

Lesson 1

Title: "Faith"

The term faith comes from the Greek word "pistis," which means to trust or to believe. There is a difference between believing in God and believing God. A person who Believes in God acknowledges His existence. A person who believes God accepts what God says without question, and carries out what God commands.

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-3; 11:6

- a. What is faith? Now Faith is _____, the _____.
- b. How did the elders obtain a good report? _____
- c. Without _____ it is _____ to please God: for he that cometh to God _____, and that he is _____ of them that _____ seek him.

Diligent: 1. careful and conscientious in a task or duty 2. constant in effort to accomplish something; attentive and persistent in doing anything. 3. Marked by persevering, with painstaking effort.

- d. When you seek the Lord with your prayers, do you pursue Him with diligence? _____
- e. Do you have enough faith to believe He will answer your prayer? _____

So then, how do we increase our faith?

2. Read Romans 10:17; Romans 12:3

- a. Where does faith come from?

- b. Therefore, can a person increase their faith without being familiar with God's Word? _____
- c. Does every person have the measure of faith? _____

3. Read James 1:21-24

- a. Is hearing (or reading) the Word of God enough? _____
- b. What must one do? _____

c. Therefore, a person who has obedient faith will _____ and _____ the Word of God.

d. If you are a hearer of the word, and not a doer of the word, you are like unto _____.

e. For he beholds his self, and goes his way, and straightway he _____.

4. Read Joshua 6:1-20 and Hebrews 11:30

a. Did the people believe God? _____

b. How did they show their belief?

c. Did the walls fall before or after they obeyed the Word of the Lord?

d. According to Hebrews 11:30, did the walls fall because they had faith in what God said? _____

e. Therefore, what is obedient faith?

5. Read Genesis 12:1-5 and Genesis 22:17-18

a. Did Abraham believe God? _____

b. According to Genesis 22:17-18, why did God bless Abraham?

c. Did Abraham only hear the word of God Or did he obey the word of God? _____

6. Read Genesis 22:1-14

a. Did Abraham believe God? _____

b. What was he ready to do?

c. Did Abraham question God's command? _____

d. Did Abraham delay in obeying God's command? _____

e. Is your faith like the faith of Abraham? _____

Romans 4:12-13 says we are to follow in the steps of the faith of our father, Abraham. So it is very important that we also are obedient to our faith so that we can obtain a good report with God as well as our elders before us.

7. Read James 2:14-26

- a. According to verses 21-23, when was Abraham considered righteous? _____
- b. Did Abraham BELIEVE God? _____
- c. Abraham was called a _____ of God.
- d. Therefore, a person who hears and obeys God's Word is considered to be a _____ of God (see John 15:14).
- e. According to James 2:24, faith operates by _____.

The Apostle James is teaching us how faith operates. When you have faith in something, you will produce an action in what you believe to be true. Otherwise, your faith is dead being alone.

- f. According to verse 22, what is obedient faith?

- h. According to verse 26, faith without deeds is _____.

Many people confuse this with the Mosaic Law. We are not saved by works of the Law, we are saved by faith which results in an action of obedience to what you believe. Faith works by love. **Galatians 5:6** For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Jesus tells us in **John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

8. Read Matthew 19:26; Matthew 21:21-22; Philippians 4:13; and Ephesians 3:20-21.

- a. Is all thing possible with God? _____
- b. Jesus tells us that if we have faith, and _____ not, that if you say unto this _____, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it _____.

c. Apostle Paul tells us that he can do all things through _____ which _____ him.

d. Would you agree that we should follow after the Word of God trusting with all our hearts that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think? _____

9. Read Hebrews 5:8-9; Romans 1:5-6; and Romans 16:25-26

a. Jesus saves those who are _____

b. Therefore, what does it mean to have faith in Christ?

Faith, the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen, comes from hearing, believing, and obeying the Word of God. Obedient faith is brought forth with some type of action in accordance of what you believe. Abraham believed God and obeyed. Joshua believed God and obeyed.

Here is an example of Faith without works being dead alone. If I say that I have faith that a smoke detector will save me if my home were to catch fire, and I purchase a smoke detector that instructs me that I must install a battery, and I did not. If my home were to catch fire, would the smoke detector save me? _____ How come? _____. So was you obedient to your faith in the smoke detector? _____

Proverbs 3:3-7

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible study?