

# Faith

## Foundational Doctrines - Part 4

### Introduction:

**Agree or Disagree:** "Ninety-nine percent of every belief or value we have is held by faith." Why or why not?

#### A. Faith is central to all of life:

**Example:** When we become seriously ill, we go to a doctor whose name we can't pronounce and whose degrees and licenses we've never verified. This doctor gives us a prescription we cannot read. We take it to a pharmacist whom we likely do not know, and they give us a chemical compound that we know nothing about. Despite all this uncertainty, we ingest the medicine according to the instructions on the bottle without question - All the while we are trusting in sincere faith.

**Share:** In what ways do we act in faith throughout our daily lives?

#### B. Faith is central to the Christian life:

1. The word *faith* appears \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Bible

"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." - Hebrews 11:6 (NIV - Emphasis added)

**Share:** It goes without saying that each person gathered here has a desire to lead a life that delights God. Scripture indicates that faith plays an integral part in pleasing Him. How would you describe faith?

### I. The Use of the Term "Faith" in the New Testament

#### A. Faith - A generic term used for \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. One use of the term "faith" is to identify the body of truth in which followers trust.

"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for THE FAITH that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people." - Jude 3 (NIV - Emphasis added)

(Reference: Acts 13:8, Galatians 1:23)

#### B. Faith - Descriptive of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian.

1. The embodiment of a Christian's being is often depicted as their "life of faith" or "walk of faith."

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; <sup>3</sup> constantly bearing in mind your WORK OF FAITH and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father." - I Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NASB - Emphasis added)

## II. Understanding the Nature of Faith.

"Now faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the CONVICTION of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1 (NIV - Emphasis added)

### A. Understanding the terms:

#### 1. "Assurance" of things hoped for.

- a. Being \_\_\_\_\_ of
- b. To stand under

**"To stand under your own arches"** - The arch is a stunning architectural and engineering feat. It was perfected by the Romans and became the foundation of their architectural mastery. It allowed Romans to make bigger buildings and better aqueducts. Some of the oldest arches still standing today are over 2000 years old.

Folklore reveals the reason for this amazing endurance. Roman law dictated that the engineer who designed the arch had to stand under it when the scaffolding was removed.

- c. Such assurance enables the follower of Jesus to treat the future as though it were the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
"Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." - Romans 4:20-21 (NIV)

#### 2. "Conviction" of things not seen.

- a. Proof or \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Expose or show to be guilty
- c. Such assurance enables the follower of Jesus to treat the invisible as \_\_\_\_\_ .

Question: How many of you have seen Jesus? Faith is the firm assurance that He exists...

### B. The key to understanding the *nature of faith* lies in the understanding of the **OBJECT** of our faith.

**Agree or Disagree:** The power of faith rests in the reliability of its object, not in how confident or convicted you may be." Why or why not?

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' <sup>6</sup> He replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.'" - Luke 17:5-6 (NIV)

### III. Obtaining Faith

A. Christian faith is produced in a similar way to any other faith.

1. Faith is produced by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that is convincing to the mind.

**Agree or Disagree:** The degree of faith one places in an object is directly proportional to the *knowledge* of the object.

2. Faith in Christ is developed by weighing the abundant evidence as discovered in the scriptures and in the testimonies of His followers.

B. Faith results from an \_\_\_\_\_ of testimony or evidence.

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." - Romans 10:17 (NIV)

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that BY BELIEVING you may have life in his name." - John 20:30-31 (NIV - Emphasis added)

(Reference: John 5:46-47, Acts 15:7)

### IV. The Relation of Faith to Obedience

A. The obedience of Faith.

"Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake." - Romans 1:5 (NIV)

(Reference: romans 16:26, Acts 6:7)

1. The obedience of faith is the obedience which faith \_\_\_\_\_, or which springs out of faith.
2. Two sources of obedience:
  - a. Obedience produced by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Obedience produced by \_\_\_\_\_.

God desires to know whether we obey Him because of faith and love or whether we obey Him for some other motive.

B. Obedience is simply Faith in Action.

"You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." - James 2:24 (NIV)

**Agree or Disagree:** "A person does not have *true faith* unless it leads them to obedience?" Why or why not?

1. Obedience is not something a person does in *addition to* or *apart from* his faith, but rather it is his faith in action.

**Discuss:** Is a person saved by faith or by obedience?