



Global College of Ministry

**EXPLAIN**

The Christian and Faith

# Faith

“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” (Hebrews 11:6).

**W**e like to sing, “Faith, faith, faith! Just a little bit of faith...” But what is faith? Why faith? How can one receive faith? What is the *object* of faith?

## What is Faith?

*Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary* defines “faith” as:

- Trust, confidence
- Complete acceptance of a truth which cannot be demonstrated or proved by the process of logical thought
- A virtue by which a Christian believes in the revealed truths of God

A man of faith is not someone who relies upon his own ability for his salvation from sin and victory in life. A man of faith is someone who hopes and trusts in God and His Word. He considers Jesus his personal Lord and Savior who died and resurrected on his behalf.

Abraham demonstrated faith long before Jesus’ time. He was described as the “father of all them that believe” (Romans 4:9-12). Abraham trusted and obeyed God. He was obedient to the demand by God to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mt. Moriah by burnt offering. Abraham’s obedience was based on his trust. This extraordinary obedience and trust was counted as righteousness for Abraham (Romans 4:3, 9) – that was faith demonstrated . . . and Isaac was rescued from near death.

The writer of Hebrews described faith as “...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). God is presently invisible to the natural eye. He is a spirit (John 4:24). But He has not left us without evidence of Himself. He has, over the years, manifested Himself in several ways and spoken through His chosen prophets for various purposes (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Faith is when we:

1) Believe the Word of God delivered unto us, and 2) become obedient as we change our lives and rely on God, trusting He will take care of us and supply our needs (both physical and spiritual).

## Why Faith?

Why is it necessary to have faith? The world today is like a boat in the midst of a severe storm on the high seas. Business, financial, marriage, and family problems worry millions of people. Spiritual, mental, and physical diseases bother many who feel helpless to defend themselves. Everyone going through these troubles knows he needs words of

encouragement from someone, somewhere, who will be able to give him assurance and help.

The Word of God is the best place to look for encouragement, assurance, and direction. It is powerful and creative. It gives knowledge, understanding and wisdom. It enables a person to go through life and overcome his problems. It takes *faith* to believe God's Word has meaningful solutions to life's problems. The truth is that in the face of all these struggles, faith is the one virtue all of us need most. Every area of life depends on faith in God's Word for total victory and ultimate salvation. The Bible says:

- ☞ "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).
- ☞ "But without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

These Scriptures state that a person without faith can neither overcome in life nor please God. *The Thompson Chain Reference Bible* lists the following as reasons for needing faith:

- ☞ Faith assures success (2 Chronicles 20:20; Mark 11:22-24).
- ☞ Faith is a fundamental duty (John 6:28).
- ☞ Faith is a defensive weapon (Ephesians 6:16; Hebrews 10:22).
- ☞ Faith is essential in prayer (James 1:5-6).
- ☞ Faith justifies the believer (Galatians 3:6; Philippians 3:9).
- ☞ By faith we receive blessings (Matthew 8:13; 17:20).

### **How Can I Receive Faith?**

Romans 10:17 tells us, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Missionary Dale Starks, in his book *Spiritual Growth – 2* says: "Faith comes through familiarity with God's Word." Faith develops through the receiving and application of the Word of God we have read or heard preached. As we experience the unfailing result in the application of the Word of God, we get more excited and encouraged to live by the Word. *Through the Bible Study Series* (Pentecostal Publishing House) tells us, "Faith, however, is not simply believing in the sense of giving passive mental assent to some idea or concept. Faith, *true faith*, is active. It is moving in the direction of God's promises."

Many men of God received more faith as they continually experienced the Word of God:

- ☞ Caleb defeated the Anakims when he believed the promised Word of God (Joshua 14:6-15).
- ☞ Jonathan (1 Samuel 14), David (1 Samuel 17:32-37), and Jehoshaphat (1 Chronicles 20) bravely overcame their enemies because they continually trusted the Word God had spoken to them.
- ☞ To the crew of the wrecked ship Paul said, "*Wherefore sirs, be of good cheer; for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me*" (Acts 27:25).

The Bible is full of examples such as these; God's Word *always* comes true!

### **What is the Object of Our Faith?**

Has anyone ever asked you, “Do you have faith in prayer?” Being a Christian, you probably answered, “Yes.” But neither prayer nor any other thing should become the object of our faith. What *should* we have faith in? Rev. K. A. Prempeh (former presbyter, National Secretary, and Assistant Superintendent of UPCI-Ghana) testifies:

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When I first began my journey on the “Path to Righteousness,” I still believed in the trinity. But one day a pastor of the UPCI came my way and shared the doctrine of the Oneness of the Godhead with me. At first, I was very skeptical, but something within me urged me to ask God in prayer for a revelation of Himself so I would be able to confirm or deny this doctrine.

While earnestly seeking God, I had a very strong vision in which I saw Jesus as the only exalted and Almighty God! I saw Jesus Christ as the everlasting Father, the Creator of the universe.

After this, I began to search the Scriptures for confirmation. While reading, the words seems to jump off the page at me to point to Jesus as the main character the Bible was testifying about. My faith in the *written Word* was transferred to Jesus, the *living Word*. John 1:1 and 1:14 became real to me:

‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.’

Other Scriptures also came alive:

- 📖 ‘Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me’ (John 5:39).
- 📖 ‘And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not’ (John 6:35-36).
- 📖 ‘Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live’ (John 11:25).
- 📖 ‘Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me’ (John 14:6).
- 📖 ‘He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already; because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God’ (John 3:18).

As if that were not enough, Paul sealed my testimony by plainly stating who the *object* of our faith should be – Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

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How do we receive faith?  
 By expecting God to do  
 what we know He has said  
 in His Word He will do!

**Conclusion**

To have faith in Jesus Christ, we need two things:

- 1) A *clear understanding and knowledge* of what God’s Word says. This comes through reading and studying it ourselves.
- 2) A *confidence* that God cannot lie.

These two things produce a strong faith that:

- **Sees** the invisible,
- **Believes** the incredible,
- **Receives** the impossible.

We began this lesson with a chorus. How does it end? *“You don’t need a whole lot, just use what you’ve got! Faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith!*



**Study Questions**

1. In one or two sentences, explain how to receive faith. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Complete this sentence: “Faith, true faith, is \_\_\_\_\_. It is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”
3. “Neither prayer nor any other thing should become the object of our faith.” Using Rev. K. A. Prempeh’s testimony and Scripture references, explain what we SHOULD have faith in. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What two (2) things are needed to have faith in Jesus Christ?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
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5. In the face of all life's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is the one virtue all of us \_\_\_\_\_ most.
6. List the six (6) reasons found in *The Thompson Chain Reference Bible* for why we need faith. Give Scripture reference for each.
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. How does Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary define "faith"? \_\_\_\_\_
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8. In your own words, explain why it is necessary to have faith. \_\_\_\_\_
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9. List three (3) examples of men who received more faith as they continually experienced the Word of God. Give Scripture reference where each example is found.
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
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**Additional Notes**

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## Faith Flavors

“...Perceiving that he had faith.”

Acts 14:9

“...For I believe God...”

Acts 27:25

**F**aith is so important in the Word of God and in the life of a Christian. As mentioned before, it is spoken of more than 245 times in the New Testament. Richard Lee and Ed Hindson in *No Greater Savior* state that, “Faith is believing. It is an act of trust by which we commit ourselves to someone or something.”

In Luke 18:8 Jesus asked, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” In Luke 8:25 he asked, “Where is your faith?” The writer of Romans asked in Romans 14:22, “Hast thou faith?” To this list of thought provoking, life searching questions, I would like to add, “What flavor (type) of faith do you have?” A quick study on faith reveals different types of faith.

We tend to put all kinds of faith in the same bowl and mix them up so that they are stirred all together. But we must be able to tell the difference between them.

It is recorded in several Biblical accounts that Jesus saw their faith (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20) When Jesus looks at you, does he see your faith? If so, what type of faith does he see?

### No Faith

“...How is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:40) Other gospel writers mentioning this occasion have written “little faith.” Fear is the absence of faith and here they had put their eyes on their circumstances. Therefore, it canceled their little bit of faith because they were not looking to Jesus as the problem solver. He was right in the ship with them and they were still fearful. Jesus had already told them, “Let us pass over unto the other side.” (Mark 4:35) In this situation they demonstrated “no faith.” Fear overcame faith. The fact that they did not demonstrate faith in this situation does not mean that they did not have “the measure of faith” that is given to every man.

### Little Faith

Jesus revealed in Matthew 6:30 that there were those that had “little faith.” The storm was raging, and the disciples trembling, crying to Jesus for help when he asked, “Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith.” (Matthew 8:26)

Matthew 14 records the “water walk” of Peter. Peter gets out of the boat and walks toward Jesus. Every step of faith will take us toward Jesus. As he walked he began to look at his circumstances, the wind and the waves. As he looked at his situation he began to sink. Jesus

grabbed him out of the water and rebuked Peter, “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:31) He likely sat in the boat shivering from the cold. The other disciples probably laughed at him but he had done something no one else had dared to attempt; he had walked on water. Thank God for Peter’s “little faith.”

### Natural/General Faith

We exercise natural faith when we turn the light switch on and expect there to be lights. When we get in an automobile we expect that it will start when we put the key in the ignition. A farmer believes that when he plants the seed it will produce a harvest. Natural faith is much like natural wisdom.

Every man is given the “measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3) Every human acts on a measure of faith every day.

We all probably start on the same level of faith. However, all people do not have the same level of faith. Every Christian has this general faith and it can be increased through the Word of God. It is through general faith that we are able to receive the answer to most of our prayers. We all want our faith to increase. In Luke 17:5 the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. Faith is a muscle. If you use it, your faith will grow. If you don’t use it, you lose it!

Romans 10:17 tells us how we can increase our faith.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

### Saving Faith

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” (Ephesians 2:8)

Through the grace of God, and saving faith that is increased through the hearing of the Word of God, we are lead to salvation. Saving faith allows us to realize that we are sinners, Jesus Christ is our Savior, and moves us into obedience to the plan of salvation. This becomes the obedient faith that brings salvation. Saving faith motivates a person to repent, be baptized in Jesus

name, and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the “power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” (Romans 1:16)

### Great Faith

Jesus expressed to the centurion, “I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10) What prompted Jesus to say this? This man had a servant who was sick. He came to Jesus and explained the problem. This man did not feel worthy of having Jesus in his home. He said, “speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.” (Matthew 8:8) He went on to say that he was a man who had authority who could command others to “Go



and he goeth, and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.” (Verse 9) This truly did demonstrate “great faith.”

### **Fruit of Faith**

This is only received after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As we become mature Christians we start producing the fruit of faith (Galatians 5:22). The Greek word is also translated “faithfulness.” This is a fruit that grows in the life of a Christian that enables him to have a strong, spiritual life and character.

### **Mustard Seed Faith**

The mustard seed has living faith. Its faith is shown in its obedience to the laws of God. It acknowledges the law of God that says that what is sown will reap. It has no mind of its own and is willing to die in order to produce. The mustard seed will grow up to 15 feet (4.6 meters). Rabbis in the days of Jesus Christ used the mustard seed as a symbol of anything that is tiny.

“And 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 be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” (Luke 17:6)

### **Full of Faith**

The disciples asked Jesus in Luke 17:5 “Lord, increase our faith.” Jesus immediately launched into the illustration of the grain of mustard seed. Our faith can grow progressively, when exercised to the point that we will be “full of faith.” This is not an impossibility for us since a deacon in Acts 6 is described as being a man “full of faith.” (6:5,8) Some refer to it as “progressive faith.”

When we exercise the faith that we have, it begins to grow. The mustard seed does not stay a little seed forever. It grows into a plant that can reproduce on its own.

### **Gift of Faith - Supernatural Faith**

This is one of the gifts of the Spirit. This type of faith will be discussed in another lesson.

What type(s) of faith do you have? I trust you are not like Martha who said, “Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” She had faith; faith in the past. Later she confessed, “I know my brother will rise in the last day; the resurrection.” She now had faith in the future. However, Jesus is a God of right now. He spoke to stinking Lazarus; already four days in the tomb and commanded; “Lazarus, Come forth!”

### **How to Move to a Higher Level of Faith**

Faith is like a Muscle;  
It must be exercised for it to  
grow!!

We can move to a higher level in faith by listening to the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and then by acting on the Word that we have heard. We need to put the Word to work. In Malachi 3:10 God said to “prove me...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive

it.” We can also move higher in faith by “asking” for more faith. James said, “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.” (James 1:17)

**Study Questions**

1. What is asked in Luke 8:25? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In Romans 14:22, what question is asked? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give a Scripture reference showing that Jesus sees faith. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are seven of the flavors of faith that are mentioned in this lesson?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_  
7) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the opposite of “faith?” \_\_\_\_\_

6. According to Romans 12:3 what is every man given? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did the disciples ask Jesus in Luke 17:5? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How do we increase our faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. How are we led to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Why was it said that the centurion had “great faith?” \_\_\_\_\_

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11. How high does the Mustard Seed grow? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What did the Rabbis in Jesus’ day use the mustard seed as a symbol for? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. How can we move to a higher level of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. When does our faith begin to grow? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. How is faith like a muscle? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Notes**

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