

CHAPTER 3

FAITH

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Rom. 14:23 says, "Everything that does not come from faith is sin."

Heb. 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

In this lesson, we want to see a faith that is active, alive and effective, one that will take us to new levels of belief. In Eph. 1:18, Paul prays, "That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you might know the hope to which He has called you."

- A. Faith is the second principle of the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 6:1).
- B. Repentance and faith are tied together. They are _____ on each other (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21).

Ern Baxter said, "To profess to turn to God without forsaking sin in repentance ends in hypocrisy, to attempt to forsake sin without turning to God in faith ends in failure and despair."

- C. Faith is the absolute foundation for the Christian life (Heb. 11:6). Without faith, it is _____ to please God.

The righteous _____ by faith (Rom. 1:17).

WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. Faith is believing for something that has not happened yet (Heb. 11:1).
- B. Charles Finney said, "Faith is an unqualified surrender of the will to God."
- C. When the Israelites sent spies to the Promised Land, how many were sent? We remember Joshua and Caleb, but not the rest, because nobody remembers faithless people.

- D. The Oxford Dictionary defines faith as 'complete trust or confidence, firm belief without logical proof.'
- E. The Greek word for faith is *pistis*, or 'firm persuasion.'

WHAT KIND OF FAITH?

There are various levels of faith that we stop at or grow into:

- A. Lack of faith (Greek *husterema*), meaning 'deficiency' or 'shortcoming' (1 Thess. 3:10).
- B. Weak faith (Greek *asthenes*), meaning 'strengthless' (Matt. 26:41).
- C. Little faith (Greek *micros*, the opposite of *megas*), meaning 'small' (Matt. 14:31, 16:8).
- D. Seed faith (Greek *sperno*), meaning 'to sow' (Matt. 17:20).
- E. Growing faith (Greek *auxano*), meaning 'to increase' (2 Cor. 10:15).
- F. Fast-growing faith (Greek *hyperauxano*), or 'to increase beyond measure' (2 Thess. 1:3).
- G. Rich in faith (Greek *plousios*), or 'having plenty, abounding in, beyond the normal' (James 2:5).
- H. Strong faith (Greek *endinamono*), meaning 'to strengthen more' (Rom. 4:20).
- I. Great faith (Greek *tosoutos*), or 'so much of, quantity' (Luke 7:9; Matt. 15:21-28).
- J. Perfect faith (Greek *teleio*), meaning 'to finish, to complete, or to conclude' (James 2:22).

HOW DO WE GROW IN FAITH?

- A. The best source is the _____ to increase our faith (Rom. 10:17).
- B. Abraham is a good example as he:
 - Heard the Word;
 - Put his faith in the Word;
 - Refused anything that would contradict the Word;
 - Did not waver;
 - Saw the fulfilment of the Word (Heb. 11:8-12; Rom. 4:16-22).
- C. Faith is a condition of _____, not an act of the mind (Rom. 10:10).

HOW DO WE FUNCTION IN FAITH?

- A. With the_____ (Rom. 10:9; Matt. 10:32). "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).
- B. An act of_____ to the Word given. Faith and action are joined together (Rom. 1:5, 15:18, 16:26; James 2:14-26).
- C. When trouble comes, do not complain because all of us have troubles. If we have no troubles, we do not need the faith. Musclemen build muscles by going through a pain barrier: no pain, no muscles. It is the same spiritually: we build spiritual muscles by the pain we go through (James 1:2-4). Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33).
Trouble builds faith.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OBSTACLE AND AN OPPORTUNITY?

It is our faith attitude towards it.

- A. Rom. 8:28 says that God is working for our good. No matter how many promises God has made, they are yours in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20).
- B. Accept the testing of your faith by being a doer of the Word (Heb. 6:12-15; Ps. 105:19). "(For) the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:3-4).

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR FAITH

- A. Believe in your heart that God's Word is_____ (James 1:6; 2 Pet. 1:19).
- B. Hear God's Word by_____ the Word (Rom. 10:17).
- C. Hear the Word and_____ the Word. Do not be just a hearer (Luke 8:15).
- D. Put into practice and_____ your faith (Matt. 9:20-21, 14:25-29).
- E. _____ man's natural reasoning and philosophies that oppose God's Word (1 Tim. 1:4-7; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; Rom. 14:1; Col. 2:8).