

## Lesson 1

# A Study of Faith

## What Does Our Faith Do for Us?

### Introduction

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.*

Ephesians 1:18-19

Enlightening or enriching our faith is not a matter of magic. Many Christians inherit their belief system from those who have taught them from birth. Through faith, we trust our instructors and build our beliefs on our hearing. Luke records that the people of Berea were noble in their pursuit of faith, accepting only what they confirmed through the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). Our goal should not be the easy path but the correct one in building our faith. Seeking knowledge of Scripture is not about confirming what we have always believed but about understanding what has been revealed, making it the steadfast foundation that shapes our character and actions.

In the New Testament, "faith" is used in two different ways. First is *the faith* handed down by the Apostles and inspired writers. Second, there is *personal* and motivational faith. Typically, studies about faith focus on Hebrews 11, and in these lessons, we will refer to what is written there and other demonstrations of faith throughout Scripture. Faith has led God's people to accomplish remarkable things.

However, this lesson series will focus on what it takes to acquire faith and what our personal faith compels us to do. If faith is not the basis for changing our character, what is? We will examine our weaknesses and how faith helps us overcome them, leading to necessary changes that make us more like Jesus. We cannot please God without faith, as it is the foundational element for transformation. Some biblical characters failed when their faith was not properly focused. When their faith was directed at God and His promises, they accomplished great things in service to others and strengthened their relationship with God.

What does our faith do for us? Do we have a foundational faith that shapes our lives and changes our attitudes? If our faith currently moves us toward God and His purpose, how can we continue to grow in that faith?

Faith has led God's people to achieve remarkable things, but it also requires us to address our weaknesses and make necessary changes to our character to become more like Jesus. Without faith, we cannot please God because it is the foundational element for change.

We want this study to open the eyes of your heart and help you develop an active faith that facilitates change in your life. The pursuit of faith is not about confirming what we have always been taught but

understanding what has been revealed through Scripture. It is about building a steadfast foundation that shapes our character and actions. This study will explore the difference between the faith handed down by the Apostles and the personal, motivational faith that compels us to act.

This lesson specifically examines the concept of "one faith" described in Ephesians 4:4-6, understanding it as the singular Gospel of Christ we are called to preach, protect, and practice. Returning to the original language and context, we hope to illuminate the true essence of faith and its critical role in our spiritual life.

## There is One Faith

The following is a modified version of Ken Weliever's<sup>1</sup> writing. This article fits very well with the introduction to what we want to accomplish here.

Several years ago, Robert Jeffress introduced then-Texas governor Rick Perry at a Values Voters Summit. His introduction commended Perry's faith and mentioned Mormonism as a cult. Jeffress' remarks produced a firestorm of criticism. Multiple media outlets condemned him as bigoted, intolerant, and narrow-minded.

However, the ensuing conversation raised some interesting questions. Are all religions equally valid before God? Do your beliefs make any difference if you're honest and sincere? What is the difference between Christianity and Islam or Buddhism? And more to the issue where most of us live—what about the different "faiths" under the umbrella of "Christianity"? People used to ask, "What Faith are you?" Does God care which faith you embrace?

In Ephesians 4:4-6 Paul wrote, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Bible Expositor W. E. Vine defines faith as "Primarily a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing. By metonymy, what is believed, the contents of belief, the faith." The expression "your faith" is found 35 times in the New Testament, speaking of one's trust, confidence, and conviction. Paul's preaching was designed to instill confidence in "the power of God" instead of "the wisdom of men" (1 Corinthians 2:5). However, as Vine suggests, the word is used by metonymy. In other words, it substitutes an attribute or uses "a figure of speech that consists of the use of the name of one object or concept for that of another to which it is related."

Ephesians 4:4 speaks of "the system of faith." Consider these other Bible passages that use "faith" similarly.

- "Earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3)
- "The faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27)
- "Obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7)
- "Continue in the faith" (Acts 14:22)
- "Preaching the faith" (Galatians 1:23)

- “A true son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2)
- “The mystery of the faith” (1 Timothy 3:9)

These and many passages speak of the “one faith,” the Gospel of Christ, the Word of God. Sometimes, it is called the doctrine of God, Christ, or the apostles’ doctrine. “The faith” that Jude affirmed was “once delivered to all the saints.” Over 30 times in the New Testament, “the faith” is considered the “one faith.” It is the faith Paul asserted he received by revelation of the Holy Spirit. He wrote it down. We can read it. We can understand it. We can believe it. And obey it.

God justifies us when we have faith in His promises. Paul put it this way: Romans 5:1-2, in which he used “faith” in both ways. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. The “one faith” declares the grace and mercy of God. It reveals His plan for our salvation. It is how we can be made righteous in His sight. Enjoy peace of mind. And look forward with hope to a future reward.

As already noted, “the one faith” has been revealed by the apostles. Jude’s expression “once delivered” means for all time and all people. There is no continuing revelation. There are no apostles today adding to the faith. No man, church, preacher, pastor, Bible teacher, or blogger has the right to add to or subtract from the “one faith” – “the faith of the gospel” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Just as there is one God, one Lord, and one Spirit, there is one faith. We are called on to preach it. Protect it. Not pervert it. And to practice it. G. K. Chesterton was right, “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried!”

## Conclusion

Our study of “one faith” in Ephesians 4:4-6 emphasizes the unified, singular Gospel of Christ that we are called to preach, protect, and practice. This “one faith” is the foundation of our salvation, revealed once for all, through the apostles and recorded in the Scriptures.

Remember that true faith is not about confirming our pre-existing beliefs but understanding and embracing the revealed truths of Scripture. A dynamic, active trust in God transforms our lives and aligns us with His purposes. May this deeper understanding of faith enlighten the eyes of our hearts, guiding us toward a more faithful and committed walk with our Lord.

## For Discussion

Define “the faith” that was once delivered for all the saints. Write down as much as possible to define “the faith.”

Is “the faith” different from the gospel?

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<sup>1</sup> Weliever, Ken. “There is One Faith.” *The Preacher’s Word*. March 4, 2024.  
<http://www.thepreachersword.com/2024/03/04/there-is-one-faith/>