

How Faith Works (Faith Step-by-Step)

Many Christians' understanding of faith starts and stops here - Matt 21:22 **IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."**

Do we really understand Faith? (Here are some interesting facts concerning Faith)

Lack of faith is the only thing that hinders Jesus - Matt 13:58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith .

Our prayers are powered by our faith - James 5:15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

It gives us full access to God - Eph 3:12 In him and **THROUGH FAITH IN HIM** we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Faith is what protects us from Satan - 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**.

You CANNOT be a Christian without faith...the right Faith –

We can't live pleasing God 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.

We are only acceptable through faith into God's Grace receiving HIS Peace - Rom 5:1-3 - 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.

We must not just get Faith, we must live and STAY in faith to be a Christian - Col 1:21-23 - 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 **IF YOU CONTINUE IN YOUR FAITH**, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Let's go through the steps of Real Faith

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

What's usually missed is True Christian faith is based on God - 1 Peter 1:21-23 - 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope ARE IN GOD. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God

True Faith is based on "God's Will" NOT "my wants" - 1 John 5:14-15 - 14 **This is the confidence we have** in approaching God: that if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him.

The right faith will have the right purpose - James 4:3 When you ask, YOU DO NOT RECEIVE, because **YOU ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

We obtain faith from Hearing the Word Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from HEARING THE MESSAGE, and the message is heard through THE WORD OF CHRIST.

Things to be aware of when it comes to Faith

Receiving God's word for Faith 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

Faith is meaningless if not displayed - James 2:17, 26

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, IS DEAD.

26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so **FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD**.

Works of Faith is Belief. A demonstration of belief is displayed by Abraham - James 2:20-24 - 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.

Faith is strengthened by ministers that display God's power only not their own - 1 Cor 2:4-5 - 4 My message and my preaching were NOT WITH wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, BUT ON GOD'S POWER.

What we must do with True faith once

Understand all actions without faith are sin, anything DONE outside of Faith IS DOUBT - 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.

We must recognize doubt is a Faith killer - Matt 21:21-22 - 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

We must increase our faith and add to it - 2 Peter 1:5-9 - 5 For this very reason, make every effort to **ADD TO YOUR faith goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in INCREASING MEASURE, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Use Faith to know what part we play in the body -

We must understand we just play a PART in ministry - 1 Cor 3:5-7 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **GOD MADE IT GROW**. 7 So **NEITHER HE WHO PLANTS NOR HE WHO WATERS IS ANYTHING**, but only God, who makes things grow.

He gives the right amount of faith for all of us to play the part HE chose each of us to play - Rom 12:3-6 - 3 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. 6 We have different gifts, **ACCORDING TO the grace given us...**

We need to test whether we are in Faith by testing if we are following Christ no matter how things seem - 2 Cor 13:5-8 - 5 **Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test? 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

Recognize God tests our faith also – 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

Those tests help every aspect of our lives to be lived by Faith 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.

Understanding Faith and being united in Faith with the rest of the Body is the purpose of Church service - Eph 4:11-13 - 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.

The final result will be a total trust and dependence on Christ - Prov 3:5-6 - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and **HE WILL make your paths straight**.

***Faith allows us not to compromise the word, not to allow the flesh to make us miss the blessing of the word, and to tell the true difference between good and bad.**

When it comes down to it, we must live by faith - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT by sight.

How we live by faith... - 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

Understand Some benefits of Faith

Living by Faith we will understand what is valuable and what is dangerous – 2 Cor 6:14-15 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

It lets us see positive purpose in our struggles - Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

It is our protection as long as we stay in it - 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.

Early examples of Great Faith

The Centurion ask Christ, and humbly believed in Christ - Matt 8:5-10 - 5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." 8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed." 9 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." 10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such GREAT FAITH."

- **He was not a Jew but knew Jesus better than most Jews**
- **Though he was a leader he recognized he was nothing in reference to Christ**
- **He totally recognized Christ's authority and power**

The Canaanite Woman Ask Christ, was persistent with Christ, and humbly believed in Him - 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.

- **Like the centurion she was not a Jew but knew Jesus better than most Jews**
- **Despite being ignored and rejected she realized even little from Jesus is worth more than anything else.**

Peter asks Christ, received Christ Word, applied it, but doubted - Matt 14:25-31- 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 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?"

- **He made his request to Christ**
- **Followed his command**
- **Unfortunately, he allowed his sight to distract him from his Faith in Jesus**

The entire process of faith is for an eternal outcome - 1 Peter 1:3-9 - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 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. 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.**