

Key Text: HEBREWS 11:1

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

WHAT IS Faith?

Think of faith as two conceptual layers. One layer is the noun **Faith** and the other is the verb **Believe**. We put these two layers together and understand that we should be **convinced** of the truth and **rely** on The Word of God. Now faith is the assurance (*the confirmation, the title-deed*) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality - faith is perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses. (Amplified Bible Translation of Hebrews. 11:1)

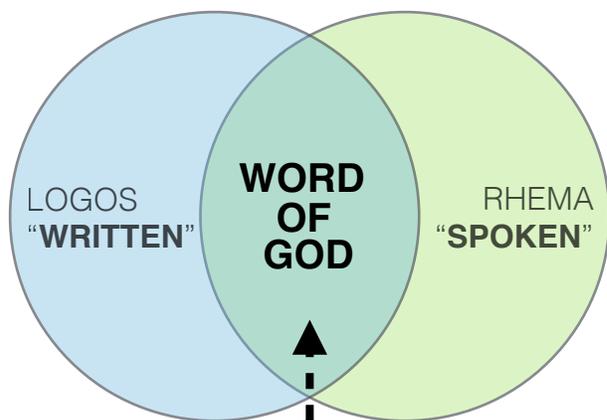
- Faith (NOUN) = A firm persuasion, assurance, a firm conviction, honesty, integrity.
- Believe (VERB) = To trust in; put faith in; confide in; rely on.

HOW IMPORTANT IS FAITH?

VERY IMPORTANT... The second word of the gospel is, BELIEVE (*Remember Mark 1:15*). It is good to note that it was Jesus who said those words in Mark 1:15 and others like Paul in Acts 20:21 said it because it is important.

- **IT'S FOUNDATIONAL** This “faith in God” is the foundation for all other aspects of Christian Living. Hebrews 6:1 “...*The foundation of repentance from dead works AND OF FAITH TOWARD GOD.*”
- **IT'S A MUST** We must be “Convinced” about the essentials like, God’s existence and character, The message of salvation through Jesus, and The Bible. If we come to God expecting to be saved, then we MUST HAVE FAITH. Hebrews 11:6 “*He that Comes to God must believe*”.
- **IT'S HOW WE LIVE** We need to exercise faith every day instead of seeing faith as a one-time decision. “*The Just shall LIVE BY FAITH.*” Romans 1:17; Habakkuk 2:4 See Galatians 3:11

HOW DO WE RECEIVE FAITH?



A “Rhema” Word of God is when the Holy Spirit makes the Word come to life.

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD

There are two words from the original languages of the Bible that are translated into the “Word of God”. These two words are, “**Logos**” and “**Rhema**”. It is the written and the spoken Word of God that comes to us in multiple ways. BUT, It is through responding to the work of the Holy Spirit that we are able to “See” and “Hear” what the word of God is. (**See Luke 24:45**) Here is a quick look at how the word comes to us in various ways.

- The Word spoken in creation: Gen. 1; Rom. 1:20; John 1:1-3
- The Prophetic Word: II Peter 1:20-21
- The Witten Word: Luke 24:44; Luke 16:29
- The Living Word-Jesus: John 1:1-3,14
- The Minister: Romans 10:14; 1 John 1:3
- The Church: 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:20

Have a heart that is ready to “Hear” the Word of God. Read: Matthew 13:1-23

What do you notice about the varied effects of God’s Word in Matthew 13? Did everyone really “Hear” the word in the examples? No, why? The heart was not responsive to the work of the Holy Spirit. There are two parts necessary for “Hearing”.

First, the Holy Spirit must reveal God’s Word to us like Jesus did for these disciples or the word is just a bunch of words void of meaning. (*Luke 24:45; John 12:36-40; 14:26*)

Second, we choose to genuinely listen to, or accept, God’s Word which requires **humility** on our part. (*Hebrews 4:2 “Mixed with Faith”*)

So the biggest blocker to hearing the word is a HARD heart. See.

Hebrews 3:7-8. FAITH is active in the present, not the future. It produces a positive change in behavior and experience now. It is based solely on God’s Word and accepts the testimony of the senses only when it agrees with the text of God’s Word. It is expressed by confession with the mouth. Let’s look at the example of Abraham who is called the Father of Faith. See. **Hebrews 11:8-12 & Romans 4:16-22**

- Abraham heard the Word of God.
- He hoped concerning the future as a result of his faith in the present.
- He refused to accept the evidence of his senses that contradicted the word.
- He did not waver in his commitment or conviction.
- He rejoiced in the word as an already accomplished fact or reality.

HOW DO WE ACTIVATE OUR FAITH?

ACTION 1: LOCATE THE PROMISE IN GOD’S WORD THAT FITS THE NEED. Phil. 4:19; “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” 2 Cor.1:20

ACTION 2: FULFILL ALL THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THAT NEED. Isaiah 1:19-20; Psalms 37:5; “Commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass.”

ACTION 3: PATIENTLY ACCEPT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH IN THE WORD. Hebrews 6:12-15; Psalms 105:19; James 1:3-4; “Knowing, that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

ACTION 4: CONFESS YOUR FAITH FIRMLY AND POSITIVELY. Our confession should always be in harmony with God’s Word. 2 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 3:1; 1 John 5:14: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will. He hears us.”

Actively appropriating faith is one of the keys to a victorious Christian life. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.” Hebrews 12: 2

HEARING IS A CONDITION OF THE HEART

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you,** which can save you.
James 1:21

Are there different levels of Faith? **YES!**

Romans 12:3-6 refers to “Measures” of faith and points out that God gives it to each believer. Jesus described faith as a seed and that implies that our faith can grow. Here are some examples of faith.

- (1) Little faith. Matthew 6: 30
- (2) Great faith. Matthew 8: 10
- (3) Perfect faith. James 2: 22
- (4) All faith. I Corinthians 13: 2

The apostles said to the Lord,
“Increase our faith!” Luke 17:5.

Remember that faith is like a muscle and it can increase in strength with exercise.

A Growing faith was recognized in 2 Thessalonians 1:3 and is something we should desire to have.