

Faith

Faith is very important in the life of a Christian. Hopefully, in this lesson, we can define what faith is, and why it is important. In this lesson, we will also try to understand what a Christian should have faith in, and what the benefits are in true Christian faith.

What is faith?

The Bible gives us a definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” It is not a blind leap into the unknown. While we cannot see God, evidence of Him is all around us and His inspired scriptures can guide us to Heaven, which is where all Christians want to spend eternity.

Faith comes from the mind of humans which is often referred to as the heart in the Bible. Romans 10:9-11 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Christians should live lives which openly express they are trying to lead a life pleasing to God and that the goal of their life is to obtain a home in Heaven. A Christian’s faith should not be in disguise but openly displayed in a way that those around them see their faith in how they live.

A Christian’s faith will be followed by evidence in their actions, not just something they talk about. James 2:14-26 “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Faith in word and not deed is not true Christian faith.

Is faith necessary to be saved?

Without faith there is only doom. To not believe in God and Christ is to not have one’s sins removed, which means eternal destruction. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” Also, Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Without faith AND the action of being baptized, one is lost. Christians must have faith and obedience or they have nothing. Faith is acted upon or it does not really exist in your life.

We cannot lead lives that are pleasing to God unless we have faith. 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.](#)” Very simply put in this verse, one cannot expect to be rewarded with Heaven if one does not have faith.

A Christian’s faith is a tool they can use to help them stay true to Christ’s Law in the New Testament. Only a faithfully lived Christian life in the end leads to eternal victory. 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.](#)”

God has shown us that He loves through the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and desires that we would be saved, but, if we do not have faith, Heaven will not be our home. John 3:16 “[For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.](#)” If not having faith will cost me a home in Heaven, it is truly important to have it.

In what should we have faith?

We must believe in God and that he will give us an eternal home in Heaven if we live obedient Christian lives 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.](#)”

We must believe in Christ if we want to be able to have our sins forgiven. John 8:23-24 “[And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.](#)” If we do not have our sins forgiven, we will not see Heaven. No faith means we are lost eternally.

We must believe what the Bible says, and take action showing our faith in our lives, or we will be punished eternally. Mark 16:15-16 “[And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.](#)” True Christian faith is belief, followed by obedience, and we must have both because one without the other is not following God’s instructions. Not following God’s instructions, but saying you believe in Him, is not faith and will lead to eternally being lost.

What are the benefits of faith?

We cannot obtain salvation by our own power. We need God to gain salvation and we must have faith in Him to please Him. Christians can obtain the gift of salvation through our faith.

Ephesians 2:8 “[For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:](#)” Christians win the ultimate victory with faith that cannot be won otherwise. 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.](#)”

We gain forgiveness of sins with true Christian faith seen in a life that is obedient to Christ’s Law. We must have our sins forgiven if we want a Heavenly home. Acts 10:43 “[To him give all the](#)

prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

A Christian’s faith is their shield. Faith is one part of a Christian’s armor that they need to overcome all the temptation in the world. Ephesians 6:11-17 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

A Christian’s faith opens the doorway to Heaven for them. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Faith is important, but is it enough?

Please read James 2:14-26 again “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Faith alone is not enough to lead one to salvation, but rather it is a very important starting place. Devils believe in God and they will not be in Heaven. Faith is wonderful, but it must be accompanied by an obedient life or it is unprofitable, imperfect and dead. Faith and an obedient life is required to gain a Heavenly reward.

Faith alone is not enough. I Peter 1:2-10 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through

faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:” Faith must be accompanied by obedience, which will be proven out in the trials of life.

Faith without obedience is merely empty useless words. Luke 6:46-49 “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Believing with all of your heart in Christ and His Word involves obedient action. Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Without the obedient act of baptism, belief will not save you. Faith must be accompanied by works or it is no good. Please again see James 2:14-26 “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

A Christian’s faith, together with obeying the gospel of Christ, will save them from eternal destruction. II Thessalonians. 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

Conclusion

Faith is essential to Christians and must be in their lives, but so must obedience. Build on your faith and let it grow, but also obey the New Testament law of Christ, for faith without works is dead and does not please God.