

What is "faith"?

Faith is believing in something that I cannot see, touch, smell, or hear. In fact, it is believing strongly enough that I am willing to take action on what I am told just based on that belief.

The Bible defines faith in: **Hebrews 11:1(NIV)** *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Where does it come from?

My faith cannot be a blind thing. It must be based on evidence that I have honestly and fairly considered. I don't want to just go on what someone else has told me. It must be my own! I know there is no way I can understand everything about God, the universe, the Bible, my life, and so on. I do know that God exists even though I cannot see or touch Him. I know that through observation of the world around and the miracle of life itself and how He has already touched my life. **Psalms 19:1(NIV)** *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

I also read in **Romans 10:17(NIV)** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* So, faith will come when I read the word of God.

Why is faith necessary?

I read in **Hebrews 11:6(NIV)** *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* It is simple that I must have faith to please God. But why is faith alone pleasing to God? Guess it comes back to having the bigger picture in view.

I have faith in God; God loves me like in **John 3:16(NIV)** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* **John 8:24(NIV)** *I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."*

Since Jesus came to die for me and if I believe in Him I'll be saved. But lots of people believe in Jesus. Is that all there is?

James 2:17(NIV) *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

So, faith which brings actions is the bigger picture!

How can I get my own faith?

Well, I just read in **Romans 10:17** that faith comes by hearing the message of God - the Bible. I read and study it, observe how others have lived by their faith, and look at how God has already blessed me and touched my life. Then it

becomes clear that my belief in God and following His word brings the outcomes He promises! **Romans 10:13-14(NIV)** *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*

What does this faith do for ME?

It makes more sense that faith is more than just knowing and believing something. I must do something with it! Just like I read about in **James 2:14-26** and **Hebrews 11:1-40** it is obvious that faith causes those people of times past and now also me to DO something!

Ephesians 2:8(NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

NOW this is coming to what I really need - being saved! I have tried to live a good life but that is not enough. I have tried to do the right things but it is obvious from reading the Bible that my "right things" are not always God's "right things". I must do what He says!

Now when someone else asks me about "my faith" I can honestly tell them it is based on reading the Bible, believing God will do what He says in the Bible, and following His commands. Like it says in **1 Peter 3:15(NIV)** *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.*

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, I do want to grow this faith more all the time like in **2 Peter 1:5-8(NIV)** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I still have these questions I would like to have help with:

We are here to help you!

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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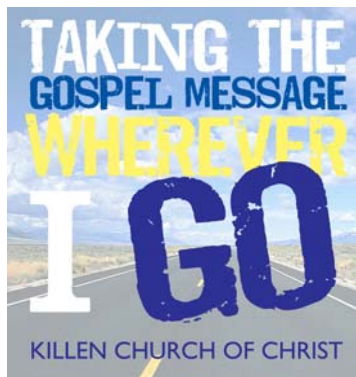
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