

# **Having a BIBLE-BASED FAITH**



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# LESSON ONE

## WHAT IS FAITH?

### INTRODUCTION

Several books have been written. Several messages have been preached.

Yet it seems the church of Jesus just grew weaker and weaker as ignorant authors with no personal experience of walking in faith continued to propound theories with no practical application.

The aim of this lesson is for every Christian to be able to have tangible, correct and precise revelation knowledge of what God really considers as faith in the Bible and having known this, we can all begin to walk truly in faith that we may be able to please God.

**Main Text:** Amos 3:3

#### 1. What is faith?

Heb.11:1 [AMP, AUV, MACE, CEV, CJB, MOFFAT, TLB, MSG, NET, ERV, NCV, ECB, GW, NJB, NLT, WEYMOUTH], 2 Cor.4:18, Heb.11:27, Jn.20:29, 1 Pet.1:8.

Faith is agreement and cooperation with God, based on His Word and acting on that Word because a person has become personally convinced of God's integrity [Josh.23:14, Josh.21:45], ability [Lk.1:37], wisdom [Rom.11:33] and love [1Jn.4:16].

#### a. Faith agrees with God

Amos 3:3, Lk.1:38, Gen.15:1-6, Rom.4:18-21

The basic problem with most humans is the fact that we choose to disagree with God due to unbelief. When God says some things about our lives, majority of us just head off in the opposite direction, refusing to be persuaded or agree with God.

A very good example is the generation of Israelites that were redeemed by God from Egypt. They didn't enter the Promised Land because they refused to agree with God who was leading them. They believed that the giant inhabitants were mightier than God and they decided to return to Egypt than forge ahead with God [please see Num.13:26-33; Num.14:1-24, 1 Cor.10:1-5].

Most times, most of us Christians are like these Israelites. We see the promise of God and we either face it with mental assent or out rightly confront the Word with unbelief. We cannot have an intimate relationship with God if we will always doubt Him. Whenever you hold an opposite view from what you see written in the Word, just know that you are disagreeing with God and you are heading in the opposite direction of where God is standing.

## **b. Faith cooperates with God**

Lk.1:38, Gen.6:22, Gen.15:1-6, Num.13:26-33, Num.14:1-24.

Faith works hand-in-hand with God. Faith doesn't work against what God is doing, instead it joins hands with God. Faith doesn't wait for physical evidence before agreeing to cooperate with God. When God threatened to destroy the world in the days of Noah with a mighty flood,

## LESSON TWO

### TWO KINDS OF FAITH

#### INTRODUCTION

Several Christians from all walks of life have a wrong understanding of what the Bible refer to as faith. While claiming to have faith, majority of us have sunk so deeply into the sense realm that we now need help to get out again! The need to correct the wrong impressions we have about faith and the need to enthrone the truth about faith is the reason for this study. I pray our understanding will be enlightened in Jesus name. Amen.

**Main Text:** Jn.20:24-25

#### 1. The Two kinds of faith

##### a. Sense Knowledge faith

Jn.20:24-29 [AMP, AUV, CEV, BWE], Jn.6:30 [GW, BWE, MSG], Lk.24:39-41, Jn.2:18, Matt.12:38-39, Matt.16:1, Mk.8:11, 1 Cor.1:22.

Sense Knowledge faith is the type of faith based on physical evidences. These physical evidences themselves are obtainable primarily through the five human senses-that is, what we can see, hear, touch, smell and feel. This is the type of faith most church people have in God today. It is equally the type of faith every human being has. It is belief and corresponding action, based on physical evidence. This was Thomas'-type of faith. It always puts physical evidence first. It always demand for physical evidence before it can listen to any other thing else. It enthrone what it can see, hear, feel, taste or smell. It is the type of faith that leads a man away from God. It is the faith of the carnal man. It withholds belief and action until it SEES, FEELS, HEARS, SMELLS OR TASTES something.

Even the apostles never had a clue of what real faith meant immediately after the resurrection of the Lord [see Lk.24:39-41]. They only believed the resurrection because they cannot deny the fact that a risen Jesus was standing before them! What about you? Do you too insist on physical evidence before you believe the Word of God? Do you insist on making sure you see or hear or feel something before you will take God serious?

##### b. Revelation Faith

Jn. 20:29, 1 Pet.1:8 [MOFFAT, PHILLIPS, MSG, NLT, CEV, ERV], Heb.11:1 [AMP], 2 Cor.4:18 [CEV, AMP, AUV, CJB, MACE\*, WILLIAMS\*, TCNT], 2 Cor.5:7 [AMP, AUV, BWE, WILLIAMS, CJB, MSG], Heb.10:38, 1 Sam.16:7, Lk.5:1-7, Jn.11:40.

This is faith based on no other evidence but the Word of God. The foundation of this faith is the Word of God Himself-and we know that the Word of God is the person of the Lord Jesus

(please see Jn.1:1-3, Rev.19:13). While Sense Knowledge desperately looks for sense evidences to give it assurances, Revelation Faith challenges the Christian to rest in Him who has, who can and who will NEVER fail-God Himself. [Please read Hebrews 6:17-19 very carefully here].

It is this faith Abraham walked into when God told him he will have a son, even though he was an old man and his old wife was barren [please study Rom.4:15-21, Heb.11:11-12]. This is why Abraham became the father of faith to everyone who will ever believe and Abraham's type of faith became the foundation of Revelation Faith.

This is true Bible faith and this is what we are going to be studying throughout this study guide. It is this type of faith the Lord is asking us to have –where our only EVIDENCE is what the Lord said to us in His Word.

For His Word is Jesus Christ and He is all what God is saying to us- even today [please see Heb.1:1-2]

### **The importance of faith in the Person of the Word of God**

Jn.1:1-3, Col.1:16-18, 1 Pet.3:22, Rev.19:11-13

Our faith in God is not just based on mere words-even though every word from the mouth of God is enough to live by. Rather, our faith is in the person of Jesus-the living Word of God. He made everything in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, principalities or powers or any other created thing, no condition or circumstance can withstand the Word of God. Forasmuch as by Him were all beings and things created and without Him was not a single thing or being made that was made.

Thus, our evidence that our needs are met, that we have the victory, that we are more than conquerors is not in any physical evidence our senses can produce or yearn for; instead it is in the unfailing Word of God who is our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2. Why is Revelation Faith God's kind of faith?**

### **a. God is a Spirit Being.**

Ps.90: 1, Jn.4:23-24, 1 Tim.1:17

God cannot be seen with physical human eyes [except He chooses to appear in human form]; he cannot be heard by human ears. He cannot be touched by human hands. In short, because God is a spirit, sense knowledge cannot know Him. Thus, to seek to please God while quietly demanding evidences based on the senses before we can believe God and act on His Word is to remain in unbelief. God is always on the lookout for those people who seek to worship Him in spirit-those who will walk with Him and rest on nothing else but the integrity of God's Word.

### **b. The Spiritual realm controls the physical.**

Gen.1:1, Jn.1:1-3, Col.1:16-17, Heb.1:3 [amp, williams ], Ex.20:11, Neh.9:6, Job 26:7, Ps.90:1, Acts 4:24, Gen.1:26-28, Gen.2:7, Eph.2:2, 1 Jn.5:19, 2 cor.4:4. Regardless of the claims of *evolution theorists* the Bible clearly proves that God, the Supreme Unseen Being created the universe and everything in it. Now, we also know that after the fall of man, Satan gained control as the lord and god of this world which he refashioned it in his own evil image.

Thus, while men may not know, every human being, every living and non-living thing and every event or situation in this physical world is spiritually controlled-either by God's Spirit or by Satan's demons. Thus, to expect victory in a world controlled from the spirit realm while desperately clinging to sense knowledge faith and physical evidences is foolishness.

We know that God is the creator and the sustainer of every living thing. To now expect God to provide for you, only after you see physical evidence of either someone calling you suddenly and giving you money or your business booming all of a sudden, are all schemes of the enemy to blind us to reality and this is the way to live a defeated life- being stuck with sense knowledge faith and demanding or relying on sense evidences.

### **c. God lives by faith in His own Word.**

Heb.1:3, Col.1:16, Jn.1:1-3, Heb.4:12, Rev.19:13, Isa.55:10-11.

We make a major mistake when we talk about what the Word of God is. Most of us think that the Word of God is merely the conversations or statements that God makes; however the Bible teaches us differently. The Word of God is a living and powerful person. He is the second person of the Trinity [see Jn. 1:1-3, 1 Jn.5:7]. So, the Word of God is not like human words, instead the totality of the words God speaks is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ who is known as God the Word. Thus God lives by faith in His Word for He is certain that whatever He says is not beyond what His Word can accomplish since He, His Word and His Spirit made all things [see Gen.1:1, 26-28].

## **CONCLUSION**

We have seen that there are two principal types of faith and these two are absolute opposites. How are you going to respond to these truths as a person? Will you still choose to remain in the flesh by demanding carnal, physical evidences or will you plunge into the spirit today and live by faith and faith alone in the Word of God?

## **PERSONAL ASSESSMENT**

1. What are the kinds of faith described by the Bible?
2. Having seen the different kinds of faith, which kind of faith do think you have been living in before now?

3. Why is Revelation faith God's kind of faith? Explain your reasons.

## LESSON THREE

### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT FAITH

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Main Text:

##### 1. General facts about faith

- a. Every rational being has faith [either sense knowledge or revelation faith]
- b. The law of confession [your belief is really what you think, say and act; regardless of what you claim to believe]
- c. Results are received according to personal faith [either sense knowledge or revelation faith. What you believe cannot happen can't- even if it would have done you good. A whole generation couldn't enter the promise land. Unbelief in the Word of God is a strong belief in sense knowledge.]
- d. Sense Knowledge and Revelation Faith are absolute opposites.
- e. Faith always acts not merely mentally assenting.
- f. Every human being must have faith in his own faith personally. The Word of God won't mean much to you if you plan to believe in God through someone else's faith.
- g. the level of Faith is always according to a person's personal knowledge of God per time.

##### 2. Some misconceptions about faith

- a. Confusing faith with hope [and the proper relationship btwn faith and hope]
- b. Mental assent
- c. belief
- d. Experiences of other people

##### 3. The distinguishing marks of revelation or true faith.

- a. it always requires an action
- b. it neither demands nor does it rely on sense evidence
- c. it is founded solely on God's Word
- d. it comes only by the revelation of God [in His Word]

#### **4. The greatest enemies of faith**

a. Sense Knowledge

b. Faith without Hope

c. Mental assent

d. Ignorance of God and scriptures

e. Unbelief

-via unpersuadableness

-via ignorance

## LESSON FOUR

### FAITH IS BASED ON GOD'S WORD

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Main Text:

##### 1. Why must the Word be our first consideration and final authority?

**a. God knows everything about everything and nothing is hidden from Him because He is omniscient and omnipresent.** Jer.23:24, Heb.4:13, Prov.15:3, Ps.139:7, 11-12; Job 28:24. Every desire, thought and intent of every creature are constantly under His watchful eyes [Ezek.11:5]

**b. God is a God of truth and His Word is the truth regarding every circumstance and situation we might face.** There is no other reality apart from God. Everything outside His Word is a lie. Rev.3:7, Jn.14:6, Jn.17:17, Jn.8:32, 1Jn.5:20, Phil.4:8, Jn.8:44, 2Thes.2:10-12.

**c. God does not see things (people, circumstances or situations) the way I see them.** How He sees them is the way they really are and what they really are is what He tells me because He is the God of truth. Job 28:12-13, 20-24; Isa.55:8-11, 2Cor.4:18

**d. Everything I need to know about any and every thing (myself, people, places, situations and circumstances) is in the Word of God.** Col.1:16, Isa.14:24, Deut.29:29

**E. Nothing and no one in heaven or on earth can change the Word of God.** Isa.14:24, 26-27; Isa.55:10-11, Matt.28:18, Isa.45:23.

*Other chapters coming soon.*