

From Theoretical Faith to Factual Faith

Romans 10:14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

The Work of Faith: Romans 10:9–11 ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

- One must openly confess Jesus Christ as the Lord over their life.
 - I believe in Jesus Christ
 - I am a follower of Jesus Christ
 - I am a Christian.
- This must be more than words. This must be the conviction of one’s heart. The heart implies the whole person; affecting the mind, the will, the spirit, and the whole essence of a person.

Faith Defined: Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Assurance / Substance > **hupóstasis** > that which is placed or set under; The ground of confidence, assurance, guarantee, or proof.

We Start with a Theory. Do we believe what we have learned?

Matthew 13:5–6 ⁵ “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:20–21 ²⁰ “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately **he falls away**.

The faith of these did not support them. Our knowledge is only a theory until it is proven to be a fact. Faith produces Faith. We must act on what we have learned and believed.

Matthew 7:24–25 ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Proving Our Faith to ourselves and to the world. Romans 12:1–2 ¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

As the burnt offering was tied to the horns of the altar and fully presented unto God, we are to surrender ourselves, our bodies, and our lives fully and completely unto God. This is our spiritual act of worship and service unto God. See also Romans 6:13;19.

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The Negative Command: “Do not be conformed to this world (this age).”

- This refers to the culture – (the pattern of an evil age – Gal. 1:4)
- The devil is the god of this age. 2 Cor. 4:4
- He is the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2

The threat comes from “this world,” whose ways and thoughts can so easily impinge (collide with / impress upon) on the child of God. The follower of Christ has been delivered from this present evil age which has Satan for its god. He lives by the powers of the age to come (Heb 6:5), but his heavenly calling includes residence in this world, among sinful men, where he is to show forth the praises of him who called him out of darkness into God’s marvelous light. He is in the world for witness, but not for conformity. (some excerpts taken from the expository bible commentary)

We must prove what the will of God is - **dokimázō**; > To try, prove, discern, distinguish, approve. It has the notion of proving a thing whether it is worthy or not.

Learning and practicing transform our whole life which brings us to the Positive Command.

Complementary to the refusal to be conformed to the pattern of this world is the command to be “transformed.” The two processes are viewed as going on all the time, a continual renunciation and renewal.

This is how we go from faith to faith.

Romans 1:16–17 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous *man* shall live by faith.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Hebrews 5:14 ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Malachi 1:8–14 (NASB95)

⁸ “But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. ⁹ “But now will you not entreat God’s favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. ¹⁰ “Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle *fire on* My altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from you. ¹¹ “For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering *that is* pure; for My name *will be* great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts. ¹² “But you are profaning it, in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.’ ¹³ “You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’ And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and *what is* lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the Lord. ¹⁴ “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King,” says the Lord of hosts, “and My name is feared among the nations.”