

Fundamentals Of Faith

What is Faith?

In Hebrew Faith is – “Emunah” – firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness.

Faith is only used twice in the Old Testament. (Deuteronomy 32:20, Habakkuk 2:4)

The Law is not of faith. Galatians 3:12 – “Yet the law is not of faith, but ‘THE MAN WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.’”

Out of the 613 commands of the Law, not one of them was to pray. In the New Covenant, we are exhorted repeatedly to pray without ceasing!

There are many examples of faith, however, by Old Testament characters.

Faith in the New Testament is the Greek word – “pistis” – to win over, persuade; persuasion, confidence, assurance, conviction.

Grace is of faith! Romans 4:16 – “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”

Faith and grace always go together.

Scriptural definition of faith.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“Substance” – Greek word “hupostasis” – foundation, the ground of confidence, assurance, guarantee, or proof.

“Evidence” – Greek word “elegchos” – a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested.

There is an unseen spirit realm where truth resides. This realm is the realm of facts. The facts never change the truth, but the truth can change the facts. Faith brings into this realm what is truth in the spirit realm.

Faith does not create anything. It merely brings manifestation to what exists or is true in the spirit realm.

Faith is the assurance of having what you can’t detect with your physical senses. If you wonder if you are in faith just ask yourself, “Am I assured in my heart of having what I am believing for?” That assurance is proof it is yours.

Example of a Train – The locomotive is the truth; the caboose is the manifestation (a change of the facts). In the middle of the locomotive and the caboose is the box cars (faith).

Faith's Foundation is the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

The Word of God is the foundation for biblical faith.

“Word” – Greek word “rhema” – to speak; that which is spoken, a statement, word

Faith comes by the communicated Word of God to your heart.

What many people call faith is not, because it is not founded on the revealed Word of God to the individual.

There is a big difference between faith, hope, foolishness, and presumption.

Peter did not just walk on the water...he first walked on the [rhema] word “Come.”

Matthew 14:26-29 – “And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.’ And Peter answered Him and said, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’ So He said, ‘Come.’ And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.”

Example of foolishness – Someone trying to do what Peter did because they read that Peter walked on water and they by faith are going to walk on water (without a rhema word of their own).

Example of presumption – Throwing away your glasses or medicine because you heard someone else did that and received a healing manifestation.

The connection between hearing and faith.

Acts 15:7 – “And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the Word of the gospel and believe.’”

Romans 10:14 – “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Acts 4:4 – Galatians 3:2 – Galatians 3:5

Bible faith is persuaded about spiritual truth over temporal facts. Spiritual truth is eternal. Natural facts are temporal. Spiritual truth is unchanging. Natural facts are changeable. Natural facts can never change spiritual truth, but spiritual truth can and will change natural facts.

Bible faith believes the Word of God even if natural circumstances appear to oppose or deny it.

Spiritual maturity is demonstrated by walking by faith and not by sight.

II Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

II Corinthians 4:18 – “While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

God’s Word is founded on His character.

Hebrews 6:18 – Romans 3:4 –Psalm 12:6

Faith and believing – what is the difference?

Faith is a noun. It is a thing.

We are given the measure of faith at salvation.

Romans 12:3 – “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one the measure of faith.”

Faith is called “it.” James 2:17 – “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Believing is a verb. It is an action. It is the release of faith.

Faith must be released, or it is called dead faith.

Death, according to the Bible, means a separation. What is dead faith? It means faith in your heart is separated from your natural circumstances.

Faith is released in two main ways; Words and Actions

Words

II Corinthians 4:13 – “And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE I SPOKE,’ we also believe and therefore speak,”

God releases His faith by words. (Genesis 1)

Jesus released His faith by words. He spoke to storms, trees, fevers, demons, etc. Things respond to the Word of God.

Colossians 3:17 – “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Actions

Matthew 12:12-13 – “Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’ Then He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.”

Luke 17:13-14 – “And they lifted up their voices and said, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ So when He saw them, He said to them, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.”

John 9:7 – “And He said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.”

John 2:7-9 – “Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the water pots with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, ‘Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.’ And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.”

Conclusion – Key Thoughts

- A. Faith is heart assurance that spiritual realities are yours before you see them in the natural.
- B. Faith is founded on the spoken [rhema] word of God to you. If it is not, you will either be in foolishness or presumption.
- C. Faith and believing are not the same thing. Believing is the release of faith. You do this by speaking and taking action.
- D. Do what Jesus tells you to do!