

**FAITH?
BELIEVING?
BELIEF?**

WHAT ARE THEY?



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WHY IS FAITH SO IMPORTANT?

Firstly, let us see the importance of knowing what Faith is by observing some of its functions and other issues in scripture, with which it is associated.

1. We are Sanctified by Faith. Acts 26:18
2. We are Justified by Faith. Romans 5:1
3. Faith contains Righteousness. Romans 9:30
4. Faith is preached. Romans 10:8, Galatians 1:23
5. The Just lives by Faith. Galatians 3:11
6. We must be “stablished” in the Faith. Colossians 2:7
7. We please God by Faith. Hebrew 11:6
8. It is the Faith of the Gospel. Philippians 1:27
9. It is the Faith of Jesus Christ. James 2:1
10. There is only one Faith. Ephesians 4:5

This Faith, of which there is only one, is an active instrument in the process of salvation. As a result, it is imperative that one understands what Faith is if they seek to “please God” and have “peace” with Him. In short, he who does not know what Faith is **CANNOT** be saved.

SO WHAT IS FAITH?

Hebrews 11:1 defines Faith.

A. Faith is substance– Greek– hupostasis-title deed.

B. Faith is evidence-Greek-elegchos

“a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested...that by which invisible things are proved and we are convinced of their reality- Kenneth S. Wuest, **Word Studies In the Greek New Testament Vol.2**, pg. 123

Note that these two, substance (hupostasis) and evidence (elegchos) are nouns.

Let us now look at a series of texts that further explain the constitution of the evidence and substance that Faith is.

Romans 1:17– The Just **shall live** by Faith.

Matthew 4:4- Man *shall live* by the word of God.

The conclusion here is this:

Faith = the word of God!

But this does not end here because the inspired written words of the Bible contain the word of God...it is not the word of God. For example, the writings in the book of Ephesians represent Paul's own human language, as he wrote to the church in Ephesus. However, God's words can be found contained in those writings.

So, let us continue!

John 17:17– The word of God is truth.

John 16:13– The Spirit guides us into all truth (which is the word of God).

Thus: Faith = The word of God

And The word of God = Truth

Conclusion: Faith = Truth

Now read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

The word of God, which is the truth, (Faith), must be revealed by the Holy Spirit because only He knows the deep things of God and teaches them.

So we can conclude that **Faith is the truths of God revealed by the Holy Spirit or “the revealed truths of God”**. The Substance and evidence of the invisible things which we hope for, are the revealed truths of God.

A. Faith must be revealed because all men have not Faith- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Galatians 3:23

B. And all men have not the Spirit of Christ or God, which comes by Faith– Romans 8:9, Galatians 3:14

This is why Christ refers to a generation as ‘faithless’- Matthew 17:17

And God declares that Israel had no Faith-Deuteronomy 32:20

NOW WHAT IS BELIEVING?

Believe v.- “to consider to be true or honest.”– A. Merriam Webster. **Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary**, pg. 142

V.- “to accept as true”.– **Collins Gem Dictionary**

(v. means verb)

- Believing is merely the present continuous form of the verb ‘to believe’
- Believe is a verb as opposed to Faith which is a noun. The two cannot therefore be the same thing.
- Believing is a mental act that is common to and natural with mankind. On the other hand, Faith is revealed by God’s Spirit.
- Even the devils (or fallen evil angels) believe. However, Faith is of God– James 2:19, Romans 3:3,4
- Believing is the condition that must be fulfilled in order for Faith to become personal. Romans 3:21-22, Romans 4:3,9,22-24, Galatians 3:22, Galatians 2:16

In brief, you must believe the Faith. Or, you must accept as true the revealed truths of God. This then becomes your body of knowledge or evidence. It is your personal knowledge and revelation that God gives to you. This is your evidence of the invisible things that you hope for. It is ***your Faith***.

This is what Christ refers to in Mathew 9:22.

Whenever Christ refers to Faith using the possessive pronouns such as ‘thy (or your) Faith’ and ‘his faith’, He shows that the

person has believed or accepted as true, the truths that have been revealed to them at the time.

Thus,

Your Faith = The revealed truths of God + your believing.

Nevertheless, your believing does not define Faith!

You see, while you must believe the Faith in order for it to become yours, your mental act of accepting it as true (or believing it) must never be used to define Faith itself. Remember, Faith is of God– Romans 3:3-4

FINALLY, WHAT IS BELIEF?

Since Faith is a noun and Believing is a verb we may have the tendency to conclude that Faith is ‘a belief’ They say this based upon the fact that ‘belief; is the noun that is derived from the verb ‘to believe’. Is Faith a belief? Let us see.

Belief n.– “Something believed.” A. Meriam Webster, **Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary**, pg. 142

According to the above definition, a belief owes its existence to one’s mental work of believing. Note carefully that it is not merely ‘something’, neither is it simply ‘believed’. It is ‘something believed’. In other words, a belief does not become a belief until someone believes it. Since it constitutes partly, a human being’s mental act it CANNOT in itself be Faith.

- Belief n= believing + something (something believed)
- Faith n=The revealed Truths of God.
- Your Faith= The revealed truths of God + your mental act of believing.
- Your Belief= something believed + your mental act of accepting that thing as true.

From the above, the following is evident: There is no Faith in ‘a belief’ and there is no believing in Faith.

NOTE: Belief by itself cannot be used to define Faith. You see when we look at the definition of Belief as ‘something believed’ we realize that this ‘something’ can be anything. It can be error! If someone believes error and that is their belief, would we call that erroneous belief faith? No!

If however, the ‘something believed’ is Faith (the revealed truths of Jesus Christ), then we can say that the person’s belief is the Faith. Thus their belief is their Faith, but only if what they believe is the Faith of Jesus Christ. Understand?

CONCLUSION

What do we conclude from this study? When defining Faith it is necessary to use scripture only for **Hebrews 11:1 is the definition of Faith**. The definitions of belief and believing clearly show that they cannot in themselves be Faith. Believing has its role and in its right context, belief is used. However, they

are never used in scripture **to define Faith.**

Dear reader, I admonish you to carefully study the scriptures and God will reveal His truths (Faith) to you. When you hear that Faith, accept it as true in your mind (believe) and you will be made just or righteous. Further, let the things that you think, say and do be motivated by the truths that are revealed to you by God's Spirit. Indeed, ***the Just shall live by Faith.*** Amen!

The end.



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