

**REFORMATION PLATFORM ABESAN CENTRE RETREAT,
Monday 2nd May 2022
THEME: THE ESSENCE OF FAITH**

‘Essence’ is defined as *the choicest or most vital part of a thing or experience. It is the core, the heart or the substance of a thing.*

The essence of faith is simply the choicest, the core, the heart or the the most vital part of faith. Heb.11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

“But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6 AMP

“But without faith...

Just in the same way a properly built, modern house cannot stand without cement holding it all together, in the same way, without [ie. In the absence of or apart] from faith, it is impossible for the Christian life to stand—for it is a walk of faith from the beginning to the end! (Heb.12:2, Col.1:3-5); Just as a ship cannot stay fixed in the same place without drifting away without an anchor—it is same way, without faith as the anchor (Heb.6:17-20; Ps.42:11) of our lives, we will drift away due to the storms of this present life (Heb.2:1, Matt.13:22).

Faith is agreement (Amos 3:3, Lk.1:38) & cooperation (Lk.5:4-7, Mk16:20) with God, based on His word (Jn.4:50-53, Matt.8:8) and acting on that word (Lk.5:5, 2Cor.4:18) because a person has been personally convinced (Rom.4:19-21, Heb.11:13) of God’s integrity (Ps.12:6 TLB, TPT; Josh.23:14, Josh.21:45), His ability (Lk.1:37, Lk.18:27), His wisdom (Rom.11:33, Eph.3:10 AMPC) & His love (1Jn.4:16 AMPC, Rom.8:32).

Faith: The Two Sides Of The Same Coin [the two sides to a genuine faith]

Just as every legal tender [whether coins or currency] must have imprints on both sides to be genuine, in the same way, for our faith to be accepted as being genuine in the spirit realm, it must have two sides. They are:

Side 1: Belief (Jas.2:19-20)

Side 2: Action based on belief (Jas.2:14-26)

For example, you could be starving & believe that if you eat the food on the table, you won't die; however, it is important that you take the action of stretching forth your hand & taking the food and eating it—only then will you not die. If you're merely believing that if you eat the food without ever taking the action of faith, you will still die, despite your belief!

Thus, Belief+Action=**Faith!**

(A very good example is the woman with the issue of blood—see Matt.9:20-22).

Three Progressive Steps to Maturity In Faith

Step 1: Hope (Rom.4:18, Rom.8:24-25; Ps.130:5)

Step 2: Faith (Heb.11:1, 6; Rom.4:19-20)

Step 3: Trust (Rom.4:21, Ps.125:1, Isa.26:4)

“...it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him...”

All that God has prepared for us in salvation (Eph.1:3 AMPC, 2Pet.1:2-4, 1Pet.1:4) can and will be accessed by faith alone (Jn.3:14-18,). Whoever is hoping to receive anything from the hands of God without faith is attempting to take an impossible route (Jas.1:5-8 AMPC; Heb.11:6).

The Bible says about Abraham: **“And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”** Gen.15:6

When you don't believe God, you will incur and attract His fierce anger (Ps.78:16-22, 40-42). When we approach without faith, we're like a person who comes to the bank, wanting to be paid—but having no account with that bank, yet insisting that he must be paid in his own way.

God does things for us in His own way, in His own time & in consonance with His own purpose! God will not change to fit into your expectations & plans—you are the one who will have to change & align with Him & His own way! (Rom.10:1-4)

“...for he who comes to God must believe that He is...”

Why faith is a must is because God is not *an idea or a figment of a person's imagination*. He is a person (Jn.4:23-24; Gen.17:1) that must be known (Phil.3:10, 1Chron.28:9) & that wants to be known (Jn.14:21, 23).

“But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6 AMP

“No one can please God without faith. Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Hebrews 11:6 GW

This is the truth...and this is what God seeks from every man today!

“...and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

No one who truly, genuinely and sincerely seeks God will be ashamed (Rom.10:11-13, Ps.25:2). If you look for Him in truth, you will find Him in truth. (Acts 17:27, Ps.63:1)

He is a person & He wants to have a personal & an intimate relationship with you. (Rev.3:20, 1Tim.2:3-4)

But you must come by faith (Jas.1:5-8; Heb.11:6)—so that you may proceed beyond a mere religious profession and pretension and burst forth into a genuine, personal, intimate & practical relationship with God! (Jn.4:22-24, 1Jn.1:1-4)

Will you come to Him today?