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Faith

The term Faith is used loosely in the world today. People place faith in their government, faith in themselves, faith in others and faith in all different kinds of religions. But is this what the Bible is talking about when it speaks of faith? Faith is very important to Christianity and to Salvation. Therefore, let's look at what the Bible has to say about Faith.

What Is Faith?

Galatians 5:22 – ²² But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, **faith**,

Ephesians 2:8 – ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**:

John 6:29 – ²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on [have faith in] him whom he hath sent.** (Words in brackets added for clarification.)

Hebrews 11:1-3 – ¹ Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good report. ³ Through **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

2 Corinthians 5:7 – (For we walk by **faith**, not by sight:)

How Do We Get Faith?

John 20:30-31 – ³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But **these are written, that ye might believe [have faith] that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (Words in brackets added for clarification.)

Romans 10:17 – So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 17:20 – ²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which **shall believe [have faith] on me through their word [preaching or witnessing]**; (Words in brackets added for clarification.)

Acts 15:7 – ⁷ And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that **the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe [have faith]**.

Romans 12:3 – For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith**.

Hebrews 12:2 – Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the

throne of God.

Matthew 17:14-21 – ¹⁴ And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵ Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, O **faithless** and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by **prayer** and **fasting**.

Luke 11:9-13 – ⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For **every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened**. ¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer^c him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Faith Pleases God

Hebrews 11:6 – But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 10:38 – Now the just shall live by **faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Salvation Comes Through Faith

Ephesians 2:8-9 – ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 5:1-2 – ¹ Therefore being justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by **faith** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Galatians 3:26 – For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 – ¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through **faith** which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-27 – ²² Even the righteousness of God which is by **faith** of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the

glory of God; ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through **faith** in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶ To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. ²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of **faith**.

The Power of Faith

Luke 18:41-43 – ⁴² And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy **faith** hath saved thee. ⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Luke 7:50 – And he said to the woman, Thy **faith** hath saved thee; go in peace.

James 5:15 – And the prayer of **faith** shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Matthew 9:27-29 – ²⁷ And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. ²⁸ And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. ²⁹ Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

Matthew 21:19-22 – ¹⁹ And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. ²⁰ And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! ²¹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith**, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. ²² And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Faith Versus Works

Galatians 2:16 – Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

James 2:14-26 – ¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, **though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?** ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷ Even so **faith**, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast **faith**, and I have works: shew me thy **faith** without thy works, and I will shew thee my **faith** by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that

faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead** also.

Faithful Servants

Hebrews 11:4-40 – ⁴ By **faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. ⁵ By **faith** Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. ⁷ By **faith** Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by **faith**. ⁸ By **faith** Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. ⁹ By **faith** he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹ Through **faith** also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him **faithful** who had promised. ¹² Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. ¹³ These all died in **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ¹⁵ And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. ¹⁷ By **faith** Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹ Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. ²⁰ By **faith** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By **faith** Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. ²² By **faith** Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. ²³ By **faith** Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. ²⁴ By **faith** Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. ²⁷ By **faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing

him who is invisible. ²⁸ Through **faith** he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By **faith** they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. ³⁰ By **faith** the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. ³¹ By **faith** the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: ³³ Who through **faith** subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: ³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through **faith**, received not the promise: ⁴⁰ God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Summary

In a biblical sense, faith only applies to Christianity and the God of heaven. It is the fruit of the Spirit, a gift of God. It "is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is a verb. Faith is an action. It not only includes believing but actions taken on that belief. It is obedience in response to the Holy Spirit of God. If there is no action, there is no faith.

We receive faith through God; through hearing His word and through reading His word. It also comes through prayer and fasting. And when we do these things we get to know God better. Therefore, faith comes from a deeper relationship with God; by getting to know him better.

It impossible to please God without faith and we cannot be saved without faith. Through faith, we can do anything God has for us to do! Some twist the meaning a scripture and teach that faith can be used to achieve our own ambitions but that is wrong. Faith is used to achieve God's purpose for our lives.

There is no faith without works because faith is a verb. We must take action on our faith. If we believe God, we will strive to do the things He asks us to do in His word. Further, we will strive to do those things He speaks to us on our heart. Warning: He will ask us to do things that seem impossible and that is where faith comes in.

God's faithful servants, as recorded in Hebrews 11, took action on what God had showed them or asked them to do. None of them were perfect but because of grace, God only records their faithful acts in Hebrews. He will do the same for us. God will record our faithful acts of faith and will blot out our failures. What a Great God!