

What is Faith?

- I. What it is not.
 - a. It is not an intellectual assent or agreement to facts (James 2:14)
 - b. It is not a tangible “thing” or even an “idea”
 - c. It is not Hope (Rom 8:24-25)
- II. What is it?
 - a. Hebrews 11:1 – Substantiates things hoped for; proof of unseen things. Faith is a substantiating ability.
 - i. Camera analogy: Scenery (truth) & Seeing (faith) are objective to the camera but when light (Spirit) brings the scenery to the film (our human spirit) within the camera, both the seeing and the scenery become subjective to the camera.
 - b. 6th sense – all-inclusive sense to contact/receive the invisible things of God (2 Cor 4:18)
 - i. See – Eph 1:18, Matt 5:8, Job 42:5
 - ii. Hear – Gal 3:2, Rev 2:7a
 - iii. Touch – Matt 9:21; 14:36, John 4:24
 - iv. Taste – Ps 34:8, 1 Pet 2:2-3
 - v. Smell – 2 Cor 2:15, Eph 5:2
 - vi. In maturity, able to discern the things of God and things not of God (Phil 1:9)
- III. Where is it and where is it from?
 - a. It is in our spirit (2 Cor 4:13)
 - b. Word – Hearing – Faith: Rom 10:17
 - c. Faith is Christ Himself believing for us in a subjective way to become the believing element in our being (Gal 2:16, 20; Rom 3:22)
 - i. It is not we who believe but He who believes within us to make us believing beings.
 - ii. It appears to be our believing, but actually it is His believing.
- IV. How we exercise it.
 - a. We “walk” by faith (2 Cor 5:7). Walk, peripateo 4043, here means “walk around” as in a complete circuit: meaning the conduct within the daily living of our lives. (Hab 2:4)
 - b. Hebrews 12:2 – Look away unto Jesus: aphorao 872, look away from all else and fix the gaze upon.
 - i. He regenerates us as the Author of our faith (Author= Pioneer: arxegos 746, the originator or founder of a movement that continues as the leader) (Gal 3:2,3)
 - ii. Christ transfuses Himself into us from our spirit as the Spirit into our soul (1 Cor 15:45b, 2 Cor 3:18) (Gal 3:5)
 - iii. He produces Himself as the “fruit” in our humanity (Eph 3:17-19)
 - iv. He reproduces Himself through us as the seed of faith into others (Jn 15 “fruit”)
 - c. Rom 12:3, we have been given a “measure”. He is the “measure”, the mustard seed, planted within the soil; produces the plant and more mustard seeds (Matt 17:20; 13:31). Christ is the seed, the plant, and the produce!
 - d. Heb 11:6 – Needed to please God
 - i. Eph 1:5 His Eternal Purpose is according to what pleases Him.