

The Brotherhood in Jesus Christ Bible Study Course is an extension
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Brotherhood In Jesus Christ

Bible Studies

What is Faith?

Lesson #12

What is Faith?

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” If you believe in this statement you have faith. And whosoever is born of God overcomes the world: (1Jn: 5:4)

The biblical definition of faith

Faith is the belief in something that can not be seen, but is revealed by the evidence of things that do exist. We understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that those things, which are seen, were not made of things, which do appear. And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith (Heb: 11:1-3).

Faith is trust in what is essentially real!

It is an act of intellect assenting to divine truth, because our mind and will is guided by the Spirit of God. Faith is a firm knowledge of God’s goodness, love and grace that He extends to all that come to Him. It is based on the promises given to us in Jesus Christ

Faith is a word with many meanings:

- a. It means to be faithful and wise (Mt. 24: 45) and combines assurance with anticipation.
- b. It carries the connotation of trust as in Luke 7:2-10 and combines with conviction and experience
- c. It refers to confidence and hope in what is promised and what we can not see.
- d. It builds patience when we wait for it. (Heb. 11:1 and Rom. 8:24-25;)
- e. Simple belief with no deeds (Jms. 2:14-26; Rom 5:2). To some this is the saving faith, but a simple intellectual acknowledgement is not enough more is required.

Faith in the objective sense is the divine revelation. And revelation is rendered principally as the disclosure of divine truth or of sacred doctrine. Faith in this instance means the acceptance of authority that has been supernaturally disclosed.

Faith in a subjective sense is defined in the existential form, as the encounter between God and man. There the element of trust predominates over the element of knowledge and assent.

smelled and felt. Faith is sure and certain. These two statements assure the beginning (through faith and trust) and ending in assurance of God’s existence and character. Faith is the beginning. We have to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour for without faith it is impossible to please Him. For he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Heb: 11:6).

We all seek to stand on something, on something solid. So we try to find the truth somewhere. The mixture as presented by modern theologians leads only to confusion, and is not to the truth. We have to search for something that remains stable and does not change! God’s word tells us in Malachi 3:6:

“For I am the Lord, I change not;”

The problem is that people change, not God.

Jesus testifies of Himself with following words:

Jn: 6:48: I am that bread of life.

Jn: 9:5: I am the light of the world.

Jn: 10:9: I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,

Jn. 10:11: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Rev: 22:13: I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
(Rev. 14:12)

“Blessed are they that do His commandments, hat they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” (Rev. 22:14)

5. Is more interested in things unseen (Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 4:18)
6. Seeks to fulfill the commission given by Christ (Mt. 28:19-20)
7. Knows that faith is not attained by worldly wisdom of man, but by the power of God (1Cor. 2:15)

In conclusion

There is no such thing as neutrality in moral, social and religious values, because if we are speaking against one thing, we in fact speak for another not specifically stated. Arguing that there is no Eternal God is equally imposing as saying that there is One. It remains an individual's choice to be imposed upon. Everyone is free to accept or reject God's word or any other value or belief system. It is this individual action of choice that is the principle agency we need to maintain and promote not the eradication of certain beliefs. God forces no one to follow His way. Therefore we must continue to support and promote our freedom of thought and expression so that it is not destroyed or censored.

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (Rom: 1:19-20)

1. The first evidence of the divine power of God is visible to every eye in that what He has created.
2. The second evidence we find through fulfilled prophecy which leads us to the trustworthiness in faith and hope in God's word and given promises. Therefore faith is not less certain than knowledge! We have to understand that faith is free of the uncertainty caused by the fluctuation of knowledge and ignorance and the unwillingness to retain God's knowledge. Because of the unwillingness to acknowledge Him, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things, which are not convenient (Rom: 1:28).

Do you believe in the Son of God?

(The blind man believed and was healed (Jn. 9:5-11 with 35-38)

So faith is not guess work or nebulous thinking, but reveals "substance" and "evidence" of things that can be seen, heard,

Faith as Christian virtue is to be understood in the sense of 'faith that' extends to many things, both good and evil. For example the faith in the existence of Demons, to things past, present and future, but hope deals only with good things that lie in the future and which are pertaining to man who believes in and cherishes that hope.

Faith the certainty thereof is frequently equated with uncertainty as, 'we are not certain whether this or that is true', but I believe that it is. Here we may differentiate faith from knowledge on the grounds that knowledge is based upon evidence, while faith is based on divine authority. But in the scriptures we find both.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Tm: 3:15)

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we, which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" [1 Thes: 4:16-17]. And we shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away." [1 Pt: 5:4]. We believe in the fulfillment of the promises made in the scriptures.

Faith requires patience. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." [Jms: 5:7] "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. [Jn: 14:1-3]

"Therefore cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise." [Heb: 10:35-36]

Faith requires trust. Believing in Jesus Christ's words is the only way to become partaker of eternal life. We have to trust in Jesus and stand firm and solid or we crumble apart. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" [1Cor: 3:11]. Our

faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God, the hidden wisdom, which God ordained not man [1Cor: 2:5,7]. For we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit, which is of God, that we might know the things, that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual [1Cor: 2:12-13].

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Rev: 14:12).

We now live in a world that prefers darkness before light. Our worldly educated religious leaders changed the moral standards as outlined in the Ten Commandments of God to please people with political correctness. The new standards society has formed are alarming. As examples we may state the following changes that have taken place:

1. Abortion, which was abhorred, is now an accepted right.
2. Sex, once a private affair, is now liberalized and exploited to the extreme in movies, television, advertising as well as in books.
3. Pornography, once shunned and hidden, is now declared a form of art and openly displayed.
4. The Ten Commandments once respected, acknowledged and incorporated as the foundation of laws within any country of the world, are now rejected and altered to please people, to be politically correct.
5. The belief in God once accepted and cherished, is now ridiculed in regards to tolerance, political correctness and the so-called “right” to individual freedom.
6. The theory of evolution and the gods of materialism, of entertainment, sports, humanitarianism, self-indulgence, arrogance and pride now replace the belief in God as the Creator of all things. Materialism is now deemed as evidence of success..
7. In the name of political correctness many leaders now continually praise wicked men and women that demonstrate all kinds of evil and immoral practices. Those are people that forsake the law and praise the wicked. (Prv: 28:4).

What is God telling us with:

“Work out your own salvation in fear and trembling.”

The scriptures tell us to obey God’s word and will. The commandments are our guide and lead us to obedience for our own good. For only those who keep His commandments and the faith of Jesus will have the right to the tree of life and enter into the Holy City (read Rev. 14:12 with 22:14). For Jesus Himself said: if you love Me keep My commandments (Jn. 14:15 and 15:10).

The problem is that many Christians say that they love God and have faith, but forget to act in accordance to what they claim to be. The care of this world leaves them no time to show their faith in action through obedience to His word. They are no example to others. If they have never time to visit, talk or show compassion and think about the welfare of others they show no practical evidence of their faith. They never seem to have time for others. They are always too busy. They may pray and think about the welfare of others, but do nothing to help. How can they truly say that they love God when material matters take preeminence in their lives? When we want to walk according to God’s will, then why do we not find the time to visit the sick, the elderly and those in need? Jesus never promised us that obeying and taking care of the needs of people will always be easy and convenient, but it requires time and real effort, it requires time away from our worldly interests. Many people in our churches believe, yet prefer teachers that do not admonish them to love and care for their fellow man, but rather teach strict adherence to the letter of the law. Their pride does not allow for mercy, pardon and forgiveness. Because of it many sheep are scattered, loose interest and the shepherds do not even care to call them back to the fold. We now see many churches wherein the word of God is taught without love and compassion for the individual member which is required to make us effective witnesses for Christ.

True faith is revealed when a Christian:

1. Works and acts out of love and obedience to the will of God (Gal. 5:6)
2. Knows that faith without works (obedience) is dead (James 2:17 and Rom. 2:13)
3. Knows that his work becomes the evidence of his faith (Jms. 2:22, 24) The law is written in his heart (Rom. 2:15)
4. Is victorious over worldly lusts (Jn. 5:4)

who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Pt. 2:9)

Apostle Paul writes in Rom: 11:6, Gal. 3:10 and in Eph: 2:8: “And if (salvation is) by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works (according to the law of Moses), then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are *written in the book of the law* to do them.”

“For by grace are we saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph: 2:8-9). We know these things from the scriptures. They are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. For the scriptures are given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tm: 3:15-17)

Can faith alone save?

Paul uses above words, because faith leads to salvation, but if faith alone would save us what then would be our actions? In what way comes grace into the picture? Do we continue in sin? Yet to some people faith alone is a saving faith. If this were true, then salvation would come by our understanding. It would assure salvation on our own merits without God’s grace! Yet Paul states that salvation can never be achieved in this way when we read in Romans 3:31: “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. The Ten-Commandment Law was written in tables of stone by the finger of God. This Law of God is perfect (Ps. 19: 7), was magnified and made honorable (Is. 42:21), to which Jesus said in Matthew 5:17: “think not that I come to destroy the law!” It remains in effect! Now it is up to man to accept His offer of forgiveness in faith or reject it.

Yet in Philippians 2:11-12 we read:

“*Work out your own salvation in fear and trembling.* For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

In all these examples we see the world in regards to spiritual matters becomes more and more obscured, but the time will soon come when people will begin to search for the truth of the word of God and not find it. As society has pushed out prayers in the schools, removed the commandments from the courts and declared the word of God as unacceptable and too restrictive for our modern society. Those individuals with their ultra liberal and political correct ideas have taken over our society and practically control all our media and television programs. People have to be made aware of what is going on around them. We are nearing the end of this present age and it is hard for people of faith and good will to remain silent. They continue to proclaim God’s message to the world, but very few people want to hear it, because the truth hurts. And what makes it even more difficult is that many of the modern “liberated” Christian religious leaders only proclaim the traditions and ideas of men in the name of Christ. They teach half-truths, which are more readily accepted by the people, but are misleading in what the word of God really teaches. Matthew 15:8-9 writes that: This people draw nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honour Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. We entered the time where people do not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts heap to themselves teachers that turn away from the truth and teach fables in the name of Christ (2Tm: 4:3-4).

Instead of half-truths and fables we should respectfully consider the word of God in what it is telling us. Christ gave us His Word as an example to follow and obey. He did not muddle the truth to please people and or maintain political correctness!

In Isaiah 5:20-21 and 59:14-15 we read:

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” - Judgment is turned away backward, truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth fails; and has departed and the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no judgment (Is. 59:14-15).

“Wherefore the Lord said, for as much as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is

taught by the precept of men. - Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid" (Is: 29:13-14). – "He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: He hideth His face; He will never see it" (Ps: 10:11).

As faithful Christians we must cast off the works of darkness, put on the armour of light and renounce the hidden things of dishonesty. We do not handle the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth maintain a clear conscience in the sight of God. We understand that the gospel is hid to them that are lost for God has blinded the eyes of them that believe not (Rom: 13:12 & 2 Cor. 4:2-4).

Therefore we are admonished to give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (1 Tm: 4:13-16)

Jesus' invites us in Matthew 11:28-30

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." We have to "meditate upon these things; give ourselves wholly to them; that our profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto yourselves, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you shalt both save yourself, and them that hear you." (1 Tm: 4:15-16)

As Christians we must adhere to the truth and believe that God sent His son Jesus Christ to bring salvation to all that believe in Him and distance ourselves from all those that try to twist God's word to accommodate their own purposes. As true Christians we must remain steadfast disciplined and adhere to the truth in obedience to the will of God. Knowing full well to whom we yield ourselves servants to obey, his servants we are to whom we obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. – Being confident of this

very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (Rom: 6:16 and Phil: 1:6)

For when we forget those things of the past and reach forth unto those things, which are ahead of us, we do press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded. And if otherwise minded in any thing, God shall reveal even this unto us. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Only than can one say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." (Phil. 3:13-16:2 & Tim: 4:7-8)

Faith leads to salvation

Salvation comes by the grace of God through faith, it is not of ourselves, but the gift of God. All that accept it are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (Eph: 2:8 with

We get to understand that faith is based on the promises made by Jesus Christ, of things hoped for while their evidence remains unseen. For without faith it is impossible to please God. If we come to God, we also must believe that He is, and that He will reward those who diligently seek Him [Heb. 11:6].

Faith is the Road to Victory.

But we must also remember that faith alone, if it has no works is dead! We must act on what we believe. Only than is our faith made perfect. Just like a body without the spirit is dead, so likewise is faith without works [Jms. 2:14, 17, 22].

For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus.

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that we should show forth the praises of Him