

Study 0013

Scripture Text: Hebrews 6:1; 11:1

Following a well laid foundational teaching on repentance from dead works, hopefully, we now move on to establish the foundational truth on Faith Toward God. From the outset, it is important to note that there can be no faith toward God without first having repented from deeds that lead to death (that is, sin)!

The word 'faith' can find application in the secular as well as in Scripture. Although our concern is with the use of faith in Scripture, we nonetheless wish to look at faith in general. Faith has many meanings and implications, and these are as follows: Faith is..

- Having an assurance about something;
- Believing in someone or something;
- Having confidence in someone or something;
- Being dependent on someone or something;
- Relying on someone or something;
- Holding on to someone or something;
- Leaning on someone or something;
- Resting upon someone or something;
- Trusting in someone or something;
- Being convinced that someone is who he says he is, or something is what it is said to be;
- Being fully persuaded about someone or something.

Faith is a scriptural word. What makes faith scriptural is because of the 'someone' or 'something' in which we put our trust. In the secular, the 'someone' would be a man— an expert, an employer, an executive, etc. (**2 Kings 7:1-2**); while the 'something' could be a piece of equipment, a machinery, an idea, an organization, physical strength, size, etc. (**Zechariah 4:6; Ecclesiastes 9:11**).

In a scriptural sense, however, 'faith' is always directed at God and His word. Hence, what marks out the faith of the believer in Jesus Christ is the direction and object of their faith—God! The source of the faith of a believer in Jesus Christ is also a distinguishing factor— which is God and His word (**Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:17**).

Faith in anyone or anything apart from God will disappoint the person who is putting his or her faith in that person or thing. Only faith in God and His Word does not disappoint (**Romans 9:33; 10:11**). In **Hebrews 11:1**, faith is defined as:

- 1) The substance of things hoped for; and,
- 2) The evidence of things not seen.

The implication of these biblical definitions, are as follows:

- (a) Faith is Truth. This means that whatever God has promised will surely happen, even if the events occurring presently do not seem to agree with the promise. Put another way, whatever you have been told by God is truth even in the face of severe contradictions. (**Romans 4:17-21**)
- (b) Faith is Tangible. This means that you can hold on to what has not yet been seen. (**Daniel 3:1-27**)
- (c) Faith is Real. This means that faith is not a lie or fable. Faith is real! It is not an idea that evaporates. It is something that manifests. (**Hebrews 11:3; 2 Kings 7:1-20**).

This is the reason why the bible says that we, who believe in Jesus Christ, must walk (that is, live habitually) by faith (that is, believing every word of God) (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). In other words, we don't believe something just because we can see it with our physical eyes, or because it makes sense to us. No! We believe and are certain, only, of everything that God says! (**Hebrews 11:8; Mark 5:35-36**).

Thus, we must go to God in faith (**Hebrews 11:6b**); that is, believe Him for Who He says He is. Our faith must be towards God; and not towards science, neither toward things learned in school, nor what we have observed over the years; nor yet, trust in the things the 'experts' have told us (**Isaiah 53:1**). It follows therefore that from the time we choose to believe in God, we must believe only in what He says and nothing else. We cannot therefore, quarrel with the word of God, if our faith is toward God! Hence, we not only go to God in faith, but we must also grow in faith toward God (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

EXERCISE

[A] To have faith in God is to:

[B] The difference between secular and scriptural faith are in the _____, _____, and _____ of faith.

[C] Faith as it applies to the believer in Jesus Christ is always toward _____. This means that the believer in Jesus Christ must first _____ to _____ in faith; and then _____ in _____ to _____.

[D] Faith is:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

[E] It is possible to have faith in _____ or _____ other than _____ and be _____. Only faith in _____ does not _____.