Introduction: Many of the most memorable passages in the Bible contains the word "faith." **Romans 1.17; 2 Corinthians 5.7, Ephesians 4.5, Hebrews 11.1** and so on. Yet many do not understand what the Bible means by faith.

**I) Wrongful Definitions**

**A) Superstition -- Acts 17.22-23.**

1. The guy in Africa bowing down to a tree and worshipping it may be sincere but he does not have faith, his is superstition.

2. The person in America bowing down to an image of Jesus may be sincere but he may be in the same position as the man in Africa.

**B) A hunch, feeling of probability, a gamble**

1. Going to a particular church because it just feels right; is more of a gamble than faith.

2. Woman one time told me while watching the Kentucky Derby that she told God that if He wanted her to do such and such a thing then let a certain horse win.

**C) Something totally subjective**

1. My faith may not be the same as your faith because it all depends on how we look at it.

2. This kind of faith cannot be found in the Bible.

**D) That which is inherited from ones parents, or that which God bestows on us**

1. One cannot inherit their faith from their parents; one can be taught by their parents but a parent that does not teach their children cannot expect their children to have faith.

2. Faith is not caught nor received apart from some action on our part.

**II) Defining Faith By Usage**

**A) Faith is the body of doctrine delivered to us, the Gospel, The Faith, Jude 3**

1. First mentioned in **Acts 6.7.**

a. Spread by preaching, **Acts 14.21-22**

b. Shown in **Romans 10.8,17.**

**2. There is just one faith, Ephesians 4.5. Faith is not plural but singular. We do not read of faiths or faithes but faith.**

2. We learn the Gospel or the word of God by an objective study of the word of God

a. God has communicated to us in such a way that we can understand His will, **Ephesians 5.17.**

b. We must have a way of establishing what God is saying in the Bible.

c. Problem of making the Bible totally subjective is it means everything which means it means nothing.

d. Resulting in many making ship wreck of their faith, **1 Timothy 1.19; 2 Timothy 2.17-18**

3. **1 Corinthians 16.13** How can we stand in the faith?

a. Bible classes, Gospel Meetings, home studies, private study, etc.

b. Key ingredient is the Bible; it must be the center of our studies.

4. Difference between faith and superstition, **Acts 17.30**

**B) Faith in us -- our faith, my faith, your faith, etc. 2 Corinthians 1.24**

1. Conviction, trust in God, what the Bible says.

2. Only used twice in the Old Testament, **Deuteronomy 32.20; Habakkuk 2.4.**

3. Lack of faith means a lack of trust or conviction, **Matthew 8.26**

a. Contrasted with **Matthew 8.10**

b. We might have knowledge of God's word but lack conviction and trust.

4. This faith is under our control, **2 Peter 1.3-5**

a. It is the foundation of everything we do.

b. This passage proves that one is not born with their faith buts adds to it.

**III) Importance Of Our Study**

**A) Our faith (conviction, trust) depends on the faith (word of God, doctrine of Christ)**

1. It grows in proportion to our understanding of God's word, **Romans 14.1**

2. The more we understand; the better we can serve God**, Romans 6.17-18**

**B) It is our area of responsibility**

1. There are some things that are hard, **Luke 17.l-6**

2. We are told what to do and if we have faith we will do it.

**C) See the two faiths together in Romans 1.16-17**

1. **Romans 14.23** if we do something without conviction or something we think is wrong then we are wrong.

2. This does not mean my convictions are to be separated from God's word; but based on God's word.

**D) Hebrews 11.6 Why? Even obedience can be a superstition, a gamble, a hunch; without faith!**

Conclusion: we must have a better reason for our beliefs than "that just the way I feel" or "because Mom and Dad believed that way." We must have book, chapter, and verse for our faith. Do you have that kind of faith?