

# **Faith**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Hebrews 11.
- B. The why, what, how and how long of faith.

## II. Why?

- A. We all want to be believed. A lack of belief is an insult to God.
- B. We are saved by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - 1. Grace saves us.
  - 2. The medium grace saves us through is faith.
  - 3. Grace is undeserved help from God.
  - 4. All go astray in some area and are in need of grace. (Psalm 119)
  - 5. Faith takes what grace offers.
  - 6. Salvation to the end is always by grace and through faith.

## III. What?

- A. Biblical faith has a foundation of facts—that Jesus is Lord.
- B. Faith is an inner assurance that counts on God and obeys Him.
  - 1. This rests on objective facts and subjective experience. (Hebrews 11:6)
  - 2. We are all born with an intuitive sense that God exists.
    - a. We know through our senses, reason, authority (revelation) and through intuition—all are valid ways of knowing. Under the fourth God has planted in our hearts that He exists.
    - b. No one knows enough to be a genuine atheist, for there is too much one does not know.
  - 3. God has revealed Himself generally and specially.
    - a. General revelation has to do with the universe and seeing ourselves.
    - b. Special revelation has to do with the Scriptures and God's Son Jesus Christ.

c. God has not left Himself without a witness.

4. There is a subjective experience in responding to God. (John 7:17)

a. We must do first and then we will know.

b. God is not in the business of satisfying curiosity seekers.

c. The willingness to do must become before the revelation of the act. The essential problem we have is the will. We obey our way to faith.

#### IV. How?

A. The Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

1. The example of a man who believed the word of Jesus and went his way. (John 4)

2. Faith obeys. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

B. A good conscience before God and man. (Acts 24:16)

1. A good conscience is an inner freedom of spirit.

2. For faith to grow and develop, a clean conscience is necessary.

C. A thankful heart. (Romans 1:21)

1. You give God thanks, and He will give you joy increasing your faith. (Ephesians 5:20)

2. We give thanks for the good times but also need to be thankful for the tough times that grow our faith.

3. God is often most real when things are tough. Never doubt in the light what God showed you in the dark.

#### **Application questions.**

1. Why is faith essential? Does faith by itself save?

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2. What is faith? How does it relate to obedience?

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3. How should we develop our faith? What are you doing to develop your faith? What more will you do in light of the message?

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