

# Living By Faith

## Introduction:

There is an essential ingredient, when added to a human life, will bring transformation of attitude, action, and hope. Knowing the opportunity of these positive changes, we should desire true faith in abundance.

The world, more than anything, needs faith; real faith is their only hope of pleasing their Creator God. Hebrews 11:6 says, ***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*** Here we clearly learn, we must have faith in God and we must diligently seek the reward that He offers.

There are lots of “faiths” but we must focus on ***“the one faith”*** spoken of in Ephesians 4:5.

We are in search of that one faith, the Scripturally-revealed faith; the faith that saves. Let’s consider these thoughts.

## Faith is about Truth

In a world filled with “faiths” where do we find “the faith” we need? Some would say, “Just pick one”, but that is certainly not a valid option, in light of the Scriptures. If just picking what you want to do is valid, the people of Matthew 7:22 would have been accepted; not dismissed. If just picking what you want to do is valid, the people of Romans 10:1-3 would have been saved; not lost. If just picking what you want to do is valid, the people of Acts 17 would have been complimented, not admonished to correction by Paul. The faith we are looking for is described as: Sourced from the word of God: ***“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*** (Romans 10:17). Singular: ***“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were***

***called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all"*** (Ephesians 4:4-6). Revealed and sealed: ***"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"*** (Jude 3).

Faith is not just a firmly held belief, it is a proven and confident belief. Faith is based on "knowledge" not just zeal (Romans 10:1-3; 10:17). We have the evidence recorded for our belief: Our Source is God (Genesis 1, 2; John 1:1-3). Our Purpose is seeking God (Acts 17:24-27). Our direction is God's word (James 1:17-25); and His will (Matthew 7:21)

The faith that God desires, is found by adhering to His revealed word.

## **Faith is about Trust**

When proven-truth is the basis for our faith, trust should follow. Think about how often we offer "faithful trust" to so many things in this life. We have faith the lights will come on when we flip the switch. We have faith that the car will start. These simple things have gained a point of trust because of proven track-records. Does God have a proven track record that should allow us to trust Him? The Old Testament teaches that God is a keeper of promises and a provider for His people (Romans 15:4). There can be no greater example than our own covenant, the New Testament, to demonstrate God willingness to provide. When we failed to avoid sin, God provided His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:14; James 1:17-25). When we needed to be freed from our sins and could not achieve it on our own, God provided His Son (Romans 5:6-10). When we could not possibly find our own way to Heaven, God provided the ***"way, the truth, and the life"*** (John 14:1-6).

What does it mean to have trust in our faith? It means we do God's commands, without debate: Just like Jesus, who submitted all to the Father

(Matthew 26:39); even to the point of death on the cross (Philippians 2:8). Like Paul, who turned his life over to the direction of God, through Jesus Christ, Paul said, ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”*** (Colossians 2:20). Like Peter, both lived and instructed, we are to receive the instructions of God and ***“rest our hope fully”*** upon His grace as ***“obedient children”*** (1 Peter 1:13-16). When we put our faith in God, in total submission, we can live in the trust of: His provided blessings, and stop worrying about our lives (Matthew 6:25-33). His continual care, and be comforted (Romans 15:5-6, 1 Peter 5:7). His presence in our life, so we can face this life’s difficult days (Psalm 11; 1 Timothy 4:7-10).

The faith that God desires, is directed by His word; and is practiced in complete trust—trusting His words and committing to the hope of His promised care.

## **Faith is about Transformation**

Faith is a powerful transformer of lives. Think about the situations that Paul was willing to endure for the cause of Christ; he had a choice and was willing to remain faithful and meet all the perils and punishments that the enemies brought to him (2 Corinthians 11:22-28). There are many examples of those in ancient days who, because of faith were transformed. They were essentially changed in their approach to this life and the life beyond (Hebrews 11:36-38). Even more, those in the New Testament time discovered great strength and endurance as they forged ahead through this life, toward the hope of Heaven (1 Peter 1:6-9)

Faith changes us— its change is not a side-effect; it is the intended effect. There is something that essentially changes man: mind, body, and soul.

Our mind is renewed in the practice of faith: With a new outlook on life and living (Romans 12:1-2). With a new moral compass (Hebrews 5:14; Ephesians 4:17-23). With a greater hope for tomorrow and eternity (Philippians 3:12-14).

Our bodies find direction and self-control in the practice of faith. We no longer live to fulfill the lust of the flesh (1 Peter 4:1-5). We live in self-control, leading our body only in the actions that will not harm our hope (2 Peter 1:5-10). Our soul is cleansed in the practice of faith, finding forgiveness of our sins, through faithful obedience (Acts 2:38-42; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

The faith that God desires, is directed by His word; and is practiced in complete trust; and its result are clearly seen in the transformations of lives.

### **Conclusion:**

When we add faith to our lives we can be transformed; mind, body, and soul. But faith is more than just choosing what we want to do, when we want to do. Faith is submitting to God, being directed by His will, and trusting that He will provide. Those who lack faith, or refuse faith, are missing the greatest of helps in this life. Not only does faith carry us through the ebbs and flows of this life, it also established our hope for eternal life in Heaven after this life is over.

Where have you placed your faith? Is it in your own ideas, some unproven concept of man, or the transforming, trustworthy, truth of God? God has provided an opportunity for you to put your faith in Him, to become a Christian with all the hope of Heaven, and you can begin by seeking His plan, right now. - - Sean Sullivan