

Faith.....

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# What Does The Bible Say

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The Greek word often used to help us understand faith is “pistis” which means a belief or a conviction with the understanding that trust must accompany what we believe. Faith is not about intellect but a belief that leads to action.

All of us have faith in some form or another. The challenge is getting us to have faith in what God has promised us in His Word.

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Hebrews 11:1 and Hebrews 11:5 helps us have a better picture of what faith is:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:5 And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him, must believe that he exists and he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

Faith is believing something will come to pass or that it will happen because it is already been stated in the Word of God. Our responsibility is to act as if it will happen. Faith pushes us to believe in what we have yet to see in the natural.

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Faith is an active trust in God. Which pushes us each day to believe that life has to get better because of our connection to God.

We were not even able to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ without faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 states “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

We all were given an invitation to accept Jesus Christ, and the only way we could accept His invitation was through faith. We are saved because we made the step to have faith in Him and that has led us into a relationship that is eternal. Nothing in the kingdom happens without faith.

This is important because all of us who are saved are in this relationship with Jesus Christ, not by our merits but by our faith. Anyone who believes in Jesus is saved.

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Faith is believing that your car will start before you press the ignition button, but nothing happens until the button is actually pressed. Faith must be accompanied by action, and the action is pressing the button and listening to the sound of your car start.

It is my thought that many of us talk a lot about faith, but it means nothing until we are pushed into action and that action activates our faith. The woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34), had faith that Jesus could heal her. Nothing happened until she walked through the crowd of individuals and touched the hem of his garment. Her faith allowed her to wake up that day desiring to be healed, but trust pushed her to activate her faith and when the day was over there was no bleeding.

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Faith moves us from the sidelines of life and allows us to get into the game and put into practice what we say we believe. In other words, our talk must match our actions. If we say we believe that all things are possible with God, then it should challenge us to step out of the comfortable places and attempt things with God that we can only do with His power and help.

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## Faith in Action:

The widow in (Luke 18:1-18) continued to plead her case against her adversary and finally got relief. David defeats Goliath (I Samuel 17) because of his faith in God, but he had to do his part, he had to stand up to the uncircumcised Philistine giant and fight him. Gideon had faith in God (Judges 7), but was pushed to follow the plans of God and fight with only 300 men and win the battle against the Midianites. The Midianites army had 132,000 fighting men.

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Faith in God must push all of us to act out what we say we believe. Knowing the scriptures and living out the scriptures are two different things. Our faith in God helps us to believe that God will not and cannot fail us, that we are saved by grace, our salvation cannot be lost or taken away from us, and that Jesus desires what is best for us in every way.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I have cometh that they might life and have it more abundantly.

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Faith in God should be able to help us:

1. Venture out and try things that are seemingly impossible for us
2. Act out what we believe God can do through us
3. Understand that our words must match our actions

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Allow faith to override and supersede fear. Many times we miss the power of God and what He can do because of the fear factor. Faith and fear cannot operate together one is going to cancel out the other. Make up in your mind that faith in God, can wipe out fear so that you can see the great things that God wants to do through your life.

II Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind.

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A moment in history: I believe in this season of election that our ancestors may have had some doubt and a little fear, but continued to practice faith and because of their faith all of us have the ability to vote. They did not allow physical threats and even violence to keep them away from pushing for the right to vote and then voting in the face of real challenges. Faith for them was getting up to vote and believing that things would one day be better for the next generation. They wanted better, and practiced their faith by walking to the polls, car pools, and not allowing anyone or anything to stop their actions. Faith was followed by actions and all of us owe them and our response is to practice what they started, vote.

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Faith in God has the power: to change our course or direction in life; shift the atmosphere and allow us to sit at tables in which others questioned our credentials; walk through doors that only God could open; witness transformation in the lives of our family and friends; and will allow us to experience things that only can be explained through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

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REVEREND DR. ANDRE D. IVY

Stop limiting yourself and believe that anything is possible with God and learn to do your part. Faith must be accompanied by action (humans to do the work of ministry).

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May God continue to prosper and keep you.....

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