



# **"Discipleship Training Program"**

## **Christianity 101 - Lesson Three**

### **Faith**

#### **Memory Text Scripture**

**Hebrews 11:1** *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

#### **What Is The Second Word Of The Gospel?**

The second word of the Gospel is "**believe**\_\_\_\_\_."

- **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_ preached repentance and faith
  - **Mark 1:15** *"And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*
- **Paul** \_\_\_\_\_ preached repentance and faith
  - **Acts 20:21** *"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- The second principle of the doctrine of Christ is **faith** \_\_\_\_\_ toward God.
  - **Hebrews 6:1** *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,"*

#### **How Important Is Faith?**

Faith is the **foundation** \_\_\_\_\_ of the entire Christian life.

- **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."*
- **Romans 1:17** *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*
- **Habakkuk 2:4** *"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."*

Nothing can be **known** \_\_\_\_\_ or **received** \_\_\_\_\_ of God unless man first believes in His **existence**; and secondly, that god has revealed Himself in His **Word** \_\_\_\_\_, the Bible.

- **Galatians 3:11** *"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."*
- **Hebrews 10:38** *"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."*

#### **What Is Faith?**

- Faith (noun) – faith, **belief** \_\_\_\_\_, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, truthfulness.
- Believe (verb) – to trust in; put faith in, confide in, rely on a person, or thing; have a mental persuasion; to entrust, commit to the charge or power of.
  - **Hebrew 11:1** (Amplified) *"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not*

*see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to his senses.”*

## What Is The Source Of True Faith?

The only source of true Biblical faith is the Word of God

- *“Faith cometh by hearing...the Word (the Rhema) of God.” Romans 10:4-16,17*

The Word of God comes in a variety of ways:

- The Word spoken in creation
  - *John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*
- The Prophetic Word
  - *II Peter 1:20,21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
- The Written Word (Logos)
  - *Luke 24:44 “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”*
- The Living Word (Jesus Christ)
  - *John 1:1-3, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>14</sup>And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

Hebrews 11 is considered the “ Faith Chapter ”.

- It's in this chapter that we see many “Faith Heroes” who all received a word from God.
- **Hebrews 11:8-12** *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. <sup>9</sup>By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: <sup>10</sup>For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. <sup>11</sup>Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”*
- **Romans 4:16-22** *“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,<sup>17</sup>(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he*

*believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. <sup>18</sup>Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. <sup>19</sup>And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: <sup>20</sup>He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; <sup>21</sup>And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup>And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."*

The manner in which Abraham manifests faith is the manner in which we must manifest faith:

- He heard the word
- Hope concerning the future was a result of his faith in the present
- He refused to accept the evidences of his senses
- He did not waver in his commitment
- He rejoiced in the word as an accomplished fact

Scriptural faith is a condition of the heart, not the mind.

- It is in the present, not the future.
- It produces a positive change in the behavior and experience.
- It is based solely on God's Word and accepts the testimony of the sense only when it agrees with the text of God's Word.
- It is expressed by confession with the mouth.

### Are There Different Levels Of Faith?

Yes, the Bible teaches that there are various levels or measures of faith

- **II Thessalonians 3:2** *"And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."*

God gives to every believer the measure of faith

- **Romans 12:3-6** *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. <sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup>So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;"*

Faith is likened to a seed. A seed has the potential to grow.

- Little Faith – **Matthew 6:30** *"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"*

- **Great** Faith – **Matthew 8:10** “When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”
- **Perfect** Faith – **James 2:22** “Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?”
- **All** Faith – **I Corinthians 13:2** “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”

## How Do We Appropriate Faith?

**Locate** the promise in God’s Word that fits the need.

- **Philippians 4:19** “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
- **II Corinthians 1:20** “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

**Fulfill** all the conditions attached to that need.

- **Isaiah 1:19-20** “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: <sup>20</sup>But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”
- **Psalms 37:5** “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

With Patience **accept** the trying of your faith and God’s testing of your faith in the Word.

- **Hebrews 6:12-15** “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. <sup>13</sup>For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, <sup>14</sup>Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. <sup>15</sup>And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”
- **Psalm 105:19** “Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.”
- **James 1:3-4** “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

We must firmly and positively **claim** the fulfillment of the promise.

- **II Peter 1:3-4** “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: <sup>4</sup>Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Our confession should always be in **harmony** with God’s Word.

- **Hebrews 3:1** “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”
- **I John 5:14** “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”

Actively appropriating faith is one of the keys to a victorious Christian life. *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”*

