

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



1st Corinthians 4:20

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A teaching on faith through the scriptures, that will

- Define what faith is, and how I can get more of it;
- Tell of the importance of faith, and why we all need faith;
- Show the difference of natural faith and spiritual faith;
- Plus other faith concepts;

Faith as seen in the Old Testament:

The Word faith is only found twice in the Old Testament,

- (*the Lord speaking*), (*Israel's generation*) are children in whom *is* no faith, **Deuteronomy 32:20**.
- (*Habakkuk prophesying*) the just shall live by his faith, **Habakkuk 2:4**.

However, the principle of faith can be seen in the Old Testament,

Since the foundations of the earth, properties and their associated laws have been in place, it has just taken man time to discover them. The potential and the law of electricity, the law of lift and thrust that gets a plane to fly and other natural laws have existed from earth's foundation. And likewise, God's Spiritual ways of operation, the law of faith was also put in place from the foundation of the world.

- (crossing the Jordan), soon as the feet of the priests touched, the water was parted, **Joshua 3:13**.
- (The Israelites) marching around Jericho for seven days, **Joshua chapter 6**. (verify Hebrews 11:30), and all of Hebrews chapter 11 talks about OT. Great men of faith, how they chose to believe God.
- Going out to battle and putting the singers up front, ahead of the armed men. (**several battles**).

Question: have you realized before that, the concept of faith is as old as the foundations of time _____

The importance of faith:

The Word faith is found 229 times in the New Testament,

Faith is essential to EVERYTHING we do, expect, experience and become within God's kingdom.

We access God's kingdom by faith, we access all of His blessings and promises by faith.

Jesus said: "Have faith in God", ...**Mark 11:22**

By faith we are:

Saved, **Ephesians 2:8**, **Established in Him**, **Colossians 2:7**, **Sanctified**, **Acts 26:18**, **Justified**, **Romans 3:28**, **Made Righteous**, **Hebrews 11:4**, **Purified & Cleansed**, **Hebrews 10:22**, **Healed**, **Acts 14:9**, **Buried with Christ**, (in baptism), and **Risen with Him**, **Colossians 2:12**.

Faith is foundational, even our salvation is based on faith.

Every believer in Christ Jesus has an amount of faith, they have to: for we are saved by grace through faith, **Ephesians 2:8**, thus if we are saved we had the faith to get there. Everything that we have received and will ever receive from God involves faith! Therefore if you wish to advance in your Christian walk with Christ, you must exercise your faith, (there is no other option)!!!

Just as money is the world's currency system, faith is the currency system of God's kingdom. And without faith all we have left available to us is the world's system.

⁶ 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. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord, **James 1:6-7**.

Question / statement: Wherefore it takes faith even to get saved, **Ephesians 2:8**. Are you content with stopping there, is what the world's system can provide for you enough? Or do you wish to believe and push into God's Word for all the blessings and promises that He has for us and wishes to give us?

Faith: what is it?

Definition: *Faith*: Strong's # 4102: "persuasion, moral conviction of God's Word
"Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen", **Hebrews 11:1**.

Biblical hope is having a confident expectation and faith is the manifestation of a positive hope. Without hope, faith has nothing to build on, Our faith can only produce what our hope can image.

The above scripture tells us that faith is the outcome, or will produce what we hope for (look forward to or expect). However, most people see faith as some kinda of a invisible mystical treasure box.

We can also define faith as, coming into agreement with the truth of God's Word."

And the excuse I have heard a few times that, someone just have no faith is wrong, because scripture says: . . . according to God has dealt to every man the measure of faith, **{Romans 12:3}**.

Faith is, we can say: the process or result of manifesting our positive hopes into the physical.

Whereby faith is the manifestation of a positive hope, for we were never meant to have a negative hope. However, if we use our faith to generate a result of a negative hope, that becomes fear.

Everybody has the ability to generate faith, this even applies to unbelievers.

Faith and fear are both generated by future expectation of things to come.

Therefore, if you can be in fear, you CAN HAVE FAITH!, simply change your expectation of things to come. Start believing on the goodness of God and His blessing, rather than the dangers, hazards and the fears of this world.

However, faith works through knowledge, (knowing the truth of God's Word).

If you believe more in the natural events and causes of this natural world, than you do in God's supernatural promises. You can ask for, beg and plead for God to increase your faith, all day long and it won't happen. Your faith is directly related to how much truth of the Word you know and believe.

If you believe that God only moves through natural forces in this life, then yo will have only natural faith.

If you believe that God will do supernatural miracles in this life, then your faith can grow and mature.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, **Romans 10:17**. Hence your faith is dependent on you, and how much faith you wish to have.

Getting faith and living by faith, was never meant to be hard.

Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, ... Hebrews 12:2

Just as an author writes a book from beginning to the end, and then publishes that book, thus marking the book as finished. The reader of that book does not, cannot make changes to that book, for he is not the author. Thus, Jesus completed the book of our faith. All we have to do is to come into agreement with His Word. Jesus has done it all for us, all we need to do is to come into agreement with God's Word.

Are there different levels of faith, at first glance scripture seems to imply this.

Jesus told people that they had both great faith and little faith:

- Great faith – [Matthew 8:10](#) & [Matthew 15:28](#); two times Jesus said this to Gentiles.
Telling a Centurion (a man himself under authority) that he had great faith; [Matthew 8:10](#).
and to a Syro-phenician woman who was persistent and later worshiped Him, [Matthew 15:22](#).
- little faith – [Matthew 6:30](#), [8:26](#), [14:31](#) & [16:8](#);
Jesus said when teaching a multitude of Jews, after speaking the Beatitudes, [Matthew 6:30](#).
Jesus said to the disciples in the boat after He calmed the storm, [Matthew 8:26](#).
Jesus said to Peter, when Peter took a few step on the water and began to sink, [Matthew 14:31](#).
Jesus said to His disciples, after they had reasoned that they had taken no bread, [Matthew 16:8](#).

It's really not about greater or lesser measures of faith, for we all have all been given an amount of faith, [Romans 12:3](#). It depends on how we use our faith. Think of it as a muscle, everybody has muscles in their body, it's an issue of how or if we make use of that muscle.

Question: Knowing that faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God, [Romans 17:10](#). Therefore, faith is all about knowing the Word, believing the Word and speaking the Word. Are you practicing in this?

Faith, works by love.

And we have known and believed the love that God has to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him, [1st John 4:16](#).

We know that God is love, He is the essences of love. Therefore we could also make a substitution and say that: "faith works by God." We do not have to make faith work or mustard up our faith, we simple have to allow God's faith to work through us, as we acquire the truth of His Word.

Faith works by love but we must apply the attributes of love, love thinks no evil; but rejoiceth in the truth; love wants the best for the other, [1st Corinthians 13](#). Faith works off the knowledge that we have, we can only go as far in our faith as what we perceive God's goodness to be.

God is not the variable, God's goodness is perhaps even beyond our comprehension. It is a matter of our comprehension of His goodness. Therefore, faith become dependent upon relationship and knowing the truth; God wants the best for you!

The world on the other hand will NEVER teach you faith, for the world knows Him not, [John 1:10](#). the world will compromise and nullify God's promises, and therefore take away any faith you might have. Faith ONLY comes by knowing the Word, letting God explain His Word to you and having a ongoing relationship with Him.

We have heard that, without Faith it is impossible to please God.

If we use the word "please," applying it to God being pleased with us, this applies only to our salvation. rather than being able to achieve every gift of God. For if we believe in His Son Jesus Christ and that God raised Him from the dead, God is pleased with us right now, today!

For Him is in italics (or was added in). I show here also the (Young's Literal Translation)

- But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: [Hebrews 11:6](#) (KJV).
- and apart from faith it is impossible to please well, [Hebrews 11:6](#) (YLT).

Scripture say in the last verse of the chapter before it that :

Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him, [Hebrews 10:38](#) (KJV).

My point here is that: if that we are pleasing to God right now, today, if we believe in His Son Jesus Christ, for our salvation.

For the antonym of “pleased” is displeased, this leads us into {dead} works, (trying hard to please God). And the antonym of “pleasure” is pain. God takes pleasure in us, when we can access His gifts.

This may seem like a small point, but I believe it removes the work of trying to please and falling short. If we believe, we are pleasing to God.

It is not our faith, we live by His faith.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him, Hebrews 10:38, {Galatians 3:11, 2:20, Romans 1:17}.

Our faith will always come to an end and fail, but His faith will never fail us.

We do not need to stress and strain, trying to mustard up our faith. If we abide in the Vine, we will naturally bare faith. The foundation of our faith is believing in the promises within God's Word.

Again, IT IS ALL ABOUT HIM, and believing in His Word, simply rest and trust in Him, He will do the heavy lifting for us.

Speaking and calling things forth:

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and called those things which be not as though they were, Romans 4:17.

This was spoken of about Abraham: This tells us of the concept of faith back in the Old Testament

Today we know of the principle of faith, and if we are really serious about seeking the kingdom of God, we really have no excuse. We must call and expect things that are not currently in the natural to come forth from the spiritual, and be manifested in the natural. However, this is a quote from Charles Capps: Jesus said to him, “I have told My people they can have what they say, but My people are saying what they have.”

So often in this natural world we speak what we have, where we should be speaking or acknowledging what the Word says. Speaking God's spiritual Word in this natural world seems a bit un-natural, but . . .

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ ***Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them,*** Mark 11:24-25.

Reasons to speak God's Word, and why on occasion we don't.

- We feel we need to take responsibility for the Word spoken. Answer: it is not our word it is God's Word, we simply need to speak it forth and let God manage His own Word.
 - We doubt the outrageous promises in God's Word, Answer: don't ever be ashamed of the Gospel, Romans 1:16. Once we truly believe in a supernatural promise, we will freely speak it forth.
 - Fear pressure, we wish to fit in with friends and be accepted by others more than separating ourselves unto God.
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Faith, how do I know if I have it?

True biblical faith is not a product of our intellect, it comes out of the heart, **1st Corinthians 2:5**

The best gauge that I know of is, the level of peace that you are walking in and the amount of Word that is in you. For a requirement of faith is to have the knowledge of the truth of God's Word.

If we can fulfill this one requirement, our faith will naturally grow, without you trying to make it grow.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, John 8:32.

I believe a great hindrance to our faith, is: when we believe that we need to increase or grow our own faith. Faith will come to us naturally when we start believing the supernatural promises in the Word of God, rather than justifying and compromising it, so that God's Word agrees with our natural system.

The apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.

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 planted in the sea; and it should obey you, Luke 17:6.**

This was a rather awkward question, and goes to show that His disciples, at that time did not know what faith actually was. For it is man's job to increase their own faith, (being fully persuaded that God will do what He said in His Word He would do).

Jesus thus referred them back saying that if you believe even a tiny bit, you can say . . .

Question: Knowing that Faith is believing in God's Word, do you believe you are growing in your faith or is your faith stalemated due to becoming conformed to the world's system, **Romans 12:2.**

Seeing faith as your servant:

Right after the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, **Luke 17:6** (an awkward request).

Jesus always wants what is best for us, He did not belittle them or tell them it was a stupid request He first told them about the mustard seed of faith, and then gave them an analogy.

^z But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? ⁸ And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? ⁹ Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not, Luke 17:

God gave us the gift of faith, **Romans 12:3**, (the ability to believe in His Word), so that we could access His blessings and promises through His Word. It may seem as a hard even difficult concept to grasp hold of but, God loves us and ONLY wants the best for us. In this physical world that can be cold and cruel, we can access the tools within His Word, repentance, faith, grace, etc . . . "However, faith works by love," **John 4:16**, and if we don't believe the best about God, we will end up compromising our faith and settling for merely what this world can provide for us.

Question: scale of 1-10, how would you rate your knowledge of knowing that God loves you: _____

Yet, untested faith is unstable faith:

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ 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, James 1:3-6.

All of God's blessings and promises come to us by faith:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith, Galatians 3:14

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises, *Hebrews 6:12*

Therefore, we walk by faith, not by sight, ... *2nd Corinthians 5:7*

And he that doubts is damned if he eat, because he eats not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin,. Romans 14:23

Conclusion:

- Faith = your belief and agreement in God's Word.
 - Faith is not an option, it is essential, You cannot grow spiritually, except by faith.
 - Without faith, all we have left is the world's system.
 - The world functions off a natural system, WYSIWYG, . . . but God's has set up a belief system.
 - Kingdoms have laws, and God's kingdom operates by the law of faith, *Romans 3:27*.
 - Faith was NEVER meant to be hard, Jesus wrote the book on it and finished it, we simply need to believe it and follow His Word and truths.
 - Faith can be directly related to how much of the truth of God's Word that you believe and operate in. For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. *Romans 10:17*. We have many interpretations of the Bible, this may help our understanding, but not our faith.
 - Faith will come to you naturally as your belief grows in God's Word.
 - Man is a spirit being, *1st Thessalonians 5:23*, and he is capable of operating on the same level of faith that Jesus, as the Son of God operated in, (for we are sons and daughters of God, *Galatians 4:7*, made in His own image, *Genesis 1:26*).
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Further scriptures on faith: faith touches every aspect of our life and even our environment:

- * Our unbelief does not make God's faith void, ... *Romans 3:3*
- * By faith the world was framed, that things seen were not made of things that appear... *Hebrews 11:3*
- We are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, . *Galatians 3:26*
- God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, *Acts 14:27*.
- But the just shall live by His faith, *Habakkuk 2:4*, *Romans 1:17*.
- * Let Christ dwell in your heart by faith, being rooted and grounded in love, .. *Ephesians 3:17*
- * By grace we are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: .. *Ephesians 2:8*
- * Abound in every *thing*, in faith utterance, & knowledge, as you abound in grace. .. *2nd Cor 8:7*
- * Before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith , ... *Galatians 3:23*
- The law is not of faith, The man that doeth them shall live in them... *Galatians 3:12*
- Man is justified by faith apart from the law, *Romans 3:28*.

- Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, professing before many, **1st Timothy 6:1**
 - Blessed is God who blesses us in every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, . . . **Ephesians 1:3.**
 - Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, ... **James 1:6**
 - We must: “build ourselves up on our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,” **Jude 1:20.**
 - I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me, **Galatians 2:20.**
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