

# A Bible Study On Faith



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# A BIBLE STUDY ON FAITH

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Faith is THE way of life for EVERY mature Christian. Faith is a subject that we all so often talk about. Yet, faith is a concept that is often not practiced by the average Christian to any great degree. The average Christian is much more apt to go by what he sees, feels, thinks or observes rather than by what he does NOT see, feel, think or observe, which in reality, is the biblical way. The following Bible study is designed to lead you into a deeper study on faith than what you may normally take in your daily walk as a Christian. This Bible study is very crucial because it is given without human comment and thus allows the Word of God to speak for it self which in turn will develop a genuine practical faith in your life (Romans 10:17). As you conduct your study of faith from this outline, simply ask God to teach you the reality of the texts by means of His Holy Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27), and you will be amazed to see what all you will learn. After the Holy Spirit teaches you His wonderful Word, ask the Father to direct the Holy Spirit to apply the precious truths you have learned to your personal life so that you might know and understand the one and only divine interpretation as well as the correct application. Once you begin to live by and act on faith, you will be amazed to see what God will do in, through, and for you immediately.

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A NOTE OF DISTINCTION: The “average” Christian does not really practice faith to a great extent. The “normal” Christian does everything through the practice of faith in order to please God. What is the difference between the “average” Christian and the “normal” Christian? The “average” Christian represents a “cross-section” of the Christians in the world today who may or may not be committed to a pure biblical life style. The “normal” Christian is the one who takes God’s Word and puts it to practice in his life without any hesitation or rebellion. So, are you an “average” Christian or a “normal” Christian?

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THE DEFINITION OF FAITH: *“FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD, DIRECTING ONE’S LIFE ACCORDINGLY, AND LEAVING THE RESULTS UP TO GOD.”*

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OBSERVATION: For a summarization of what faith is, how it pleases God and how it affects the lives of believers, read Hebrews chapter 11.

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## **I. SOME GENERAL REFERENCES TO FAITH IN THE BIBLE**

- A. Luke 17:5 – “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.”
- B. Romans 10:17 – “So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- C. Romans 14:23 – “He that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”
- D. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- E. James 2:17 – “Even so, faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”
- F. I John 5:4 – “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

### **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

## **II. SOME REASONS TO PRACTICE FAITH IN THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE**

- A. Faith Assures Success – 2 Chronicles 20:20  
“And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, He me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”
- B. Faith is a Fundamental Duty for Every Believer – John 6:28,29  
“Then said they unto him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, “This is the work of God, that he believe on him whom he hath sent.”
- C. Faith is a Defensive Weapon in Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:16  
“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”
- D. Faith is an Indispensable Element for Pleasing God – Hebrews 11:6  
“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- E. Faith is Essential in Prayer – James 1:5,6  
“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

### **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

## **III. SOME SCRIPTURES INDICATING THAT JUSTIFICATION IS BY FAITH IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER**

- A. Habakkuk 2:4 – “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”
- B. Romans 5:1 – “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

#### **IV. SOME INDICATIONS OF PERSONAL BLESSING THAT COMES ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF FAITH PRACTICED BY THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER**

- A. Matthew 8:13 – “And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.”
- B. Matthew 8:29, 30 – “Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.”
- C. Matthew 17:20 – “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”
- D. Mark 9:23 – “Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

#### **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

#### **V. SOME EXAMPLES OF VICTORIOUS FAITH IN BELIEVERS LIVES**

- A. In the Life of Abraham – Genesis 22:8  
“And Abraham said, my son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”
- B. In the Life of Caleb – Joshua 14:12  
“Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.”
- C. In the Life of Jonathan – 1 Samuel 14:6  
“And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.”
- D. In the Life of David – 1 Samuel 17:37  
“David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go and the Lord be with thee.”
- E. In the Life of Jehoshaphat – 2 Chronicles 20:12  
“O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”
- F. In the Life of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego – Daniel 3:17  
“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fire furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.”
- G. In the Life of the Old Testament Saints – Hebrews 11:33  
“Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.”

#### **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

## **VI. SOME SPECIAL PROMISES TO THOSE WHO EXERCISE FAITH**

### **A. Answers to Prayer – Matthew 21:22**

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

### **B. Power to Live – Romans 10:11**

“For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

### **C. Spiritual Rest – Hebrews 4:3**

“For we which have believed do enter into rest.”

### **D. Spiritual Inheritance – James 2:5**

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”

### **E. Spiritual Insight – 1 Peter 2:6**

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”

## **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

## **VII. SOME INSTANCES OF WEAK FAITH IN BELIEVERS**

A. Matthew 6:30 – “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”

B. Matthew 8:26 – “And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.”

C. Matthew 14:31 – “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

## **PERSONAL LESSONS:**

## **VIII. SOME EXAMPLES OF FAITH BEING TESTED BY THE PLAN OF GOD**

### **A. By a Strange War Plan – Joshua 6:3**

“And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.”

### **B. By Reducing the General’s Army – Judges 7:7**

“And the Lord unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.”

### **C. By Requiring Dependence upon a Poor Widow – 1 Kings 17:9**

“Arise, get thee to Zerephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.”

### **D. By Requiring what appeared to be Useless Work – 2 Kings 3:16**

“And he said, thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches.”

- E. By Requiring Extensive Preparation with no Blessing in Sight –  
2 Kings 4:3 “Then said he, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.”

**PERSONAL LESSONS:**

**IV. SOME HINDRANCES TO PRACTICING FAITH IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS**

- A. The Reality of Worldly Allurements – Genesis 19:26  
“But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
- B. Being Discouraged by those Opposed to Forward Progress –  
Nehemiah 4:10 “And Judah said, the strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.”
- C. The Simple Unbelief of the People – Matthew 13:58  
“ And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”
- D. The Hypothetical Imaginary Situations – Mark 16:3,4  
“And they said among themselves, who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.”
- E. Family Ties – Luke 9:59  
“And he said unto another, follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.”
- F. Spiritual Weights – Hebrews 12:1  
“...Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

**PERSONAL LESSONS:**

**X. SOME EXHORTATIONS TO TRUST (HAVE FAITH) IN GOD**

- A. Psalm 37:3 – “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the Land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”
- B. Psalm 37:5 - “Commit they way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”
- C. Psalm 118:8 – “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.”
- D. Isaiah 26:4 – “Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”

**PERSONAL LESSONS:**

**XI. SOME RESULTS OF TRUSTING (HAVING FAITH) IN GOD**

- A. Psalm 32:10 – “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.”
- B. Psalm 34:22 – “The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.”

- C. Psalm 125:1 – “They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever.”
- D. Isaiah 26:3 – “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”
- E. Jeremiah 17:7 – “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.”

**PERSONAL LESSONS:**

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A personal study of faith and trust in God will greatly change the life of the believer. However, there must be a submissive attitude and obedient action in order for the seed of faith to grow and flourish in the individual. The point is, GOD CANNOT BE PLEASED AT ALL BY ANYONE IN ANY WAY APART FROM FAITH according to Hebrews 11:6. Therefore, the challenge is to every Christian, and it is very clear, HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND PLEASE HIM. LACK FAITH IN GOD AND DISPLEASE HIM. WHAT IS YOUR SITUATION?

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1) WHAT MUST I DO TO MAKE FAITH A WORKABLE PART OF MY LIFE NOW?
- 2) WHAT ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS MUST I CHANGE TO ALLOW FAITH TO BE EFFECTIVE IN MY LIFE NOW?
- 3) WHAT MUST I REPENT OF TO MAKE FAITH PRACTICAL IN MY LIFE NOW?
- 4) WHAT HAS GOD TAUGHT ME ABOUT FAITH IN THIS STUDY?