




GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#95)

Faith – About this great faith.

1



I BELIEVE IN TRUSTING IN FAITH!

The world's "faith-based faith" will not survive the Judgment Day.

POP! POP!

IT'S GONE!

I BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT!

We need God's "fact-based faith" living in us!

2

GOD OFFERS US A LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH.

ONLY THIS TYPE OF FAITH PROVIDES CERTAINTY AND ASSURANCE.

FIRST: ✓ Being FACT-based, there is genuine certainty about what (and who) is being believed.

ONLY A FACT-BASED FAITH CAN BE DESCRIBED IN THIS WAY.

Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

People who apply this verse to any other kind of "faith" are in for a big surprise at the Day of Judgment.

3

SECOND: ✓ When it's ALIVE in us, we have genuine assurance that the goal of our trust will not be in vain.

THE BARRIER BETWEEN US AND GOD IS GONE!

... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith ...
Hebrews 10:22a (NIV)

*** LIVING ***

This means it directs the way we live – our thoughts, values and conduct.

A LIVING FAITH, LIKE TIMOTHY'S

I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also.
2 Timothy 1:5 (CSB)

4

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH?

IT IS SPECIAL, VALUABLE, UNIQUE.

... your most holy faith ...
Jude 1:20b (CSB)

[There is] one faith ...
Ephesians 4:5b (NET)

[2 Peter was written] ... to those who ... have been granted a faith just as precious as ours.
2 Peter 1:1b (NET)

... your faith, which is much more valuable than gold ...
1 Peter 1:7b (NET)

✓ Yet it belongs to all of God's people!

... a common faith ...
Titus 1:4b (NET)

... the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.
Jude 1:3b (NIV11)

5

IT IS ONE OF THE MOST BASIC TEACHINGS RELATED TO FOLLOWING JESUS.

... the elementary teaching about Christ [which includes] ... faith in God,
Hebrews 6:1b (CSB)

✓ Yet by it, we can overcome the world!

... for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
1 John 5:4-5 (NIV)

In this passage, the "fact" part of faith has to do with who Jesus is. The "living" part of faith is described in verses 2-3, and has to do with obedience to God's commands – an obedience that is not a burdensome task, but a joyful expression of love for God!

6

WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD WE HAVE TOWARD THIS LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH?

FIRST OF ALL, WE SHOULD EXAMINE OURSELVES.
The "test results" are a matter of life and death!

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the **faith**; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

2 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

Some Scripture passages focus on the fact content of "the **faith**." Other passages focus on our expression of "faith/trust/believing" the facts and their author (God). Other passages focus on the reliability of the object of our trust – it's (or his) "faithfulness."

7

ANY AMOUNT OF THIS LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH HAS VALUE.

The issue isn't the size of faith, but the presence of faith.

- ✓ Having "great" faith is commendable.

[Jesus] said, "I tell you, I have not found so great a **faith** even in Israel."

Luke 7:9b (CSB)

THE FAITH OF THE CENTURION IS DESCRIBED IN LUKE 7:6-10.

- ✓ But even "mustard-seed-size" faith has value.

[Jesus] replied, "... I tell you the truth, if you have **faith** as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20b (NIV)

"NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE."

This statement applies only to fact-based faith. People with such a faith won't try to manipulate God into doing their will by quoting this passage – and perhaps even blaming God for "failure," when they don't get what they want!

8

EVEN SO, OUR GOAL MUST BE TO INCREASE OUR FAITH.

It's like going from "baby faith" to "grown-up faith."

- ✓ A person with "baby faith" may be weak in some areas.

[We pray] that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your **faith**.

1 Thes. 3:10 (NIV)

- ✓ But a growing faith is something to be expected.

... as your **faith** continues to grow, ...

2 Cor. 10:15b (NIV)

... your **faith** is growing more and more, ...

2 Thes. 1:3b (NIV)

- ✓ It's OK for "baby Christians" to have "baby faith"!

What's NOT OK is:

1. Refusal to grow in faith.
2. The absence of faith.
3. A constant wavering between faith and no-faith.

9

WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THE FAITH.

After all, we are one body of Christ, one family.

- ✓ Encouraging others.

We sent Timothy... to strengthen and encourage you in your **faith**, ...

1 Thes. 3:2 (NIV)

- ✓ Remembering that encouragement works both ways!

... mutually encouraged by each other's **faith** ...

Ro 1:12b (CSB)

- ✓ Remembering that the ultimate source for our strength is God.

... continue to live in [Christ Jesus], rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the **faith** as you were taught, ...

Col. 2:6b-7a (NIV)

IT'S FACT-BASED!

10

WE NEED TO PURSUE THIS LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH!

WE NEED A GENUINE, LASTING FAITH.

- ✓ A faith that is genuine and sincere (non-hypocritical).

I'm reminded of how sincere your **faith** is.

2 Tim. 1:5a (GW)

- ✓ A faith that endures, even in difficult times.

[You] did not deny your **faith** in me, even in the days of Antipas, ... who was put to death among you ...

Re 2:13b (CSB)

- ✓ A faith that is the foundation for our lives.

"But my righteous one will live by **faith** ..." [We are] those who have **faith** and are saved.

Hebrews 10:38a, 39b (CSB)

11

WE NEED A FAITH THAT INFLUENCES ALL OF LIFE.

- ✓ Faith, obeyed.

... obedient to the **faith**.

Acts 6:7b (CSB)

- ✓ Faith, embedded in us and expressing itself through us.

The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the message of **faith** that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:8b-9 (CSB)

- ✓ Faith, as the starting point for godly character.

... make every effort to add to your **faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

12

GOAL: To PURSUE IT, CLING TO IT, AND DON'T LET GO!

- ✓ Pursuing it. (And running from any form of evil.)

Pursue ... **faith** ...

1 Tim. 6:11b (GW)

Pursue **faith**...

2 Tim. 2:22b (GW)

[THESE PASSAGES PROVIDE
TWO LISTS – ONE DESCRIBING
WHAT TO RUN FROM, AND
THE OTHER DESCRIBING
WHAT TO PURSUE.]

- ✓ Until it becomes a permanent part of us!

But as you excel in everything—in
faith, [and many other things]...

2 Co 8:7a (NET)

... to be ... sound
in **faith** ...

Titus 2:2 (CSB)

... to become rich
in **faith** ...

James 2:5b (GW)

I have fought the good fight. I have
completed the race. I have kept the **faith**.

2 Tim. 4:7 (GW)

13

GOAL: To ATTAIN A LASTING STABILITY IN THE FAITH.

- ✓ Steadfast and firm.

... stand firm in the **faith** ...

1 Cor. 16:13b (NET)

Resist [the devil], standing
firm in the **faith**, ...

1 Peter 5:9a (NIV)

[You are reconciled to God – v. 22] ... if indeed you
remain grounded and steadfast in the **faith**...

Col 1:23a (CSB)

... rejoicing to see ... the strength of your **faith** in Christ.

Col 2:5b (CSB)

- ✓ Building your life on it.

... build yourselves up in your most holy **faith** ...

Jude 1:20b (NIV)

14

? YOU'VE MENTIONED SO MANY THINGS ABOUT FAITH. DO WE HAVE TO MEMORIZE AND DO ALL OF THEM? ?

ACTUALLY, NO! THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT WAYS TO DESCRIBE THE SAME BASIC FOCUS OF GROWING AND MAINTAINING OUR FAITH.

SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES IT IN SO MANY WAYS, BECAUSE IT IS SO IMPORTANT!

Scripture has so much more to say about this *great faith* of ours.
It's all part of the *great salvation* God has given us!

15

Your mission...

This great salvation that God offers us is available only for those who have a fact-based **faith** living in them. So...

... this great salvation that was announced by the Lord Jesus himself [and] was passed on to us by those who heard him speak, ...

Hebrews 2:3b (NLT)

★ **Pursue** this faith as a way of life! ★ **Cling** to it! ★

This type of faith will not leave you disappointed!

As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed."

Romans 10:11 (NLT)

16

Credits**SCRIPTURE**

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
 - Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
 - Scriptures marked "NIV 2011" – Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (www.biblica.com)
 - Scriptures marked "GW" – Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
 - Scriptures marked "NET" – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
 - Scriptures marked "CSB" – Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.
 - Scriptures marked "KJV" – King James Version (public domain).
- PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)
- Megaphone – roshellin / CC0: <https://openclipart.org/detail/167691/megaphone>
 - Children blowing bubbles – Miami U. Libraries - Digital Collections. No restrictions, via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adrian_Cook_-_Bubblegum_-_00000133417.jpg
 - Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2021.

17