

## **1. understanding what faith in God is**

**Heb. 11:1-2** Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

**Ro. 4:18-21** Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

**Heb. 11:11** By faith Abraham, even though he was past age – and Sarah herself was barren – was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

**2Ti. 1:12** That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

## **2. understanding what faith in God is not**

**Jas. 2:19** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

**Ro. 4:18-21** Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

**Ps. 135:6** The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths

**Ps. 115:3** Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

**Mt. 4:5-7** Then the devil took him [Jesus] to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”  
Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

## **3. the importance of having faith in God**

**Eph. 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Rev. 21:8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

**Jn. 3:16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Jn. 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

**QUOTE** We are only reconciled or restored to right standing through the work of Christ, as by faith we identify ourselves with Him. This faith is based on a thorough turning from self-reliance and dead works to a complete trust in the work of another. We only have faith toward God to accept Christ's work for us, to the extent that we have repented of dead works. Instead of working to merit righteousness, we agree with God that this is impossible. Then we accept His alternative which is to credit us with the righteousness of Christ. We see this kind of faith exemplified in Abraham, the father of the faithful. - James Lee Beall

**2Co. 6:15** What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

**Ro. 1:17** For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

**Heb. 10:38-39** But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

**2Co. 5:7** We live by faith, not by sight.

**Gal. 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Heb. 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Ro. 14:23** But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

**Mk. 11:22-24** “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.

**Ac. 14:9-10** He [the crippled man] listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

**Mt. 9:22** Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment.

**Mt. 9:29-30a** Then he [Jesus] touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; and their sight was restored.

**Lk. 17:5-6** The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”  
He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

**Jn. 14:12-14** [Jesus speaking] I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

**Jas. 1:6-8** But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

**Eph. 6:16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**1Pt. 1:5** ...who by faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Lk. 1:19-20** The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

**Jde. 5** Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

**Mt. 13:58** And he [Jesus] did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

**Heb. 3:12-13** See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

## **4. growing into greater faith in God**

**2Co. 10:15** Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,

**2Th. 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.

**Ro. 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Dt. 7:18-19** But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and

wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

**1Chr. 16:12-13** Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Israel his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.

**Ps. 77:11** I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

**Ps. 143:5** I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.

**Mt. 16:8-10** Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?”

**Jdg. 8:33-34** No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god and did not remember the LORD their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.

**Ps. 78:40-43** How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland! Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember his power – the day he redeemed them from the oppressor, the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders in the region of Zoan.

**Ps. 106:7** When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

**2Co. 3:18** And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

## **5. evidences of having faith in God**

**Jas. 2:14-26** <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

<sup>20</sup>You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup>As the

body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**Gal. 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

**Heb. 11:1-40** turn there if needed

**QUOTE** “The more I sought Him, the more He became my joy. Then the time I spent with Him became more desirable than anything in this world. Being with Him was on my mind night and day. He became my life. All that I desired was to be with Him.” [from The Path by Rick Joyner]

**Mt. 8:5-13** <sup>5</sup>When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

<sup>6</sup>“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “I will go and heal him.”

<sup>8</sup>The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup>I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour.

**Mt. 15:21-28** <sup>21</sup>Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

<sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup>The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

<sup>26</sup>He replied, “It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.”

<sup>27</sup>“Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

<sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**Gal. 3:14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit

**Mt. 6:30-31** If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

**Mt. 8:26** He [Jesus] replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

**Gal. 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.