

Lesson 1

Introduction to Faith

Definitions:

Webster definition of faith:

1. Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing.
2. Belief not based on logical proof or material evidence.
3. Loyalty to a person or thing.

Bible definition of faith:

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)

Now if we combined these definitions we could say that faith is the confidence (trust, assurance, belief) that the object of faith (whether person or thing) performs (operates) as it should (as advertised or proclaimed). In the introduction, the objects of faith were our legs, a chair, etc. Although the actions we discussed were everyday activities that we do continually without thinking about them, they are actions of faith. We know that a chair is designed for sitting on and so we trust that it will perform as it should 100% of the time. So every time we sit on a chair, we exercise total confidence in the chair. To every Christian, the triune God, evidenced in three persons, The Father, The Son Jesus

Christ, and The Holy Spirit, is the object of our faith. So then faith in God is the confidence (trust, assurance, belief) that God is who He proclaims to be in His Word. Just as in the earlier examples, faith creates a response or requires action. Getting out of bed and actually standing on your legs demonstrated faith in the legs. Faith always requires or creates action. Likewise, faith in God always requires action. Look at 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)

Our first approach to God (and every approach) is (or was) an act of faith. As the passage states, anyone who comes to God must first believe He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. Or in other words, you have to believe that He is who He proclaims He is in His Word. The belief cannot be based on a feeling or idea from your mind; but must be based on your decision to respond to the Word of God. You have to decide to believe the Word.

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)

HEARING THE WORD + DECISION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO WHAT YOU HEARD = BELIEF (FAITH)

HEARING THE WORD + DECISION TO RESPOND NEGATIVELY TO WHAT YOU HEARD = UNBELIEF (FEAR AND DOUBT)

For example: If you come to God with a prayer request of healing (a petition).

- 1) First you have to believe in Him (that he exists);
- 2) Then you have to believe that He will reward a seeker (you are the seeker), or in this case that He will heal you.
- 3) Next, you have to know what the Word says about healing because God is obligated only to what He has promised from His Word (but guess what – every need and/or Godly desire is covered somewhere in the Word).
- 4) Locate in the scriptures the promise(s) concerning healing, read them (meditate them – since faith for the healing is coming from you hearing the Word concerning healing)
- 5) Then ask God for it in accordance with His Word. You are asking in faith, believing that you receive. (Now you have acted in faith – you don't have to feel anything, hear a thunderbolt, fall under the power, none of that, because receiving is not based on a feeling or anything in the natural; just your faith (step by step, according to the Word).