

FAITH

...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Heb 11–Faith is shown when it is representing God through obeying, trusting or reverence.

Heb 11 (Faith Highlights)

God creates the universe - 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Noah Builds the Ark - 7 faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family

Abraham, -8 Went to a unknown land when commanded

11 Had a child even though his wife was barren

17 was going to sacrifice his only son even though God said his offspring would come from Isaac

Moses chose mistreatment over pleasure - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

Israelites passed through the Red Sea - 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

True Faith is our Justification in God as well as our access to Grace - - Rom 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have **gained access by faith into this grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

You can't just apply Faith randomly you must live it –

Senses are NOT part of the equation - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT by sight.

It's the only path for us to be righteous -Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Faith Described

What is faith? -Heb 11:1 Now faith is **being sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.

True Christian faith is based on God - Mark 11:22-24 - 22 "**HAVE FAITH IN GOD**," Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Faith in God means on God's terms - James 4:2-3 - 2 You **want something but don't get it.** You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, **you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,** that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Christ must be our example, because he wrote the book on Faith and lived it perfectly - Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith , who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

You cannot be a Christian without faith - Heb 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him **must believe that he exists** and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Lack of faith hinders Jesus - Matt 13:58 And he did not do many miracles there because of **their lack of faith** .

Christ works through our faith - Matt 9:20-22 - 20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." 22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "**YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU.**" And the woman was healed from that moment.

Jesus explains the power of True faith - Matt 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith . I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." *Remember, for it to be Faith, it has to be what God wants

What diminishes Faith is doubt – Matt 21:21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

Example of faith cancelled out by doubt - Matt 14:27-31 - 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, **walked on the water** and came toward Jesus. 30 **But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"** 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith ," he said, "**WHY DID YOU DOUBT?**"

The church service is purposed with bringing the Body together as one in Faith - Eph 4:11-16 -11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach UNITY IN THE FAITH and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

How Faith works in our lives

The Scriptures and Faith go hand-in-hand –

We get faith from Gods Word - Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Knowledge of scripture should be known early -2 Tim 3:15-17 – 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH in Christ Jesus. 16 **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We are strengthened in Faith through TRUE encouragement we give to each other - 1 Thess 3:2-3 - 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you IN YOUR FAITH, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.

God's word without faith produces nothing! - Heb 4:2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of **no value to them, BECAUSE THOSE WHO HEARD DID NOT COMBINE IT WITH FAITH**

God gives us the amount of Faith needed for the role he created us for - Rom 12:3-6 For by the grace given me I say to **every one of you**: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the MEASURE OF FAITH God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

All Christians are a "God selected" part of the Body - 1 Cor 12:12-20 - 12 **The body is a unit**, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact **GOD HAS ARRANGED THE PARTS IN THE BODY, EVERY ONE OF THEM, JUST AS HE WANTED THEM TO BE.** 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Faith is meaningless if not put in action - James 2:14-26 - 14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH but has no deeds? CAN SUCH FAITH SAVE HIM? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION, IS DEAD. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith ; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I WILL SHOW YOU MY FAITH BY WHAT I DO. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that **FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS USELESS?** 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is JUSTIFIED BY WHAT HE DOES AND NOT BY FAITH ALONE. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

***Our Faith needs to be tried and tested in order for it to produce what we need –**

James 1:2-4 - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance.** 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything

1 Peter 1:6-7 - 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Those tests help every aspect of our lives so we don't fail - Heb 10:35-39 - 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 **You need to persevere** so that **WHEN YOU HAVE DONE** the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But **MY RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH**. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who **believe and are saved**.

Question: When your faith is tested, how do you stand? - Rev 2:12-13 - 12 These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live-where Satan has his throne. Yet **you remain true to my name**. **You did not renounce your faith in me**, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-where Satan lives.

Important things to know about faith

The understanding of faith needs to be established early - Heb 6:1-2 - 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of **faith in God**, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment

Our faith in Christ must represent who Christ is - John 14:12-14 - 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith IN ME will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you **ask IN MY NAME**, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything IN MY NAME, and I will do it.

Whatever we do not do from Godly Faith is sin. - Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING** that does not come from faith is sin.

Without faith you will not know the difference between right and wrong. - Titus 1:10-16 - 10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach-and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, **rebuke them sharply**, so that they will be SOUND IN THE FAITH 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. 15 **To the pure, all things are pure**, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but BY THEIR ACTIONS they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Things we must do to stay in the faith - 2 Tim 2:14-19 - 14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth**. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, **God's solid foundation stands firm**, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, **"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."**

Faith is that protection God gives us from Satan - 1 Peter 5:8-11-8 **Be self-controlled and alert**. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

A Major part of God's armor that deflects all that Satan throws at us - Eph 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

There are many things that could take us away from our faith, so be careful - 1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have **WANDERED FROM THE FAITH** and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Great faith is complete belief in Christ-

Accessing Christ and recognizing who Christ is (Based on God) - Luke 7:1-10 - When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, →

→5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof." 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But **SAY THE WORD, AND MY SERVANT WILL BE HEALED.** 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, **I have not found such great faith even in Israel.**" 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

What made the centurions faith so great?

- Knowing Christ
- He brought his request to Jesus correctly (respectful, humbled, submissive, belief)
- He was humble though he was a man in charge in this world
- He believed what Christ says will be done (all he needs is Christ's Word)

Accessing Christ and recognizing who you are (Based on God) - Matt 15:21-28 - 21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." 25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. 26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." 27 "**YES, LORD,**" she said, "**but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.**" 28 Then Jesus answered, "**Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.**" And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

What makes the Canaanite woman

- Knowing Christ
- Her bringing her request to Christ correctly (Respectful, seeking mercy, humbled)
- Her knowing who she is in reference to Christ
- She understood the Lord's current task and made her request respecting that

Real life application of Faith

Faith is totally trusting in God - John 14:1 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

Acts such as Grace-giving is our display of our faith in God - 2 Cor 9:6-8 - 6 **Remember this:** Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

Faith is obeying what God says even when it doesn't SEEM right - Rom 12:19-21 - 19 **Do not take revenge,** my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Accepting God given roles with their required responsibilities - Col 3:18-21 - 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

As Christians, we live displaying we know in everything God works for our good - Rom 8:28 **AND WE KNOW** that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Faith is accepting God's answer to prayer - 2 Cor 12:8-9 - 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego accept God's answer even if the answer is no - Dan 3:17-18 - 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 **BUT EVEN IF HE DOES NOT,** we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

In a nutshell our faith has an awesome outcome focus - 1 Peter 1:8-9 - 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 **for you are receiving the goal of your faith , the SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.**