



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!

<u>Examine</u> yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; <u>test</u> 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."

<u>ANY</u> AMOUNT OF THIS LIVING, <u>FACT</u>-BASED FAITH HAS VALUE. The issue isn't the <u>size</u> of faith, but the <u>presence</u> of faith.

✓ Having "great" faith is commendable.

[Jesus] said, "I tell you, I have not found so <u>great</u> 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 <u>small as a mustard seed</u>, 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 <u>only</u> to <u>fact</u>-based faith. People with such a faith won't try to manipulate God into doing <u>their</u> will by quoting this passage – and perhaps even blaming God for "failure," when they don't get what they want!

Even so, our goal must be to $\underline{\mathit{INCREASE}}$ our faith.

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

 \checkmark 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 <u>growing</u> 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.

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

WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE <u>EACH OTHER</u> IN THE FAITH. After all, we are <u>one</u> body of Christ, <u>one</u> family.

✓ Encouraging others.

We sent Timothy... to <u>strengthen</u> and <u>encourage</u> 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

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

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

IT'S <u>FACT</u>-BASED!



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 <u>sincere</u> your faith is. 2 Tim. 1:5a (GW)

✓ A faith that endures, even in difficult times.

[You] <u>did not deny</u> 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 <u>saved</u>.

Hebrews 10:38a, 39b (CSB)

WE NEED A FAITH THAT INFLUENCES ALL OF LIFE.

✓ Faith, obeyed.

... <u>obedient</u> to the **faith**.

Acts 6:7b (CSB)

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

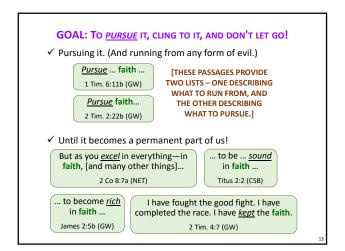
The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.
This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

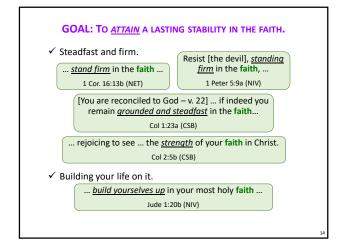
Romans 10:8b-9 (CSB)

✓ Faith, as the starting point for godly character.

... make every effort to <u>add</u> 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)









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