

What Is Faith

▼ 1. Faith is not:

- ▼ a.

A leap in the dark.
- i.

Faith is not "Faith in Faith", "you just have to believe"
- ii.

Now were in scripture does it say you just have to believe.
- iii.

Faith is not some **subjective** Mystical belief, in some alternate reality conjured up in the imagination of one's heart
- b.

Faith is not a type of 6th sense. That if we can just muster up enough of it we get a prayer answered, or obtain whatever one is looking for from God.

▼ 2. Faith is:

- a.

Faith is that which looks to Jesus Christ, and believes that what God said, is true.
- ▼ b. Faith is built on knowledge: truths of the eternal value
 - i.

Colossians 1:9 (ESV)
9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the **knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
 - ▼ ii.

Faith is built on truth / absolutes

 - 1.

Creation itself
 - 2.

To know what God said that there would be a flood
 - 3.

To the children of Israel God said there would be a deliverer
 - 4.

The miracles to the children of Israel in Egypt, God performed to show evidence of who he was, and that he would not deliver them
 - 5.

Many Old Testament prophecies, when fulfilled were evidence of God's absolute truth.
Micah 5:2 (KJV 1900)
2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, Though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Acts 1:3 (KJV 1900)
3 To whom also he **shewed himself** alive after his passion **by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God;**

Acts 10:41 (KJV 1900)
41 Not to all the people, but unto **witnesses** chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.
- ▼ c.

1. Faith hears the word of God.
2. Faith believes that it is so.
3. Faith says what God has done for others, he'll do for me.
What God has done for me already, gives me all confidence, that his promises not yet obtained, will surely come to pass.

Romans 10:14 (ESV)
14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)
1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the **conviction of things not seen.**
Sometimes some biblical statements are too easily pulled out of context, resulting in a twisted understanding of Scripture.

 - i.

Strong's Greek #5287 5712 ὑπόστασις (*hypostasis*), εως (*eōs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; = Str 5287; TDNT 8.572—1. LN 58.1 **substance**, nature, essence (**Heb 1:3+**); 2. LN 31.84 **trust**, confidence, being sure (2Co 9:4; 11:17; Heb 3:14; 11:1+)

Louw Nida 31.84 31.84 ὑπόστασις^b, εως^f: that which provides the basis for trust and reliance—'trust, confidence, assurance.' καταισχυνθῶμεν ἡμεῖς, ἵνα μὴ λέγω ὑμεῖς, ἐν τῇ ὑποστάσει ταύτῃ 'how ashamed we would be—not to speak of your shame—for we had such confidence in you' 2 Cor 9:4; ἐάντιπερ τὴν ἀρχὴν τῆς ὑποστάσεως μέχρι τέλους βεβαίαν κατέσχωμεν 'if we hold on fi...
 - d.
 - e.

Faith says I've driven the car it's got me where I wanted to go. So I get back in the car without question, knowing it'll take me where I'm headed.

The security of the Objective verifiable evidence of the written word

▼1. Indications for the different highlights

- 1. The verifiable written word
- 2. That which cannot be verified
- 3.
- 2. Not based on our subjective personal opinion or feeling

Paul needed verification that what he was believing was accurate!

Galatians 2:2 (ESV)

2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

John the Baptist needed verification that what he was believing was accurate!

Jesus verified who he was with objective evidence

1st through the tangible evidence of miracles witnessed by John's disciples. The visible Objective evidence testified to the validity of his words.

Luke 7:18-23

Messengers from John the Baptist

18 19 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one ¹⁸who is to come, or ¹⁹'shall we look for another?'" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one ¹⁸who is to come, or ¹⁹'shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour ¹⁸he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and ¹⁹on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, ¹⁸"Go and tell John ¹⁹what you have seen and heard; ²⁰'the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, ²¹lepers ²²are cleansed, and ²³'the deaf hear, ²⁴'the dead are raised up, ²⁵'the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is ²⁶'not offended by me."

Peter says we should validate everything by the objective written word, in 2nd Peter chapters 1-2, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, stating that we all need verification that what we are believing is accurate!

- 3.
- 4.
- ▼5. Virtually everything we need that pertains to life and godliness, is contained within the Objective written word (THE Bible)

2 Peter 1:3-2:1-

Confirm Your Calling and Election

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and ⁴godliness, through the ⁵knowledge of him ⁶'who called us to ⁷his own glory and ⁸excellence, ⁹by which he has granted to us his ¹⁰precious and very great promises, ¹¹so that through them ¹²you may become ¹³'partakers of the divine nature, ¹⁴having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of ¹⁵sinful desire. ¹⁶For this very reason, make every effort to ¹⁷supplement your faith with virtue, ¹⁸and virtue with ¹⁹knowledge, ²⁰and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with ²¹steadfastness, and steadfastness with ²²godliness, ²³and godliness with ²⁴brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with ²⁵love. ²⁶For if these qualities ²⁷are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or ²⁸'unfruitful ²⁹in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ³⁰For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he ³¹'is blind, having forgotten that he was ³²'cleansed from his former ³³sins. ³⁴Therefore, brothers, ³⁵be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and ³⁶'election, for if you practice these qualities ³⁷'you will never fall. ³⁸For in this way there will be richly provided for you ³⁹'an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ⁴⁰Therefore I intend ⁴¹'always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in ⁴²'the truth that you have. ⁴³I think it right, as long as I am in this ⁴⁴'body, ⁴⁵'to stir you up by way of reminder, ⁴⁶'since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, ⁴⁷'as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ⁴⁸And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word

16 For we did not follow ¹⁷'cleverly devised ¹⁸'myths when we made known to you ¹⁹'the power and ²⁰'coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but ²¹'we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ²²For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ²³'This is my beloved Son, ²⁴'with whom I am well pleased," ²⁵we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on ²⁶'the holy mountain. ²⁷And ²⁸'we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, ²⁹to which you will do well to pay attention ³⁰'as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day ³¹'dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ³²knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ³³For ³⁴'no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were ³⁵carried along by the Holy Spirit.

False Prophets and Teachers

2 But ³'false prophets ⁴also arose among the people, ⁵just as there will be false teachers among you, who will ⁶'secretly bring in ⁷destructive ⁸heresies, even denying the Master ⁹'who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ¹⁰And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them ¹¹'the way of truth ¹²'will be blasphemed. ¹³And ¹⁴'in their greed they will exploit you ¹⁵'with ¹⁶'false words. ¹⁷Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. ¹⁸For if God did not spare ¹⁹'angels when they ²⁰sinned, but ²¹'cast them into hell ²²'and committed them to chains ²³'of gloomy darkness ²⁴'to be kept until the judgment; ²⁵if he did not spare the ancient world, but ²⁶'preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought ²⁷'a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ²⁸if by ²⁹'turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, ³⁰'making them an example of ³¹'what is going to happen to the ungodly; ³²and ³³'if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ³⁴'(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, ³⁵'he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he

As we discussed in a previous study the Louw Nida Greek lexicon/dictionary, defines spirit as the **"inner being, non-material faculty that can respond to God."** Also **"way of thinking, attitude, disposition"**

1 John 4:1-14-

Test the Spirits

4 Beloved, ¹do not believe every spirit, but ²'test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for ³'many ⁴'false prophets ⁵'have gone out into the world. ⁶By this you know the Spirit of God: ⁷'every spirit that confesses that ⁸'Jesus Christ has come in the flesh ⁹is from God, ¹⁰and every spirit ¹¹'that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and ¹²'now is in the world already. ¹³Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for ¹⁴'he who is in you is greater than ¹⁵'he who is in the world. ¹⁶They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and ¹⁷'the world listens to them. ¹⁸We are from God. ¹⁹Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is ²⁰not from God does not listen to us. ²¹By this we know ²²'the Spirit of truth and ²³'the spirit of error.

God Is Love

7 Beloved, ¹let us love one another, for love is from God, and ²'whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ³'Anyone who does not love does not know God, because ⁴'God is love. ⁵In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that ⁶'God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ⁷In this is love, ⁸'not that we have loved God ⁹'but that he loved us and sent his Son to be ¹⁰'the propitiation for our ¹¹sins. ¹²Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹³No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and ¹⁴'his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And ¹⁵'we have seen and testify ¹⁶'that ¹⁷'the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of ¹⁸'the world. ¹⁹Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ²⁰So

We must not receive anything that is not verifiable to the word of God

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.