

## ***Faith: What? Why? How?***

**Faith: What is Faith? Why Do I Need Faith? How Do I Get Faith? How Do I Grow and Increase Faith? How Do I Use Faith?**

### ***What is Faith?***

**Pastor Bruce's definition:**

“Faith in God” is totally **trusting in, believing in, and having full confidence and assurance in God and His Word** as absolute final truth and authority, without a single exception; knowing God can never lie, that it is impossible for God to lie! Whatever God says in the Bible that He did, and how He did it, He did! Whatever He says He will do, it is a promise and He will do it, if we meet the conditions He has set! Whatever He says you can have, it is a promise and you can have it! It is all absolutely available to us if we meet the stated requirements. Once you trust and believe, you must act on and do the word, because **“faith without works is dead”**. Without applying action to your faith, it will die and produced nothing: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26)

**Short definition:** Faith: Trusting and Believing

**It is Essential that you know this about God and His Word:**

**Titus 1:2** “...In hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began...”

**Hebrews 6:18** “...That by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie*...”

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them (Cleanse and set them apart for God) through **thy truth: thy word is truth.**”

**Psalm 33:4** “For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

**Psalm 119:89** “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”

**Psalm 119:160** “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

### Consider:

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the **word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but **as it is in truth, the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 KJV

“Then said the Lord unto me...for **I will hasten my word to perform it**.”

Jeremiah 1:12 KJV (Hasten: Cause to happen quickly)

“Then said the Lord to me... I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it.” Jeremiah 1:12 AMPC

“...I am watching to make sure my words come true.” Jeremiah 1:12 NCV

“...I am [actively] watching over My word to fulfill it.” JEREMIAH 1:12 AMP

“...I watch over My word to accomplish it.” Jeremiah 1:12 HCSB

“For all the **promises** of God, in him, are yea, and, in him, Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV

“For as many as are the **promises** of God, in Christ they are [all answered]

“Yes.” So through Him we say our “Amen” to the glory of God.” 2

CORINTHIANS 1:20 AMP

(Amen = yes, so be it, it is done!)

“For all of God’s **promises** have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding

“Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT

“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...”

2 Peter 1:2-4 KJV

When we read and accept the **promises** of God as “the truth”, and we base our prayers on these **exceeding great and precious promises**, we can relax and enter into a “**rest**” knowing that God has heard us, and that he is watching over his **precious word** to bring it to pass or fulfill it in our lives. We can **rest**, knowing that God is watching over his word to make sure it comes to pass, and that it accomplishes what **the word promises!**

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a **promise** being left us of entering into his **rest**, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: **but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it. (Not being mixed with **trust and belief**) For we which have **believed** do enter into **rest**...Let us **labour** therefore to enter into **that rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of **unbelief.**” Hebrews 4:1-3, 11 KJV (PB comments)

### **Faith’s Definition From the Scriptures:**

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.....Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Hebrews 11:1, 3 KJV

(The worlds were made by the word of God... Faith filled words spoken from the heart and mind of God (words that God trusted and believed in)

were the spiritual substances that were manifested into the physical realm. God spoke the words of His desires, and they manifested or appeared as physical material - The worlds.)

“Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.....By trusting, we understand that the universe was created through a spoken word of God, **so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena.**”

Messianic Jews (Heb) 11:1, 3 CJB

**Note the phrase:** “...so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena.” What we see in the natural of the worlds in the universe did not come out of existing natural phenomena, but it did come out of spiritual phenomena, the **faith filled words of God!** Remember all of God’s words contain within themselves the power and ability to produce what the words say! **Isaiah 55:11** “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.” **Ezekiel 24:14** “I the LORD have spoken *it*: it shall come to pass, and I will do *it*...” **Numbers 23:19** “God *is* not a man, that he should lie...hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”)

“**Faith** is what makes **real** the things we **hope** for. It is **proof** of what we cannot see.....Faith helps us understand that God created the whole world by his command. This means that the things we see were made by something that cannot be seen.”

**(Made by God’s “command” of faith filled words!)** Hebrews 11:1, 3 ERV (**Real** = reality; **hope** means “great expectancy” or what we greatly expect!)

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that **what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.**”

Hebrews 11:3 ESV

**FF Bosworth:** “ Faith begins where the will of God is known.” (The word of God is the will of God!)

## ***Why Do I Need Faith?***

**Hebrews 11:6** “...without **faith** (without trusting and believing God and his word) 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.”

“Without **faith** no one can please God. Whoever comes to God must **believe** that he is real and that he rewards those who sincerely try to find him.” Hebrews 11:6 ERV

“...without **trusting**, it is impossible to be well pleasing to God, because whoever approaches him must **trust** that he does exist and that he becomes a Rewarder to those who seek him out.” Messianic Jews (Heb) 11:6 CJB

“But without **faith** it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] **believe** that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.” HEBREWS 11:6 AMP

## ***How Do I Get Faith?***

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to **every** man **the measure of faith.**”  
Romans 12:3 KJV

“For...God has distributed **a measure of faith to each one.**” Romans  
12:3 HCSB

“For...to **each God did deal a measure of faith...**” Romans 12:3 YLT98

## ***How Do I Grow and Increase Faith?***

“So then **faith** (trusting and believing) cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (PB Comments)  
Romans 10:17 KJV

“So **faith** (trusting and believing) comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.” (PB Comments)  
Romans 10:17 ERV

“So **trust** comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through a word proclaimed about the Messiah.”  
Romans 10:17 CJB  
(The more you hear the proclamation about Messiah, the more **faith, or trust**, you will have... Hear more and have more!)

**Pastor Bruce's translation:**

**Faith** (Trusting and believing God's word) comes, and **faith** grows, and **faith** increases by hearing, and hearing the word of God, over and over and over again!

## ***How Do I Use Faith?***

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**” Romans 1:17 KJV (The just, the righteous, shall live by believing and trusting in God's word as truth and final authority! From **faith to faith**, from one level of believing and trusting, to the next higher level of believing and trusting, and to the next level, and to the next, and the next!)

“For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through **trust** — as the Tanakh puts it, “But the person who is righteous **will live his life by trust.**””

Romans 1:17 CJB

**(You believe God's word and you act on it! You live every day obeying all the word of God that applies to you! If God's Word says it, I receive it, I accept it, and I act on it... I am a doer of the word of God!)**

“But be ye **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

James 1:22 KJV

**“Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves.”**

James 1:22 ERV

“Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but **do it!**”

Ya'akov (Jas) 1:22 CJB

**Obedience:**

“...Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in **obeying the voice of the Lord?** Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (Hearken: listen and obey!)

1 Samuel 15:22 KJV

**Use faith and prayer by trusting and believing that you receive from God when you pray, right at the moment when you pray:**

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe** that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24 KJV

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22 KJV

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” 1 John 5:14-15 KJV (**According to his will: his will is his word; his will is his promise!**)

“But let him ask in **faith** (Trusting and believing!), nothing wavering (Not doubting!). For he that wavereth (he that is a doubter) is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall



receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-8 KJV (PB comments)

“But when you ask God, you must **believe**. Don’t doubt him. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is blown up and down by the wind. People like that are thinking two different things at the same time. They can never decide what to do. So they should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:6-8 ERV

“But when you ask God, you must **believe** and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:6-8 NCV

## ***Examples of faith in action:***

**(Faith is released in words and actions!)**

### **Consider Abraham:**

“Therefore it is of **faith** (Trusting and believing God), that it might be by grace; to the end the **promise** might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the **faith** of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many

nations,) before him whom he **believed**, even God, who quickeneth (Makes alive) the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. (God calls things that don't yet exist in the natural, as if they already existed.) Who against hope **believed** in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being **not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief**; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God; And being **fully persuaded** that, what he had **promised**, he was able also to perform. (This believing and trusting God, this faith, pleased God, and God counted it as if Abraham was a righteous man and God rewarded him!) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”

Romans 4:16-22 KJV (PB Comments)

### **Consider Peter walking on the water:**

“And when the disciples saw [Jesus] walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, **Come**. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, **he walked on the water**, to go to Jesus.” Matthew 14:26-29 KJV  
**Faith** is released in words and actions!

### **Consider The 10 Lepers:**

“And as [Jesus] entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (They had **faith** - trusting and believing that Jesus could and would heal them!) And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, **as they went, they were cleansed.** (They had **faith** - trusting and believing In the words that Jesus spoke, so they began walking to find the priest, and they were rewarded with healing!) And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, **turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks:** and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: **thy faith hath made thee whole.**” (This one was **rewarded for his “additional faith”** shown by his diligently seeking God with **Thanksgiving!**) Luke 17:12-19 KJV (PB comments) **Faith** is released in words and actions!

### **Consider man washing eyes in pool of Siloam:**

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth... [Jesus said] I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, [which is by interpretation, Sent.] **He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.**” (The man had **faith** - trusting and believing the words of Jesus, and he obeyed by traveling to the pool and washing, and he received his reward!) John 9:1-7 KJV **Faith** is released in words and actions!

### **Consider man laying at pool of Bethesda:**

“Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”

John 5:2-9 KJV (The man had **faith** - trusting and believing in the words of Jesus and was healed, evidently as he began to arise! **Faith** is released in words and actions!)

### ***Why call him Lord and not do what he says?***

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and **doeth them**, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and

digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.”

Luke 6:46-49 KJV

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