

PRINCIPLES OF FAITH LIVING.

(Greenlane C C - 15/5/84 - EKB)
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Introduction:

1. The words “**believing**” and “**faith**” are quite common in the New Testament, occurring 233 times and 239 times respectively.
The Greek words that are translated “**believing**” and “**faith**” (pisteuo and pistis) are of the same New Testament Greek word.
“Believing” is a verb - it is something we **do**.
“Faith” is a noun - it is something we **have**.
See: *Mat 21:21,22, Rom 1:16,17*.

2. **Importance of Faith.** (*Read Heb 11*)
From the beginning of Genesis (*Gen 4:4, Heb 11:4*), unto the end of the “**Church Age**”, at the Second Coming of Christ, men and women have only been able to get right with God, live in fellowship with God, walk in God’s ways, and serve God, by faith.
God’s Word says “The just shall live by faith”, *Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17*, also *Deut 30:14, Rom 10:5-8*.

God can only be known by faith, and it is only by faith that we can receive and experience the love, mercy and salvation of God. God works through faith. Faith relates us to God. Faith is the life-line to God, the power-line to God, and we partake of God’s life by faith.

All the religions of the world except one teach that you get right with God by what you do. That “one” (Christianity), teaches that you can never get right with God by what you do, but only by what you believe; only by believing what He has said in His Word about His Son, Jesus. *Rom 4:1-6, Gal 3:6-11*. See also *Ac 16:31, Jn 5:24, Rom 1:16, Eph 2:8*.

3. **Faith pleases God** - *Heb 11:6*
We are pleasing to God when we act in faith. When we base our thoughts, words and actions on faith, then God is pleased, and we bring pleasure to the heart of God. When we base our actions and life on believing “He is” who He said He is, and that He will do what He has said He will do, then we are living by faith and pleasing God. Moreover, a solemn thought – “whatsoever is not of faith is sin,” *Rom 14:23*. We may act out of fear, unbelief, doubt, the desires of the flesh, legalism, self effort, traditions, striving, or human reasoning, but all of these fall short of the faith which God requires of us.
4. **What Faith is:** (*Heb 11:1,6, Rom 10:17*).
Faith is a word from God revealed into your heart by His Spirit.
It is knowing God has spoken a word into your heart. *Rom 10:17*.
For example, when Jesus said to Peter, “Come”, in *Mat 14:29*, this word became faith in Peter’s spirit. As Peter believed and acted on this word of faith, the word was fulfilled and Peter walked on the water.

5. **God is the Source of Faith.**

Faith is of God and comes from God. *Eph 2:8, Gal 2:20(KJV), 1Cor 12:9, Gal 5:22, (KJV), Mk 11:22, (KJV margin), Rom 12:3, Rom 10:17.*

6. **The Word of God is His Creative Agent.**

God creates and brings into existence His purposes by speaking out the word of what He intends to do. *Gen 1:3,6,9, Ps 33:6,9, Heb 11:3, Is 55:11, Ps 148:5, Jer 1:12, (NASB, NIV).* At the tomb of Lazarus, *Jn 11:43*, Jesus said, “Lazarus, come forth” and the miracle of reviving the dead occurred.

Once God has spoken out the word of His purpose it is done, and will in due course appear. *Is 40:8, Rom 4:17-21, Num 23:19.*

So then faith is the way of God’s creative activity, power and work. When God chooses to work in and through you He speaks into your heart His word, and as you recognise, believe, and act on that Word it is brought to pass by the Holy Spirit. *Lk 1:38,45.*

Mary believed the Word of God, the angel gave her and became the Mother of Jesus.

7. **How do we receive faith?** *Rom 10:17, 2Thes 1:3.*

“Faith comes by hearing” the word of God. As we read the Word of God the Holy Spirit quickens the scriptures into our heart. Faith is imparted. Stop there! Mark or colour in that verse or phrase. Date it. Record it in your “spiritual” diary or note book. Use that “rhema” of faith in prayer, confession, thanksgiving, and praise to God throughout the day, and later as you go back meditating over previous words of faith God has given. This is your daily “manna”. *Ex 16:15.* This is your life in God, *Jn 6:63.* You shall “live by faith”. *2Pet 1:3,4, 2Cor 1:20, Mat 4:4.*

“My son/daughter attend unto my word incline your ear unto my sayings,
let them not depart from your eyes, keep them in the midst of thine heart,
for they are life to all who find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Pro 4:20-22 the KEY TO LIFE!

2Thess 1:3 says “your faith grows exceedingly”. We limit the growth of our faith by limiting the amount of time we spend in searching for the living God, in His Word. The Number One need in your life is to spend quality time each day in God’s Word. Read again *Pro 4:20-22 and 2Tim 3:15-17.*

8. **Faith contains God’s Power.** *Lk 1:37(AMP)*

“No word from God shall be without power”. Derek Prince's translation – “every word from God contains the power of its own fulfilment”. (“Faith to Live By” page 87)

The word God quickens into your heart carries with it the power to bring it to pass. *Mk 9:23, Mk 10:27*

Jesus said the issue is not whether or not I can help you, or do anything, but can you believe? *Mk 9:22-24.* “If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say..... and nothing shall be impossible unto you,” *Mat 17:20* As a result of this, faith has no limit.. The smallest seed of faith contains the power (of God) to shift the biggest mountain.

9. **Faith concerns what you have in the present,** not what you hope to receive in the future. When you have faith quickened in your heart by God for something, it is yours.

You possess it. It is given to you.

Heb 11:1(AMP) “Faith perceives as real fact what is not revealed to the senses”.

Heb 11:1(AMP) “Faith is the title deed of things hoped for.”

When you hold the title deed it belongs to you. It is yours, **NOW.** *Mk 11:24,*

1Jn 5:14,15. I can't see it, touch it, handle it, but I have it. This is not sense knowledge, but revelation knowledge, “we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen,.....for the things that are unseen are eternal.” *2Cor 4:18*.

God said to Abraham “I have made you a father of many nations”. *Rom 4:17*.

“God calls those things that be not as though they were”.

So Abraham did not look at “his own body now dead, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb”. *Rom 4:19*. “but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what God had promised, He was able also to perform.” *Rom 4:21*.

10. **Faith is like a seed.**

God’s Word is like a seed. *Lk 8:11, Mk 4:3,14*.

“If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed...” *Mat 17:20*.

A tiny seed, barely visible on the palm of your hand, contains a programme for its particular development, and a life power within it to enable it to grow into say, a lettuce.

11. **Faith always acts.**

Jam 2:17, Mat 14:29, Ac 3:7, & 14:10.

There are three parts to faith:-

- a. **Knowing** what God has said.
- b. **Believing** and **confessing** what God has said.
- c. **Acting** on what God has said in obedience

“**Faith**” that does not step out in action is “dead”.

Faith holds on and persists. *Heb 6:12, Heb 3:14*.

There is persistence, determination, and patience in faith.

We have “need of faith and patience to inherit the promises of God.” “We are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”

12. **Enemies of Faith**

Mat 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8.

Steadfastly refuse doubt, fear, anxiety about the future, reasonings out of the human mind, and hold steadily to what God says in His Word “Through it all”.

AMEN.