

Romans 1:16–17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.””

Romans 10:17 *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

Tony Evans said,
*“Faith is acting like it is so,
even when it’s not so,
in order that it might be so...
simply because God said so.”*

Philippians 3:8–9 *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”*

Hebrews 12:1–2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

John MacArthur,
“Faith is not a blind leap. It is a leap into the light.”

NEXT WEEK: Our last week in this series

**We’ll talk about THE ESSENTIAL OF CHURCH in the life of every believer.
Is it necessary? What is it for?**

Purpose of this series: To clarify and solidify essential truths of the Christian faith. **If these truths are missing, incorrect, or incomplete** from our personal belief matrix we are not living biblical Christianity.

1 John 4:1,4-6

THIS WEEK... CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH IS ESSENTIAL

Ephesians 2:8

Faith does not save us. Jesus saves us. Faith is the decision to accept His free gift.

Hebrews 11:6

1: What Faith Is Not

Faith is not Feelings or Emotions.

Job 2:9

Note: Jeremiah’s emotions. Have you ever felt this way?

Lamentations 3:1-20

Look where Jeremiah goes with these feelings.

Lamentations 3:21-25

We must not depend on how we’re feeling at any given moment to determine our faith in God’s love, our salvation, and God’s plan for our lives.

Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 28:26

Jeremiah 17:9

Another sign of incorrect faith - fake faith - Frenzied Activity

I Kings 18:26

I Kings 18:28,29

2: What Faith Is

Best Definition: Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

“assurance” Greek: “hupostasis” meaning “confidence”

“conviction” Greek: “elegchos” meaning “evidence as to the truth or reality of something” (found to be true as in a conviction in a court of law)

Warren Wiersbe, in his commentary on this verse in *The Bible exposition commentary* said, “*This faith operates quite simply. God speaks and we hear His Word. We trust His Word and act on it no matter what the circumstances are or what the consequences may be. The circumstances may be impossible, and the consequences frightening and unknown; but we obey God’s Word just the same and believe Him to do what is right and what is best.*”

Things not seen

Romans 8:24

2 Corinthians 4:18

2 Corinthians 5:7

Remember Doubting Thomas

John 20:26-31

Martin Luther once wrote,

“*Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see.*”

So, Faith is a confidence, assurance, and conviction of spiritual matters we can not see.

But

What is the basis of that confidence, assurance, and conviction?

As we’ve seen it’s not our circumstances, emotions, or activity... and not our effort... then what?

We see the answer in the Merriam Webster Dictionary’s definition of “faith”

Faith: - “belief and trust in and loyalty to God”

Trust: - “assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something”

Decide: - “to make a final choice or judgment about”

So, Faith is a decision to trust in God– above all else.

Who He is and What He has promised us in His word.

Zig Ziglar, Christian, speaker, and author wrote, “Faith is your reaction to God's ability.”

A.W. Tozer, “Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God.”

Josh McDowell, author of “Evidence that Demands A Verdict” said, “The Christian faith is faith in Christ. Its value or worth is not in the one believing but in the One believed - not in the one trusting, but in the One trusted.”

Psalms 4:5

Psalms 9:10

Our Faith checklist:

Is God, God? Yes, He is.

Can He do anything? Yes, He can.

Does He love me? Yes, He does.

Will He act for my best interest? Yes, He will.

Is He in control of my situation? Yes, He is.

Do I have anything to worry about? No, I don’t. Hebrews 13:6

Surprising Examples of Trusting Faith

Daniel 3:15–18

In summary, “*We have faith that God is able to deliver and even if He doesn’t we will not serve your gods.*” That’s trust... “*We have faith*”

Job 2:9–10

Job 13:15

Job placed his trust in a loving God... no matter what circumstance. That’s faith!

Lastly... Faith that made Jesus stop and take note. Matthew 8:5-10

The Centurion trusted in Christ’s authority and ability to give an order that would be obeyed. That’s faith.