

FAITH

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1

(1) Reliance or trust in a person or thing. (2) Belief in religious doctrine. ¹

What is faith, then?

- Faith needs an object. One has faith in something. Need to make decisions based on these beliefs.
- Does everybody have faith in something, even atheists?
 - Airplanes
 - Other Lubbock drivers
 - Doctors
- Question to ask: Is the object real, worthy, useful, truthful, eternal?
- Why should Jesus Christ be the object of our faith?
 - He was a good role model and moral philosopher?
 - He healed people?
 - He lived a sinless life?
 - He was crucified to death and rose again?
 - He's God?

Matthew 7: ²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

- For Christians, what is faith?
 - *A set of religious beliefs that are accepted despite evidence?*
 - *Is faith a power of the human mind?*
 - *An understanding, trust, and obedience that is built through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?*

What does the Bible say?

Hebrews 11: *The roll call of faith:* Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and his parents, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, prophets.

What is the common theme?

- *God had a relationship with all those individuals*
- *God spoke to all those individuals. They listened and obeyed.*
- *Why did he speak to them?*

Levels of faith:

- Read/heard about that God did something. – *Knowledge of God's previous work; Bible and others.*
- Believe that God can do something. – *Acknowledge existence and power of God.*
- Believe that God could do something. – *Acknowledge that God could intervene in my situation.*
- God has done something for me in the past. – *Past personal experience leads me to believe He could act again.*
- God told me that He will do something. – *Through communication (most likely prayer) I've been told that God will act.*

Aspects and Results of Faith: Listen; Obey; Impossible to please God without it; God rewards those who diligently seek him; Gaining righteousness through faith; Receive strength/ability; Requires incomplete knowledge; Forsake the world; Sustaining life on earth; Subdues kingdoms; Worked righteousness; Obtained promises; Stopped the mouth of lions; Became valiant in battle; Chose death.

Examples of faith.

- Matthew 9:22 – "your faith has made you whole" – Proximity healing; personally touched Jesus' power
- Matthew 8:10 – "I have not found such great faith" – Centurion understood Jesus' power – When Jesus says it, it's done – not proximity based.
- Matthew 8:26 – "O you of little faith" – disciples had relationship, but still little understanding

Faith to move mountains? (Matthew 17:20, 21:21) What would this take?

To do something great for Jesus Christ and His kingdom, you need to hear His voice and obey.

¹ Oxford American Dictionary