

Lesson 2

Origin of Faith

Faith in God came from God

¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Romans 1:19-21 (KJV)

¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹For that which is known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness, because God [Himself] has shown it to them. ²⁰For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So [men] are without excuse [altogether without any defense or justification], ²¹Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened. Romans 1:19-21 (AMP)

But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse. What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand. Rom 1:20-23 (The Message)

There is evidence all around us that God is really who His Word proclaims Him to be. We (ourselves) are evidence of that. There is historical proof that the Bible is accurate, but more importantly God has given us proof within. God made us in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27) and has branded into us a knowledge of Him. We are

in diminished portions of course, but we were made in his own image and therefore have His qualities. God has given us the ability to think and discern with intelligence, and unlike every other creation, He has given us free will. So while we all have a knowledge of God within, we also all have the ability to choose to acknowledge and glorify God (or not). So knowledge of God has been branded on the inside, but it is an exercise of free will to believe and acknowledge God (employ faith in God). Look at Romans 12:3.

³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Rom 12:3 (KJV)

³Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Rom 12:3 (NIV)

³For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him. Rom 12:3 (Amp)

The verse states that God has given to every man (and woman) a measure (degree or portion) of faith.

²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (KJV)

²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

²Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (Amp)

Here in Hebrews 12:2 Jesus is called the author (source) and finisher of our faith, the perfecter and leader of our faith. So then we have our scriptural proof that faith is inherently from God. So everyone has the ability to exercise faith because the faith has been provided, the same way every person has the ability to exercise their bodies. However even though the ability is there, it is up to the individual to exercise their faith (and their body), and just as a body that is not exercised will eventually become weaker and weaker, the same will happen to their faith that is not exercised. The contrary is also true. The more you exercise your body, the stronger it becomes and so it is with your faith. This may seem elementary, maybe even overly simplistic to some, but most Christians overlook the simple truths from the Word. Many times Christians debate the complex things they don't understand from the Word, but won't do the simple things they do understand. Exercising faith in God is simply choosing to believe and do what the Bible says.

**31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.**

**32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them, "
declares the LORD.**

**33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.
"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.**

**34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"**

declares the LORD.

**"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

I believe that time that Jeremiah spoke of has come. I believe that He was speaking of the Holy Spirit that would come after Jesus paid for our sins on the cross.

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹Of judgement, because the prince of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11 KJV)

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26 KJV)

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26 KJV)

Faith to the Christian is a firm belief that our loving God sent His son Jesus to live in this world as a man and that He did that perfectly and without sin for the purpose of taking the punishment for all people through a humiliating and tormenting death and that God through His mighty power brought Jesus to life again after being dead 3 days.

For everyone who has received Christ as Savior, it was an act (action) of faith. When the invitation was given to willingly acknowledge your belief or *faith* in Jesus, an action was required and your response was your corresponding action.