

## ***THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (DEFINING FAITH)***

It is often said that the one who defines the terms wins the argument. When it comes to FAITH it is God Who defines the terms. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). And yet a faith that pleases God must be the right kind of faith. There is a "dead faith" that doesn't please God. Even the demons have this kind of faith (James 2:19). In properly defining faith as spelled out in the Bible note the following:

1. In the Bible the words FAITH, BELIEVE, AND TRUST are all essentially used interchangeably to present the same basic concept.
2. There is a difference between professing to believe, and actually believing (cf. Matt. 15:8; Titus 1:1).
3. There is a difference between the appropriation of a personal saving faith and that of a mere passive, objective, intellectual agreement with the facts (cf. John 5:45-47; Acts 16:30-31; 2 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:16).
4. Saving faith involves the whole person, including the intellect, the emotions, and the will (cf. Ja. 2:19; Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55; Josh. 24).
5. Personal faith is the result of God's GRACE, yet on the other hand, there is human responsibility, human choice, and human decision (cf. Jn. 1:12; 3:16-18; 6:29).
6. Faith is an internal matter of the heart in contrast to outward works or something that is done externally (cf. Rom. 10:9-10; 11:6).
7. Faith describes an attitude or disposition of the heart, and it involves an obedient inward response of the heart to God's demand and command that the Lord Jesus Christ be personally recognized (believed on) for who He is and for what He has done (cf. Rom. 1:5, 1:16; 3:25; 10:9-13; 16:26).
8. Apart from the obedience of faith, no other form of obedience (inward or outward) is involved in being born into the family of God (cf. John; Romans; Galatians).
9. The obedience of faith is not to be confused with outward acts of obedience (works) which are the inevitable outworking (fruit) of saving faith. A distinction is to be made between saving faith and the fruit it produces. However, where you find the one it is expected that you will find the other (cf. Eph. 2:8-10; James 2:14-26).
10. Faith in a person and faith in a person's word are in fact interchangeable and are often so used in Scripture (cf. Gen. 15:4-6; Num. 14; Rom. 3:4; Gal. 3:6; 1Jn. 5:9-13).
11. The concept of being saved by grace through faith is the same in the O.T. as it is in the N.T. (cf. Rom. 4; Heb. 11).
12. The first thing that one ever does to please God is to place faith in Him, and apart from saving faith nothing we do will ever please God (cf. Isa. 64:6; Heb. 11:6).

***FAITH HAS AN OBJECT:***

1. Biblically speaking, faith is never in a vacuum (see Genesis-Revelation).
2. Saving faith is related to the Word of God and the God of the Word (cf. Rom. 10:17; Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Gal. 1; Ps. 119).
3. Faith is only as good as its object (cf. Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:2; Isa. 45:20-23). Faith is either in God or something else. Genuine saving faith can't be in both (Galatians 1:8-9). Many people believe in THEMSELVES through a merit system, good works, or self-effort.
4. Saving faith has as its object the PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (see Jn. 1:1, 29; 8:24; 20:28; 20:30-31).
5. Salvation is OF THE LORD and FAITH is simply the means of RECEPTION (cf. Jonah 2:9; Matt. 1:21).

### ***GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF FAITH/BELIEVE/TRUST FROM VARIOUS SOURCES...***

The words trust, believe, and faith are all essentially used interchangeably.

1. Trust: The characteristic O.T. word that parallels the N.T. words of "faith," and "believe."
2. Believe: To hold to something as being true or count it to be so. To rely upon or depend upon.
3. Faith: Being convinced or giving credence to something or someone as being true.

My Triune Definition of Faith:

- to personally acknowledge as truth, to personally count it to be so, to personally accept as fact, to personally recognize as reality (cf. Jn. 20:26-29; Rom. 10:9-10; Jn. 1:11-12).
- taking God at His Word (cf. Rom. 4:20-21; 1Jn. 5:9-13).
- to be so convinced of something that you respond and live accordingly (cf. Ex. 9:20; Heb.11).

NOTE! THESE THREE INTERLOCKING STATEMENTS WHEN PERSONALLY APPLIED TO THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CONSTITUTE SAVING FAITH.

This is the ultimate issue in time and for ALL ETERNITY.

### **John 3:16–18 (NKJV)**

**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.