

FAITH BASICS 101 – Session 1 – Why Faith?

Learning How to Put Your Faith to Work

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I. Introduction

- A. Why this series? There is a lack of teaching and instruction about faith throughout the body of Christ
 1. Most understand faith for salvation
 2. Few understand faith for receiving other things
- B. Faith is God's chosen tool by which we receive the things that he has provided to us. Everything that we receive from the Lord must be received by the hand/arm of faith.
- C. **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)** – *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Faith is so important that God saw fit to declare in His Word that it would be impossible for anyone to please Him unless they had faith!

II. Examples of the necessity of Faith Throughout the Bible

A. Old Testament Examples of Great Faith

1. Hebrews 11 offers the following names of people who walked by faith in the Old testament: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David and Samuel

Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV) – ³⁹*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

B. Old Testament Examples of people who lacked in faith

1. **Hebrews 3:15-19 (NLT)** – ¹⁵*Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”^[a] ¹⁶And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn’t it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn’t it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his*

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rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? ¹⁹ So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

2. **Hebrews 4:1-2 (NLT)** – *¹God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. ² For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't **share the faith** of those who listened to God*

C. Jesus commends people for their faith

1. **Matthew 9:2 (KJV)** – *And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. Jesus SAW their faith – He always notices faith!*
2. **Matthew 14:31 (KJV)** – *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? Jesus noticed doubt!*
3. **Matthew 8:10 (KJV)** – *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*
 - a. Jesus commented on unbelief
 - b. Jesus commended faith!
4. **Mark 5:34 (KJV)** – *And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*
5. **Luke 17:17-19 (KJV)** – *¹⁷And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? ¹⁸There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. ¹⁹And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole*
6. **Jesus ministry was limited because of a lack of faith**
 - a. **Matthew 13:58 (KJV)** – *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*
 - b. **Mark 6:5 (KJV)** – *He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them*
7. **Jesus commanded Faith**

Mark 11:22 (KJV) – *Have faith in God!*

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D. Faith throughout the Apostles Ministries

Acts 14:9-10 (KJV) – ⁹The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked

While this man was clearly lame, Paul did not lay hands on him until he perceived that the man had faith to be healed.

III. Closing Thoughts

- A. The Word of God spoke often regarding faith
- B. Jesus considered faith to be a necessary factor in receiving from God.
- C. The word of God always speaks against unbelief/lack of faith
- D. Jesus commanded us to have faith
- E. Faith is foundational in our experience with the Lord.