faith, and have not works? can faith save him? James 2:14.
- . Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone, James 2:17.
- . show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works, Jam 2:18.
- . But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James 2:20.
- . See how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? James 2:22.
- . Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only, James 2:24.
- . For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also, James 2:26.
- . the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, James 5:15.
- . Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, 1 Peter 1:5.
- . That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold, 1 Peter 1:7.
- . Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls, 1 Peter 1:9.
- . Believe in God that raised Jesus from the dead that your faith & hope be in God, 1 Peter 1:21.
- . Resist in the faith, for the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren 1 Peter 5:9.
- . Simon Peter to them that have obtained like precious faith with us, 2 Peter 1:1.

- . add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, 2 Peter 1:5.
- . Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and the victory is our faith, 1 John 5:4.
- . earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, Jude 1:3.
- . Building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Jude 1:20.

Faith as shown in the book of Revelation:

- . (To the church in Pergamos): and has not denied My faith, Revelation 2:13.
- . (To the church in Thyatira): I know thy works, charity, and service, and faith, Revelation 2:19
- . He that marches into captivity shall go into captivity: he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints, Revelation 13:10.
- . Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, Revelation 14:12.