

## A Study On Faith

### ⇒ I. Introduction:

- There are many different religions in the world, and all but one teach that you get to Heaven by some sort of physical **works** that you must do.
  - They just disagree on what **type** of works are necessary.
  - Christianity, being the one that stands alone and different from the others, depends entirely on faith.
    - **Rom. 3:22** - “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:...”
  - Having the faith to believe is enough!
    - **Eph. 2:8** – “For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
    - **Titus 3:5** – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
- Therefore, any religion or denomination that teaches you must do anything physically to be saved in today’s times, is not a true Christian group.
  - The apostle Paul deals with those who would pervert the Gospel of Christ in Galatians 1:6-9.
    - **Turn to Gal. 1:6-9**
- So aside from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, faith is the mainstay of Christianity.
  - As you will soon learn from our study, faith touches many areas of the Christian life that you never realized before.
  - Now, we know the best way to learn about any subject in the Bible is to compare Scripture with Scripture, and check out the verses on the subject.
  - So, to begin the study of faith, let’s start by asking some logical questions about faith, and let the Bible give us the answers.

### ⇒ II. What Is Faith?

- **Heb. 11:1** – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- There it is!
  - Faith is believing in something you hope for, and have evidence of, but cannot see!
  - That is what is meant by the term “blind faith”.
  - When you trust Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you are trusting One that you believe in, but have not seen, although you have evidence of His existence from history, and the eyewitnesses that were there and did see Him.
  - Jesus told Thomas; “...**because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**” (**John 20:29**).
- Faith is something you need to be saved.
  - **Have you believed on Jesus without seeing?**
  - If so, He said you are blessed for that faith in “Him whom you have never seen.”

- Jesus understands that it's not easy to trust the eternal destiny of your soul on the work of One you have never seen face to face.
  - Nevertheless, He wants you to believe, and accept by faith, that His payment for your sin-debt is all you need to get to Heaven.
  - Nothing more can be done to pay for sin!
  - He said, **"It is finished."** (John 19:30).
  - Now if God says "It is finished," my friend, then it is finished! – AMEN?
  - What more could you possibly do in addition to what He has done to pay for sin?
    - Join the church maybe?
    - Get baptized in water?
    - Go to church on a certain day of the week?
    - Do sacraments maybe?
  - Forget it!!
  - We've already learned those who add something to the simple Gospel are under a curse!
  - It's what He **did**, not what you **do** that counts.
  - It's **His** righteousness, not **yours**, that God gives to you at salvation.
  - You will never make it on your own, so trust Him!!
  - One of the many verses in the New Testament that support salvation by faith is Romans 10:9-10.
    - "(9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man **believeth unto righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
    - Salvation is by Faith alone!
- ⇒ **III. How Do I Get Faith?**
- **Rom. 10:17** – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
  - You get faith from hearing the Word of God!
    - Maybe that's why there seems to be such a lack of faith these days.
    - People are not reading and hearing the Word enough.
    - Would you like more faith?
    - Try this.
    - **Spend more time in your Bible** and fellowship with the Saviour through His Word.
    - It is a known fact that the more you expose yourself to the Word of God, the more you will believe what it says and the more God will reveal Himself to you.
    - So, number 1 you get more faith by **Spending more time in your Bible.**
  - **2 Hear the Word More.**
    - Expose yourself to more Bible believing preaching, and teaching of the Word.
    - Saturating yourself with the Word and being surrounded by others who love, believe, and teach the Word will strengthen your faith.
  - **3 Commune with God more.**

- You need to spend a great deal of time in prayer and communication with God.
  - However, it's more than just planned regimented prayer.
  - If you love someone, you fellowship and communicate with them.
  - Do you love Jesus Christ?
    - He desires your love and wants to commune with you.
    - Take Him with you throughout your day and include Him in all parts of your life!
    - Try that and watch you faith and spiritual life advance in a hurry!
  - **4 Witness and teach others.**
    - A great faith builder is witnessing to other people, and teaching the Bible.
    - The more you do that, the more real it is and the more confident you become in your Christian life.
    - Remember, "...the word of God is quick and powerful..." (Heb. 4:12).
  - **5 Abide in Christ.**
    - All Christians have the Spirit of God, but not all are abiding in Christ and walking in the light of His Spirit.
    - The closer your daily walk with the Lord, the more He reveals Himself to you by working and interacting in your life, thereby greatly increasing your faith in Him.
    - It's that simple!
    - The more you trust and believe in Him, the more He manifests himself to you.
    - Remember, the song, "I Surrender All?"
      - Try it!!
      - You will be surprised how much better He runs the show than you do!
- ⇒ **IV. The Necessity of Faith**
- **1. For Salvation:**
    - Faith is absolutely necessary.
    - You cannot be saved without faith.
      - **Eph. 2:8-9** – "(8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast."
  - The Apostle Paul again says it well in **Philippians 3:8-9**; "...that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the **faith** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"
    - Like we said earlier, you will never make it by your own righteousness!
    - Faith is connected with the elements of salvation.
    - **Justification** comes from faith; "**Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ,...**" (Gal. 2:16).
      - Notice it all comes from His faith!
    - **Righteousness** belongs to Christ and is imputed to us at the time of salvation.

- (Rom. 4:5) – “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”
- **2. For Protection:**
  - In Ephesians Chapter 6 the Christian is instructed to put on the “armor of God” for protection against the devil.
  - We are told how to protect various parts of the body such as the loins, head, breast, feet, and then in verse 16 we are told that our faith is a shield against the devil.
    - **“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”**
- It is very important that a Christian understand he is no match for the devil.
  - If you were, you would not have been given so much armour.
  - We do, however, have a Saviour who can handle the devil, and therefore our faith and trust in Him is our greatest shield.
  - Be sure you depend on Him, and not the energy of your own flesh.
  - We are not dealing with something we can fight with fists, guns, knives, or other earthly weapons.
  - We are dealing with **“spiritual wickedness in high places,”** therefore the war must be fought on spiritual ground and not in the physical realm.
- **3. For Power:**
  - (Acts 6:8) – **“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”**
  - Stephen’s power came from his great faith.
  - Likewise, if we are to have the power of the Holy Spirit, we must be strong in faith.
    - Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief and told them **“...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.”** (Matt. 17:20).
    - This statement right from the Master’s mouth is very clear concerning the power of faith.
- **4. For Your Daily Walk:**
  - It is necessary to have faith in order to avoid sin.
    - Rom. 14:23 - **“for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”**
    - Gal. 3:11 – **“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”**
  - Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians were clear on living by faith
    - II Cor. 5:7 – **“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”**
- It’s the unseen power of a Holy and Righteous God that keeps us, and not the things and powers of this world that we can see.
  - Therefore, Christians should walk by faith alone.
  - The greatest Christian that ever lived, the Apostle Paul said: **“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”** (II Tim. 4:7)
- We too, should strive to keep the faith necessary to maintain a strong Christian life and fight the good fight for our Saviour and please Him.

- Heb. 11:6 – **“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.”**

⇒ **V. Conclusion**

- Beware of where you place your faith!
  - The Bible says, **“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”** (1 Cor. 2:5)
  - The Scripture is quick to warn you about trusting man’s wisdom.
  - This of course, includes times when man’s version of salvation is contrary to God’s.
- There are many who will try to convince you that faith is not enough to get you to heaven, and that you need to add something else, or do something in addition to that faith.
  - Be careful of men, and the **ways** of men!
    - Prov. 14:12 – **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”**
  - A repentant heart and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross is all you need!!
- Look unto Him for salvation!
  - Heb. 12:2 – **“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;...”**
  - Remember how we get our faith from the Bible?
  - Well, Jesus is the Author of that wonderful Book!
  - He is the Author and Finisher, **the beginning and the end of our faith!!**
  - **Trust Him!!**
- We have studied what faith is, where we get it, how to increase it, the necessity for faith in our Christian life, and the things to beware of.
  - Although this has been a short study hopefully you have learned something and now have a better understanding of the subject.
  - I recommend that you take a concordance and look up all the verses in the Bible on faith that we did not cover, study them in addition to what I have given
  - In conclusion, I would like to say again that faith is necessary for salvation.
  - Do you remember a time in the past when you received Christ by faith?
  - If not, won’t you make that commitment now?