## BIBLE STUDY MAY 14, 2025

## LORD INCREASE OUR FAITH

**Whereas when the question is asked, “What is Faith?” Most people would quote Hebrews 11:1, however, faith is more than that!**

**I. The Importance of the Doctrine of Faith**

Faith is primary in Christian doctrine and conduct. It was the one thing which above all others Christ recognized as the supreme virtue. The Syrophoenician woman ([Matt. 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+15)) and the woman with an Issue of Blood (Mark 5) had perseverance; the centurion ([Matt. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+8)), humility; the blind man ([Mark 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+10)), earnestness. But what Christ saw and rewarded in each of these cases was **their acts of faith.**

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**II. The Definition of Faith**

**Faith is used in the Scriptures in a general and in a particular sense.**

**1. Its General Meaning:**

**a) KNOWLEDGE**

[Psa. 9:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Psa.%209:10)—"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee." [Rom. 10:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%2010:17)—"**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**." Faith is not believing a thing without evidence, on the contrary faith rests upon the best of evidence, namely, the **Word of God.**

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**b) ACCEPTANCE**

[Mark 12:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+12%3A32)—"And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth." So, was it with the faith which Christ demanded in His miracles: "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" "Yea, Lord." **There must not only be the knowledge that Jesus is able to save, and that He is the Savior of the world; there must be also an acceptance of the heart to all these claims.**

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**c) APPLICATION**

[John 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A12); [2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+2%3A24). There must be an **application of the things which we know and accept concerning the Christ and His work**. Intelligent perception is not faith. A man may know Christ as divine, and yet aside from that reject him as Savior. **Knowledge affirms the reality of these things but neither accepts nor rejects them. Nor is acceptance faith. There is an acceptance of the mind which does not convey a surrender of the heart and affections**.

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**2. THE MEANING OF FAITH IN PARTICULAR:**

**a) When Used in Connection with the Name of God**

[Heb. 11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb.%2011:6)—"**But 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**." Also [Acts 27:22-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+27%3A22-25); [Rom. 4:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%204:19-21) with [Gen. 15:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gen.%2015:4-6). There can be no dealings with the invisible God unless there is absolute faith in His existence.

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**b) When Used in Connection with the Person and Work of Christ**

Recalling the three elements in faith and apply them here.

**First,** there must be a *knowledge* of the claims of Christ as to His person and mission in the world: As to His person—that He is deity, [John 9:35-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+9%3A35-38); [10:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A30); [Phil. 2:6-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A6-11). As to His work—[Matt. 20:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Matt.%2020:28); [26:26-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+26%3A26-28); [Luke 24:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+24%3A27), [44](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+24%3A44).

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**Second,** there must be an *acceptance* to all these claims, [John 16:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A30); [20:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+20%3A28); [Matt. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Matt.%2016:16); [John 6:68](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+6%3A68), [69](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+6%3A69).

**Third**, there must be a personal application of Christ as being all that He claims to be, [John 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A12), [8:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+8%3A21), [24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+8%3A24); [5:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+5%3A24). There must be surrender to a person, and not mere faith in a creed. Faith in a doctrine must lead to faith in a person, and that person Jesus Christ, if salvation is to be the result of such belief.

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**c) When Used in Connection with Prayer**

Four passages may be used to set forth this relationship: **Ephesians 3:20**; [1 John 5:14, 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+5%3A14-15); [James 1:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A5-7), [Mark 11:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+11%3A24). **There must be no hesitation which balances between belief and unbelief, and inclines toward the latter—tossed one moment upon the shore of faith and hope, the next tossed back again into the crater of unbelief. To "doubt" means to reason whether or not the thing concerning which you are making request can be done** ([Acts 10:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+10%3A20); [Rom. 4:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%204:20)). Such a man only presumes; he does not really believe.

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**d) When Used in Connection with the Word and Promise of God**

**First**, we should know whether the promise in question is intended for us. **There is a difference in a promise being written *for* us and *to* us.** There are exceptional aspects to many of the promises in the Bible, therefore we must rightly divide, dispense, and appropriate the Word of God (cf. I [Cor. 10:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Cor.%2010:32)).

**Second**, when once we are persuaded that a promise is *for* us, we must believe that God means all He says in that promise; we must agree to all its truth; we must not diminish nor discount it. God will not, cannot lie ([Titus 1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+1%3A2)).

**Third**, **we must apply and act upon the promises. Herein lies the difference between belief and faith. Belief is mental; faith adds to the decision; we may have belief without the will, but not faith.** Belief is a realm of thought; faith is a sphere of action. Belief lives in study; faith comes out into the public and the streets. Faith substantiates belief—gives substance, life, reality, and activity to it ([Heb. 11:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb.%2011:1)). Faith puts belief into active service and connects possibilities with actualities. Faith is acting upon what you believe; it is appropriation. Faith counts every promise valid, ([Heb. 11:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb.%2011:11)); no trial can shake it ([11:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A35)); it is so absolute that it survives the loss of its own pledge even ([11:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A17)).

**3. The Relation of Faith to Works**

**There is no value in faith alone. It is not mere faith that saves, but faith in Christ**. Faith in any other savior but Christ will not save. Faith in any other gospel than that of the New Testament will not save ([Gal. 1:8, 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+1%3A8-9)).

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**III. The Source of Faith**

There are two sides to this phase of the subject **divine and human side**.

**1. It Is the Work of the Triune God**

***God the Father***: [Rom. 12:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%2012:3); [I Cor. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12). This is true of faith both in its beginning ([Phil. 1:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Phil.%201:29)) and its development ([1 Cor. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12)). Faith, then, is a gift of his grace.

***God the Son***: [Heb. 12:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb.%2012:2)—"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Illustration, [Matt. 14:30, 31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Matt.%2014:30,%2031)—Peter taking his eyes off Christ.) [I Cor. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12); [Luke 17:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+17%3A5).

***God the Spirit***: [Gal. 5:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal.%205:22); [I Cor. 12:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12%3A9). The Holy Spirit is the executive of the Godhead.

Why then, if faith is the work of the Godhead, are we responsible for not having it?

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**2. There Is Also a Human Side to Faith**

[Rom. 10:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%2010:17)—"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (cf. the context, [vv. 9-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A9-21).) [Acts 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+4%3A4)—"Howbeit many of them who heard the word believed." In this instance the *spoken* word, the Gospel, is referred to; in other cases, the written Word, the Scriptures, are referred to as being instrumental in producing faith.

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Prayer also is an instrument in the development of faith. Luke is called the *human* Gospel because it makes so much of prayer, especially in connection with faith: [22:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+22%3A32)—"But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." [17:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+17%3A5)—"And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith." See also [Mark 9:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+9%3A24); [Matt. 17:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Matt.%2017:19-21).

Our faith grows using the faith we already have. [Luke 17:5, 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+17%3A5-6); [Matt. 25:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A39).

**IV. Some Results of Faith**

**1. We Are Saved by Faith**

We, recall that the saving power of faith resides not in itself, but in the Almighty Savior on whom it rests; so that, properly speaking, it is not so much faith, as it is faith in Christ that saves.

The whole of our salvation—past, present, and future, is dependent upon faith. Our acceptance of Christ ([John 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A12)); our justification ([Rom. 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%205:1)); our adoption ([Gal. 3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal.%203:26)); our sanctification ([Acts 26:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+26%3A18)); our keeping ([1 Pet. 1:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1%20Pet.%201:5)), indeed **our whole salvation from start to finish is dependent upon faith.**

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**2. Rest, Peace, Assurance, Joy**

[Isa. 26:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa.%2026:3); [Phil. 4:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Phil.%204:6); [Rom. 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rom.%205:1); [Heb. 4:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb.%204:1-3); [John 14:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A1); [1 Pet. 1:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A8). **Fact, faith, feeling—this is God's order**. Satan would reverse this order and put feeling before faith and thus confuse the child of God.

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We should march in accord with God's order: Fact leads, Faith with its eye on Fact, following, and Feeling with the eye on Faith bringing up the rear. All goes well if this order is observed. **But the moment Faith turns his back on Fact, and looks at Feeling, the procession wobbles. Feed Faith with Facts, not with Feeling.**

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