

Faith

Why do you bother getting out of bed each morning? Why do you drive down the road at high speed trusting the person coming toward you stays on the other side of the road? Why do you depend on your phone and other technology? Why do you go to a store expecting to find products or food you need? Why do...why do. Etc.

Virtually every aspect of life is dependent upon faith in someone or something else! And unfortunately lots of times we find our faith in people, places, and things in life misplaced and end up suffering the consequences.

Is it my age or does it seem more and more difficult to have faith in the laws of the land, the verbal words of others and life in general? In 1906 a British Cabinet minister said he had not told lies; because what he had said were merely 'terminological inexactitudes.'

The culture and society in which one lives certainly influences their impressions of faith as applied in their own lives. But it should not be so. Culture and society faith is flawed when based on "terminological inexactitudes." satan has used that perversion to sell mankind a bill of goods. There is only one true and trustworthy source of faith as we are taught in *Ephesians 4:4-6* **4** *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all... ONE FAITH!*

That one faith is the faith of the righteous which is a sacred trust taught and exemplified over and over in the scripture. Hebrews chapters 11-12 are great encouragement for our personal faith study and growth by being reminded of persons of faith.

Jesus was a living example of faith, and Matthew 8:5-11 records His personal commendation of faith in the life of another: *Matt 8:5-11 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." 7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." 8 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. 9 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." 10 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.***

Jesus illustrated faith from a non-Jew, a Roman gentile army officer stationed in

the city of Capernaum on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee! Note again verse Mt 8:10 *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.*

Jesus was a Jew ministering primarily to the Jewish nation with Jewish trainees following Him, and yet Jesus chooses a gentile - much less a Roman gentile - as an example of such great faith He Himself had come to model and teach and furthermore wanted everyone to possess!

The Jews had access to the Old Testament heroes of the faith specifically listed in Hebrews 11 and most of the Jews knew the stories of those faith heroes by heart. Unfortunately for kingdom righteousness sake and the Jews, their faith was from a legalistic heart, instead of a faith filled heart driven by love.

Those thoughts are meant to get us on the same page for a definition of the term faith/// and to guide everyone to acknowledge our very existence and the essence of who we are and have become or are becoming is based on our faith and it's source. Even the air we breathe, daylight and darkness are assumptions based on faith, but often confused as some sort of an accidental entitlement of creation instead of an ever-present **proof** of our faith in Creator God.

****Heb 11:1 Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us **proof** of what we cannot see. CEV**

Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. NKJV*

Faith is difficult to verbally define for it is not something tangible that we can just reach out and grab hold of in our fist, nor buy in a store. And yet our faith has everything to do with the life choices we make whether or not we at first realize it!

True faith is defined in our verse ****Heb 11:1 Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us **proof** of what we cannot see. CEV** ///That true faith is fully and completely a God thing! **Faith based on culture, society, tradition, habit, convenience, selfishness or anything else is only a proof of satan's activity in your life experience.**{repeat} Please understand every aspect of humane existence is a proof of either God's influence or satans activities in our lives - there is no other alternative!

Consider if you will, this picture in your minds eye – the cornerstone of a building: it is the essential and most important part of the foundation upon which the rest of the building is constructed. **Faith in God, His Son, the Holy Spirit and the revealed instructions of the Bible are the cornerstone of a Christian's life**

on earth in preparation for eternity. That is a visual for the proof for faith in
 **Heb 11:1 *Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.* CEV ///

Just one means satan uses to keep us from developing faith is failing to give proper acknowledgment of life circumstances as being from God. We say things like: “I was lucky, I dodged a bullet, what were the chances of that happening, it was just fate, I got up on the right side of the bed this morning, I am so clever and wise” and on and on satan gives us clever expressions to block the truth, when we should be acknowledging every good attribute of life as a blessing from God that is absolute proof for the virtue of faith!

Some things about about the Creator we are given to know by virtue of our nature and being born. More about faith is learned along the pathway of life through verifiable experiences. But it is not possible to know everything of GOD, so by faith we accept what we do not like and cannot understand. Look at Hebrews 11:39-40 as a commentary regarding those Jewish Old Testament Heroes of faith we have already mentioned: *These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.* (NIV)

The faith for which those Bible heroes strove and the faith for which we strive for our own well-being in this life, **does not** assure the societal goals of peace and prosperity in this earthly life, but rather our faith assures the peace and delight of eternal life. Don't let satan get that muddled in your mind!

Believers are accused of blind unfounded faith who are naive, ignorant and self delusional. The evil one and demons celebrate those sentiments and at every vulnerable moment in our lives will plant those thoughts in our minds or otherwise lay before us in the circumstances of life.

But praise the Lord, the more specific, direct and committed one becomes in trusting faith the more strength they have to be sustained in life and are able to live contentedly. Heb 11:6 NASB: *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.*

An honorable prayer for the growing believer is that what we cannot or do not understand in life actually be used as proof of and to increase our faith. That is so very important because otherwise satan will use what we cannot or do

not understand as a seedbed for planting doubt and questioning God as if we are His equal or that God is obligated to see and do things our way! **Think on that one for a moment...**{repeat}

Romans 8:28 from the Amplified Bible: *And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.* The good of which that speaks is God's good with the perspective of all time and creation, **not** what we perceive as good in our short lifetime here on earth.

Let me make this ever so personal and real – we have a body that is just a complicated compilation of created and measurable elements///...but everyone's eternal essence is their soul and spirit which is uniquely designed for and by God the Creator Himself to receive and be operated by righteous faith...

A common response prompted by the devil is to blame God for tragedies in our lives. Think on that for another moment – to blame God means we elevate ourselves above Him expecting Him to obey our perceived standards. Make a note and read Isaiah 57 to help when life circumstances that challenge faith. And then read Rom 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* NIV

Faith is the safe harbor for our thinking when tragedy strikes – God has a way, His way, in all of time and creation to take care of everything. Faith and faith alone as a cornerstone of life can sustain us and gives us victory through what satan has orchestrated for our defeat!!

If you want a measure to see how you are growing in faith consider James 3:2-3 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.* The results of that perseverance is Jude 20-21 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.* NKJV

The greater faith we develop, the greater armor we have against satan and the more we are able to please our Heavenly Father: listen again to Heb 11:6 NASB: *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.*

Another measure and proof of faith is in understanding salvation and accepting Christ Jesus as Savior: Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved **through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* ESV