

Fresh Wind Christian Center

A Study of Faith

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When the average person gets out of bed each morning, he/she probably does not hesitate to jump right out because he has confidence that his legs will hold him. Similarly when the average person sits on a chair, there is usually no trial test made first to make sure the chair will hold him because he has assurance that the chair will perform as it should. What about things that are not seen? Although the wind is invisible, we know when it is active because we are able to see the effects of the wind in the swaying of the trees and the movement of objects in a certain direction. And at times, we are able to hear the wind. And, what about our heart or brain? Although we've never seen them, we believe we have them because we are living, mobile, and able to think and learn. These abilities would not be possible without a heart and a brain. These examples demonstrate the dynamics of faith. Let me explain. Even though we don't think of this way, we have faith in a chair that we have sat on many times because it has never failed us, and we believe that it never will. So in this example, a chair is the object of faith. And even though we can't see the wind, we believe it is active because we see the results of it, and the same is true for other things we are not able to see (ie. our heart and brain).

Faith is essential to Christianity. But not just faith itself, but faith in Jesus Christ.

While the examples demonstrate how we exercise faith (in things), I believe the majority of Christians are very weak in faith in God, and many don't even realize it. And, I believe the primary reason is because of a lack of knowledge of real active faith in God. Galatians 3:11 says the Just (justified) shall live by faith. Jesus Christ justified us when he took our punishment at Calvary and paid the sin debt for us, and when we received him as Savior, we were justified. Living by faith means living by God's Word (i.e. applying God's Word to every area of life).

Unfortunately, many so-called seasoned Christians have never consistently followed the scriptures for instructions on how they should live, how to raise their children, how to love their husbands / wives, how to treat people, how to be good stewards over what God has given them, etc. In short, most Christians don't walk by faith or live in faith, period! But that is what makes us "Christians." In order to be the church God has called us to be, we must

absolutely, uncompromisingly, live by faith, 24/7. To that end, we must learn how to live by faith (ourselves) and teach others.

In this lesson, we will examine in depth the Christian faith.

Objectives:

1. To demonstrate what faith is to the Christian
2. To explain why faith is vital
3. What it means to live by faith

SCRIPTURES FOR STUDY

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

¹Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

¹NOW 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]. Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

Hebrews 11:6

⁶But 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. (KJV)

⁶And 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. (NIV)

⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (NLT)

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]. (AMP)

⁶It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. (The Message)

Romans 10:17

¹⁷So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (KJV)

¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17 (NIV)

¹⁷So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself). Romans 10:17 (AMP)

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

⁷For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight or appearance. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (AMP)

Galatians 3:11

¹¹Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." Galatians 3:11 (NIV)

11 So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” Galatians 3:11 NLT

**11But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
Galatians 3:11 (KJV)**

11Now it is evident that no person is justified (declared righteous and brought into right standing with God) through the Law, for the Scripture says, The man in right standing with God [the just, the righteous] shall live by and out of faith and he who through and by faith is declared righteous and in right standing with God shall live. Galatians 3:11 (AMP)