

FAITH

I. DEFINITION:

A. What faith is:

1. (According to the Vine's Dictionary) - primarily, firm, persuasion; a conviction based upon hearing (to persuade); is used in the N.T. always of faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual.

2. (According to Scripture) - Hebrews 11:1

(KJV) "Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen."

(AMPLIFIED) "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

B. You have to have hope before you can use your faith.

C. Faith, however, is not hope. Faith is laying hold of the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality by acting on the Word.

D. If you are not hoping for something, then there would be no use of faith.

E. You can have hope and not have faith, but you cannot have faith without hope.

F. Faith is like a thermostat.

1. You want or desire a certain temperature of 70 degrees.

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2. Hope is your want/desire for 70 degrees.
 3. Wanting (hoping) will not get the temperature to 70.
 4. You must turn (action word -- you take action now) the thermostat to 70 degrees.
 5. Your faith is now in knowing that the temperature will be 70.
 6. When you turn the thermostat to 70 degrees the temperature doesn't become 70 degrees automatically; but, as the thermostat
- kicks in, it's just a matter of time that it will be 70 degrees.

G. This is exactly how faith works.

1. You hope for something.
 2. Your faith acts NOW!
 3. Faith is an action word.
 4. You have no doubt!
 5. You know it will happen, even when the circumstance does not immediately change.
 6. Your faith says it already has happened (even though the manifestation has not yet happened).
1. As in the thermostat example: You had no fear that it

would

be 70 degrees.

H. Faith is NOW! (Heb. 11:1a "Now faith is...)

1. If it isn't now, then it isn't faith.

I. Faith is not just believing.

1. Believing is what you behold to be true.
2. You can believe a lie; it is a spiritual substance.
3. You must believe what the Word (Bible) says -- believing what God says!

J. Faith is a force, but you cannot force faith!

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II. ORIGINATOR OF FAITH:

A. Who originated faith:

1. God originated faith.

a. Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..."

B. Who gives and develops faith:

1. God starts everyone out with the same measure of faith.

a. Romans 12:3b "...but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

2. Jesus is the developer of our faith.

a. Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;..."

III. HOW FAITH COMES:

A. God's part:

1. God gives to every man the measure of faith.

a. Romans 12:3b

B. Our part:

1. We must hear, speak, and study the Word!

2. In hearing the Word, not just once having heard it, but a continuance of hearing it.

a. Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word..."

3. In speaking the Word, don't let negative circumstances come in and drown out what the Word says.

a. Prov. 18:7 "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips

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are the snare of his soul (mind, will, and emotions).

b. Prov. 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue:.."

4. In studying the Word, study to know what is rightfully yours.

a. II Tim. 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved..."

b. II Peter 1:1-10

5. You must believe those things which you say will come to pass.

6. Your entire vocabulary must be disciplined.

7. Your faith will not work above the level of your confession.

IV. WHERE FAITH IS FOUND:

A. Faith is found in your heart and in your mouth.

1. Romans 10:8 "...in thy mouth and in thy heart..."

B. Faith is in your mouth and heart, not your head.

C. Your head (carnal thoughts, the way you think) tries to reason things out of faith, filling you full of doubt and unbelief.

V. WHY WE LIVE BY FAITH:

A. Living by faith PLEASES God!

1. Hebrews 11:6a "But without faith it is impossible to please Him,..."

B. God is not going to do anything that is outside of His character. (If it doesn't please Him, then it would be outside of His character.)

VI. WORKS OF FAITH

A. Faith works by love:

1. Gal. 5:6b "...but faith worketh by love."

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B. Works (actions) of faith:

1. Talks/Speaks.

- a. Romans 10:6 "which is of faith speaketh on this wise"
- b. Mark 11:22-23 (speaks to mountains)
- c. Romans 4:17b "...calleth those things which be not as

though

they were."

- d. There is a difference between talking faith and faith talking:

1. Anyone can talk it (mouth off).
2. But, when faith talks, it is not mere "mouthing off",

but it's

the mountain moving power being spoken.

2. Is alive!

- a. Works (actions) show that faith is alive.
- b. James 2:14-26 (vs. 20) "But wilt thou know, O vain man,

that faith

without works is dead?"

VII. BENEFITS OF FAITH:

A. Saves

- a. Ephesians 2:5, 8 ("saved by grace through faith")

B. Heals

- a. James 5:15 ("and the prayer of faith shall save the sick...")

C. Delivers

VIII. FAITH IS SEEN AND AFFECTS OTHERS TO ACT:

- A. Matthew 9:20-22 ("...touched the hem of His garment....Daughter, be

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of

good comfort,; thy faith hath made thee whole.")

1. The people surrounding them saw what happened.

B. Matthew 14:34-36 ("...when the men of that place had knowledge of Him,...they besought Him that they might only touch the hem of

His

garment...")

1. Because they saw and had knowledge of what had happened when the woman with the issue of blood touched His

garment, they

also sought to do the same.

C. Good reports of faith. (Read Hebrews chapter 11)

1. Hebrews 11:2 "For by it the elders obtained a good report."

IX. CONCLUSION:

A. THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS US TO LIVE BY FAITH!

1. Hebrews 10:38; Hab. 2:4b "The just shall live by faith"