

What the Bible Says About...

THE FAITH THAT SAVES

INTRO.

A. The greatest challenge that I personally face in my life is stated in [Proverbs 3:5](#) - *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;”*

- The greatest desire of God’s heart for you is that you would come to totally trust him.
- In fact... It is imperative that we come to that level of trust.

B. Everything in Jesus’ ministry with his disciples was to provide incentive for them (and us) to trust him completely.

- He gave them some **incredible promises** which accompany this faith:

1. [Matthew 17:20](#)-

2. [Matthew 21:22](#)-

- We learn something about the **importance of faith**

1. [Romans 1:16-17](#)- *“...by faith the just shall live.”*

2. [Hebrews 11:6](#)- *“And without faith it is impossible to please God...”*

C. Everything in our life and our future depends on our learning to totally trust God.

I- THE BIBLE’S DEFINITION OF FAITH (2 views)

A. What faith is:

- [Hebrews 11:1](#)- *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*

B. What faith does:

- [Romans 5:1-2](#)- *“[through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ]...we have gained access... into this grace in which we now stand.”*

II- ILLUSTRATION OF FAITH

A. **Lack of faith** causes us to trust our “instincts” more than we trust God.

- [Genesis 3](#) - Eve’s encounter with Satan

- [v1](#) - *“...He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

Question: What was Satan trying to accomplish? - Cause her to doubt God.

- Temptation takes root when we don’t trust God.

B. **Complete faith** causes us to “believe and accept” God’s word beyond our own understanding.

- [Genesis 12:1-3](#) - Abraham- God made some wonderful promises, including “great nation and promised ‘seed.’”

- Specifically told Abraham that Isaac will be the avenue through which these promises will come.

- [Genesis 22:1-3](#) - commanded him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice

- His attitude- “Jehovah-Jireh”- “The Lord will provide”

- [Hebrews 11:17-19](#) says, *“Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead,”*

Here it is- THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

- [Genesis 15:6](#) (quoted in [Romans 4:3](#))- *“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

No doubting... No quibbling... No arguing... No second-guessing... No hesitation- ABSOLUTE TRUST WHICH LEADS TO OBEDIENCE!

- [Romans 4:23-24](#)- “[This was written] *“...not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”*

... Faith inspires faith, doesn’t it?

III- HOW DO WE DEVELOP THAT FAITH?

It is absolutely imperative that we realize and accept the truth that “this level of faith” is not beyond our reach. Perhaps we have always thought of Abraham’s faith as **ideal** and **unreachable**. Consequently, our faith tends to be weak and anemic. We “carry our faith” rather than “our faith carrying us!”
- Marshal Keeble said, “People get the idea we’re trying to sell a sick hog!”

- [Hebrews 11:6](#) - The FOUNDATION and the MOTIVATION required for developing this level of saving faith:

- The underlying principle- *“Without faith it is impossible to please God...”*

A. **FOUNDATION:** *“...because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists...”*

- Jesus said [[Matthew 8:24](#)] - *“...if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

- The Jews of Jesus’ day were indecisive- “Could this be the Christ?”

- Jesus knew that adequate evidence had been provided- [Matthew 16](#) - He asked his disciples, *“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

- Then he asked, *“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”*

- Peter’s **faith** led him to comprehend what others could not!

- At the end of the gospel accounts, John makes the statement, *“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”- [John 20:30-31](#)*

... When you know beyond any doubt that God exists- that’s the **foundation** for your faith. This same verse then provides us ...

B. **MOTIVATION:** *“... and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

- Word “earnestly” means “not relaxing in effort.”

- [1 Corinthians 15:58](#)- *“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

- We are assured that the hope we have in Christ *“...does not disappoint us.”* - [Romans 5:4](#)

APPLICATION:

A. One of the two most accurate measures of you as a Christian is HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST GOD?

- [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#)- *“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”*

B. Here’s a summary of your life in Christ:

- *“According to your faith it will be done unto you.”* - [Matthew 9:29](#)

C. Do you need to “fix your faith?” (There are two specific areas you need to address):

- Do you know without doubt that God exists?

- Is there something that is keeping you from consistently seek God through his Son Jesus Christ?