

Faith in the New Testament

Why Faith?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. -- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (CSB)

Defining Faith

- Greek word: *pistis* (occurs approximately 240 times in the New Testament)
- In the majority of occurrences, faith can be defined as _____ and _____ in God.
- Our *faith* is rooted in His *faithfulness*.
- Faith is not mere cognitive assent to a certain set of beliefs. Faith is _____ and _____.
- Faith is rooted in a _____. Jesus Christ is the proper object of our faith. Over and over again, faith is rooted _____.
- We are saved by grace through faith. We are justified by faith. Our righteousness comes through faith.
 - Not works
 - Not perfect obedience
 - Not being Jewish
 - Not the Law
 - Not circumcision
 - *The righteousness of God is **through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. -- Romans 3:22-24 (CSB)*
 - *For you are **saved by grace through faith**, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast. -- Ephesians 2:8-9 (CSB)*
- A little faith goes a long way.
 - *The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed," the Lord said, "you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. -- Luke 17:5-6 (CSB)*

- Your faith can _____.
 - Stephen and Barnabus are described as “full of faith” (Acts 6:5; 11:24).
 - People can have varying measures of faith, and it can be a spiritual gift.
 - Faith can flourish (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- Increasing in faith gives us something to grow toward, but we don’t have to live in fear of having “_____” faith. The faith you have is enough, *and* you can have more.
 - The book of 1 John offers assurance of how we can know that we are in Christ.

A Lifelong Pursuit of Faith

- You are invited into a _____ of faith.

There is the possibility of...

- Wandering away from the faith
 - *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have **wandered away from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs. -- 1 Timothy 6:10 (CSB)*
- Departing from the faith
 - *Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **some will depart from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons... -- 1 Timothy 4:1 (CSB)*
 - *Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. By professing it, **some people have departed from the faith**. -- 1 Timothy 6:20-21 (CSB)*
- Rejecting the faith
 - *... having faith and a good conscience, **which some have rejected and have shipwrecked the faith**. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme. -- 1 Timothy 1:19-20 (CSB)*
- Denying the faith
 - *But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has **denied the faith** and is worse than an unbeliever. -- 1 Timothy 5:8 (CSB)*

In contrast, hear these _____:

- Stand firm
 - *Be alert, **stand firm in the faith**, be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love. -- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (CSB)*
- Contend for the faith
 - *I found it necessary to write, appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was delivered to the saints once for all. -- Jude 1:3 (CSB)*
 - *... I will hear about you that you are **standing firm** in one spirit, in one accord, **contending together** for the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents. -- Philippians 1:27-28 (CSB)*
- Test and examine yourself
 - ***Test yourselves** to see if you are in the faith. **Examine yourselves**. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless you fail the test. -- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (CSB)*
- Do not resent or fear the testing of your faith
 - *... because you know that **the testing of your faith** produces endurance. -- James 1:3 (CSB)*
- _____ from evil and _____ righteousness
 - ***Flee** from youthful passions, and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. -- 2 Timothy 2:22 (CSB)*
- _____ the good fight
 - *But you, man of God, **flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life** to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. -- 1 Timothy 6:11-12 (CSB)*
 - *Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, so that by recalling them you may **fight the good fight**, having faith and a good conscience ... -- 1 Timothy 1:18-19 (CSB)*

Eyes of Faith

- Faith requires believing what we _____.
 - *Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. -- Hebrews 11:1 (CSB)*
 - *For we walk by faith, not by sight. -- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (CSB)*
- Two passages that shift my perspective:

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. -- James 1:2-4 (CSB)

Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. -- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (CSB)

- What is one situation in your life right now that requires faith?
- How might eyes of faith view that situation? (Ask God.)

When Your Faith Is Failing...

- When your faith is failing:
 - Don't be afraid of or resent suffering, pruning, and refining. Don't panic or be surprised; these are normal parts of the Christian life.
 - Confession & repentance
 - Talk to a friend about it (no isolation!)
 - Take it to the prayer team
 - Sing
 - Read Scripture out loud
 - Pray Scripture

Keep Going! It's Worth It!

Jesus is _____

And Jesus is _____

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing. -- Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (CSB)

"I Praise You, God" by Andy Squires

Conclusion