

What is Biblical Faith?

The Faith (belief)
Our Faith (belief)
Little Faith (belief)

“Faith is not human insight; it is personal knowledge of God made possible by the Holy Spirit.” John Calvin

The statement amounts to this, that we ought not to wonder if many refuse to embrace the Gospel; because no man will ever of himself be able to come to Christ, but God must first approach him by his Spirit; and hence it follows that all are not drawn, but that God bestows this grace on those whom he has elected. True, indeed, as to the kind of drawing, it is not violent, so as to compel men by external force; but still it is a powerful impulse of the Holy Spirit, which makes men willing who formerly were unwilling and reluctant. “Institutes of Christian Religion” Calvin

**The Faith (belief)
Our Faith (belief)
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Heb 11 Faith defined

- Faith is:
 - ◆ Substance, hupo-stasis, setting under, confidence - Heb 3:14, assurance of first love
 - ◆ Things hoped for – Elpizo – expect or trust
Heb 11:13 faithful **saw** the promised thing, were persuaded, embraced them
 - ◆ Evidence – elegchos – proof, conviction
 - ◆ Things not seen – don't have to see it if you know it's there. We rely on many things w/o seeing them because we see the evidence.
 - ◆ Joh 3:8 the unseen wind – moves clouds

Faith - Heb 11

- Abel's faith – how did he know?
- Enoch pleased God – by accident?
- Noah's faith was only reasonable because God talked to him – right?
- Abraham left his comfort to go where God led. Are we too comfortable to do what God says?
- We likewise have God's Words, or do we? (I haven't found my name recorded in scripture yet)

The Faith is the Gospel

- Jude describes Truth as “the Faith”
 - ◆ Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - ◆ Act 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. (see Act 14:22 continue in the faith)

The Faith is the Truth

- Gospel truth is opposite error and it saves
 - ◆ Sanctified in Truth, the Word
 - ◆ John 17:17
 - ◆ Must defend the truth of the Gospel
 - ◆ Gal 2:5, 14
 - ◆ Word of Truth is the Gospel
 - ◆ Eph 1:13, Col 1:5
 - ◆ The Truth saves men 2Th 2:10, 11
 - ◆ Some don't love the truth, are condemned

Our Faith

- Heb 11:6 But without faith {it is} impossible to please {Him}, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and {that} He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 - ◆ “without faith” is the same as unbelief or belief in error.
 - ◆ Confusion on source of our faith. Directly from God, with or without knowledge of Truth. Calvinism makes God a respecter Act 10:34
 - ◆ Eph 2:8,9 Our faith is not a gift from God
 - ◆ Rom 10:17 faith is a response to testimony

Our belief (faith)

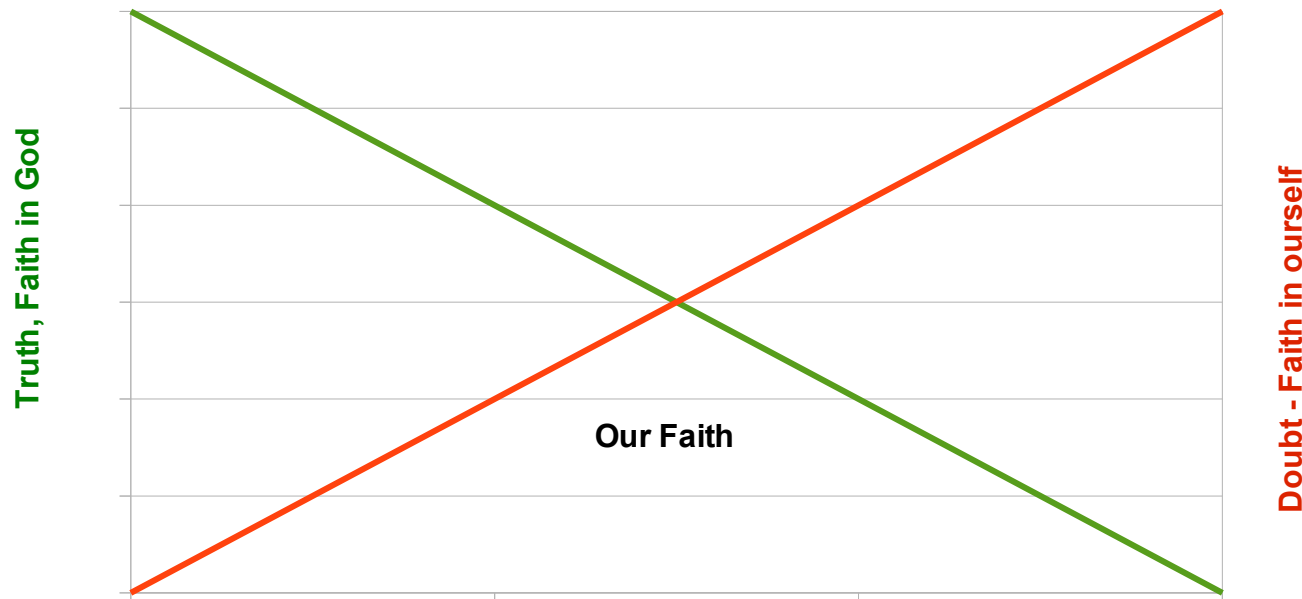
- Only way God convinces us is through testimony.
 - ◆ Joh 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
 - ◆ Joh 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Doubt is simply faith in error.

- To understand faith, we must understand doubt. Faith in God excludes (denies) faith in self. To the extent we trust ourselves, we doubt God.

Faith and Doubt

Cannot serve God and Satan



A little faith produced is not enough

- We can have an insufficient amount of faith.
 - ◆ Agrippa Act 26:26, 27
 - ◆ "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe." Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
 - ◆ Paul, by inspiration, recognized Agrippa's faith in prophecy, but challenged him to act on that faith.

A little faith is not enough

- We can have an insufficient amount of faith.
 - ◆ Rulers Joh 12:42 “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess {Him}, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;” The rulers of the Jews; likewise, believed in Jesus, but would not follow Him. Where did their faith come from?
 - ◆ Contrasted to general spiritual blindness and hardness, these rulers had faith!
 - ◆ Compare the demons in Jam 2:19

Testing our faith

- The Faith of the Gospel of Jesus is strong and capable. There is nothing wrong with it. Rom 1:16,17
- Our faith may be too weak to save us. Even though we have a belief in God, it may not save us.
- Proving (the end of) God's will Rom 12:2,3 by the “metron” of faith. The end is the gospel of salvation, the means for God is by grace, the means for us is through faith.

More important things than God?

- How are we using our time?
 - ◆ Mat 6:19, 20 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."
 - ◆ Do we spend too much time in pursuit of the things of this world? Eph 5:16 redeem, 1Pe 4:2-4 rest of our time
 - ◆ Hag 1:4 Is your house more important than God's house?

Too busy to eat?

- No time to read and meditate on God's Word
 - ◆ 1Co 3:2,3 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able {to receive it}, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where {there are} envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like {mere} men?
 - ◆ Heb 5,6 babies can't digest food, grow up and grow food for babies

Too busy for God?

- No time to work in the kingdom – secular job requires all my time.
 - ◆ We are to work with our hands, 1Th 4:11, 2Th 3:10
 - ◆ Yet, Jesus said to seek first the kingdom in Mat 6:3-33 Do we have enough food and clothing?
 - ◆ Rich ruler only lacked one thing Mark 10:21
 - ◆ Did Jesus require too much sacrifice from him?
Can you have true faith in God when you have abundance of this world's goods?

99.44% Faithful

- We learned that the rulers only lacked one thing – confessing Christ (Jn 12:42)
- The young ruler lacked one thing. Mt 19:21
- Denominationalists lack one thing. Gal 1:6
- The Judaizers lack freedom in Christ. Gal 5:1
- Adam and Eve obeyed in all but one. Gen 3:6
- In what one point do you offend? Jam 2:10, 2Co 13:5 Examine, test and realize...