

## *Faith*

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-40.

According to verse 1, faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of things hoped for, the \_\_\_\_\_ of things not seen.

The sense of this verse is that faith has **certainty** to it. The author is saying that faith always gets its goal. Faith is the actual **stuff** desired, not the **hope** of getting it. The world's hope does not have certainty—Christian faith is certain.

Remember when you were saved? When you believed and asked Christ to save you? Was there not certainty to your prayer? You actually had faith that if you asked God to forgive you, that He would do it!!! That's faith. Faith is actually having the **stuff as you asked even if you don't see it!**

Faith is an **action**. From Hebrews 11, write the action of each of the people listed:

Abel \_\_\_\_\_

Enoch \_\_\_\_\_

Noah \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham (11:8-9) \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham (11:17) \_\_\_\_\_

Isaac \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph \_\_\_\_\_

Moses \_\_\_\_\_

2. There are three elements to faith: intellectual, emotional, and volitional.

**Intellectual** faith believes that God **can** do anything. Most Christians will admit that God can meet their needs. They believe that He could if He wanted to and then they sit back and see if He will.

**Emotional** faith then adds to believing that God can do something that **it is His will to do it!** Now the believer **wants God to do it**, desires God to do it, and hopes God will do it. This emotional element moves many to even fast and pray for the result needed or desired. But this is still **not** biblical faith.

**Volitional** faith is the action element of biblical faith. The believer must act like a thing is so when it is not, in order for it to be so.

Read Mark 11:24. *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you \_\_\_\_\_ them, and you shall have them.*

Note the tense of the verb in the blank. Is it future? past? or present? It is **present!!** Faith believes God can (*intellectual*); knows that God wants to (*emotional*); and then acts like He has already received (*volitional*); and then what he hopes for is his!

3. Consider the act of sitting down. First you believe that the chair **can** support your weight (*intellectual*). Then you want the chair to support you (*emotional*). But it does not support you until you act. You then sit in the chair (*volitional*). It is an action choice you make with your will.

4. At this point we need to consider what some people do to get God to act on their behalf.

**Sympathy.** Some believers try to motivate God by playing on His sympathy. Here is an example, “*Lord, you know what I need, and if You don’t give it to me, I’m sunk. I’m done for. Please, please, please, help me!*” God does not bow to sympathy!

**Bargaining.** Others try to play *let’s make a deal* with God saying, “*Lord, if You will give me what I want, I promise You I will never get in this mess again.*” God does not bow to bargaining.

**God only moves according to faith.** Listen to Hebrews 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him.*”

5. Read James 1:5-8.

When a believer doubts he is like \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When you doubt you will receive \_\_\_\_\_  
and be \_\_\_\_\_

A double-minded man has one eye on God and the other on himself (or his need). A person of faith only sees God!

It is at the point of conflict that the believer’s faith will be revealed to be either head faith (*intellectual, emotional*) or heart faith (*intellectual, emotional, and volitional*).

6. Read Deuteronomy 1:19-46

From this story you will learn the **process of faith**. And the consequences of unbelief!!!

**Step one. Hear God.** The issue of authority is important here. You learned that wise counsel, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit are all a part of what will be your authority base. Step one assumes that you have come to the place in your walk where you have determined to follow Jesus, no matter where He might lead you, or what He might ask you to do. Hearing His voice is essential. Remember, He speaks through His written Word, the indwelling Spirit, and through godly counsel.

According to Deuteronomy 1: 21, what had God told Israel to do?

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According to Romans 10:17, faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_

and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_

Step one is complete. God has spoken and told them to take the land. Now they are simply to obey. Remember, faith is an action.

What would you expect biblical faith to do now?

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**Step two. Believe God.** Faith is a willingness to take God at His word.

Read Deuteronomy 1:26.

Moses calls the Israelites \_\_\_\_\_

Because they were not willing to take God at His word they rebelled. They grumbled and complained. They wanted it to be easy. Just like most Christians today!

The devil will try to attack you in both of these two steps. Consider Eve in the Garden. According to Genesis 3:1, what was the devil's question to her?

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He questioned *whether or not God had said*. He will ask you the same question! Be aware and be certain about what God has said.

If the devil can't stop you at step one, he will try to get you to **question God's character**. Titus 1:2 says that God **cannot lie**. In Genesis 3:4 the devil questions God's character and states that,

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**Step three. Hear God again.** Many times God encourages us by telling us again what He wants. Abraham heard more than once God's promise; so did David. It is the experience of many godly people that God confirms His Word to us. Read Deut. 1: 29-31.

What does Moses tell the Israelites that God will do?

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Many times the confirmation, or second hearing, comes in Bible study, or a word of knowledge from another believer. However it comes, you will know in your spirit that it is God speaking again to encourage you to act.

**Step four. Take Action.** In Deut. 1:32 we see that the Israelites did not obey God by their actions. They did not proceed to take the Promised Land. They did not show biblical faith!

Romans 14:23 says that anything not of faith is \_\_\_\_\_

Sin must be both revealed and punished. The Israelites that did not believe were *never* allowed into the Promised Land. They attempted to go in after their judgment, but were unsuccessful. God wants us to obey not only in our mind and emotions, but in our actions. People who act on the Word receive things.

7. Remember our first Scripture, Hebrews 11:1?

***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***

- faith is the substance (stuff) of the things hoped for.  
- *faith is having what you are hoping to get*
- faith is the evidence of things **not seen**.  
- *faith is believing you have something when you cannot see it and acting as if you already have it, so that you will!*

Does all this sound confusing? Remember your salvation experience? Read Colossians 2:6. Faith is the same now as then.

8. What are you believing God for that He has spoken to you about?

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If you do not have anything to believe God for—why not? Ask God to give you something to ***“faith”*** Him for today!