

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

FAITH,

Lesson 2

return pages 8 & 9

- **How important is the Doctrine of Faith?**

Everyone seeks to please God; every religion has this under-lining principle, but God's Word says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please him"* (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is the one requirement for receiving God's grace and favor.

Christ recognized faith above all other virtues. The Syrophenician woman in Matthew 15:21-28 sought the Lord diligently, but she was rewarded not for her perseverance, but for her faith. Matthew 15:28. The centurion came to the Lord in humility, but his servant was healed because of his faith. Matthew 8:10. The blind man in Mark 10:46-52 was earnest in his plea but received his sight because of his faith. *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."* II Peter 1:5-7.

In II Peter 1:5-7, faith is the foundation upon which the seven other graces of our spiritual temple are laid. These graces make us that we "shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" II Peter 1:8. We must "believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" Hebrews 11:6. No one can be fruitful in the knowledge of one whose existence he doubts.

In the listing of the three graces in I Corinthians 13:13, says the greatest is love, but he makes faith the basis of the other two. "Faith is the substance (assurance) of things not seen" Hebrews 11:1. The only hope we have is in Jesus Christ. To doubt His existence would leave no basis for hope. Faith is also the very evidence of things not seen; for how can we love Him whom we have not seen without perfect confidence in His existence. *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."* 1 Peter 1:8-9

Therefore, both our hope for the future and our present love for Him who holds the future is based upon our faith in Him. Our faith is in Jesus Christ. Therefore, to fear because of circumstances around us is to doubt the very nature of Jesus Christ and His power to do the thing about which we doubt.

It is very difficult to define faith, because the word "faith" is used in so many different ways. However, faith is used in the Scripture both in a general and a particular sense.

- **What is meant by Faith in General?**

Faith in the general sense involves a knowledge of the word of God, accepting its claims as true, and personally receiving its benefits or promises. These three elements of faith will be dealt with separately.

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

- **What relation does knowledge of the word of God have to faith?**

Faith is based upon a knowledge of the word of God. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10:17. So then to be rich in faith requires a rich knowledge of God's Word. Believing God's Word at face value is to believe in the One who spoke those words *"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."* . Psalms 9:10 Faith is based upon the very best evidence the word of God that *"shall stand for ever"* Isaiah 40:8. This simply means accepting as true what God says in His Word, especially regarding our sinfulness and salvation through Christ. We do not have to have a perfect knowledge of Christ and His work, but on the other hand, it is not just taking notice of these things without also experiencing a deep conviction that they are true. By faith the scales fall from our eyes, revealing the hidden spiritual truths to which our heart responds. Founded in God Himself, who cannot lie Titus 1:2, nothing can be more certain than this knowledge. Faith is concerned with spiritual and eternal things in which certainty is surely needed, and if there is no certainty here, our faith is in vain. Faith is not a leap into the dark, but is a well-lighted highway. Psalms 119:130; Psalms 119:105. Our knowledge of God's Word must be not only in our head but also in our heart. *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11 and look at Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

- **Accepting the claims of the Word of God as true.**

Knowledge of the Word of God is essential, but we must also acknowledge as true the things we know. Mark 12:32 Knowing that Jesus is able to save and that He is the Saviour of the world, we must also yield our heart to all of these claims.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" John 1:12. Those who received Christ to be all that He claimed to be and believed in Him became sons of God. When a person receives Christ by faith, he has a deep conviction that He is real and that all of God's Word concerning Him is true. Feeling also that Christ meets an important need in his life, he has a real interest in Him.

- **Personally receiving that which you know and acknowledging it as truth**

To know the truth concerning Christ and to acknowledge His claims as true does not profit anything unless we receive Him for ourselves. *"As many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God"* John 1:12. It is possible to know that Christ is divine and still reject Him as Saviour. We can acknowledge the Scriptural claims of Christ without surrendering our heart and affections to Him as Saviour. Faith demands a complete surrender of our will to what we know in our head and accept in our heart as true. Faith always involves action. It is the soul leaping forth to receive the Christ in whom it believes.

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

When we refuse to receive what we know will meet our needs, it forever remains beyond our reach as useless. Whether or not we receive Christ as Saviour is a matter of life and death. John 3:36; I John 5:12.

Knowing the claims of the Word of God and accepting them as true will profit nothing if we are not led to receive for ourselves the object of our faith, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:2.

These elements of faith are all bound together in the heart, the center of our spiritual life, out of which comes the "issues of life" Proverbs 4:23. This, then, is faith in general, knowledge of the word of God as its foundation, accepting it in the heart as true, and surrendering the will to its claims.

- **What is meant by Faith in particular?**

When Faith is used in connection with the name of God.

There can be no dealings with the invisible God without an absolute faith in His existence. We must also believe that He is real and can only be seen with the spiritual eyes of faith. We must believe that He hears prayer Psalm 65:2, and is the "*rewarder of them that diligently seek him*" Hebrews 11:6. Study also Acts 27:22-25; Romans 4:19-21; and Genesis 15:4-6. We must believe that He will honor with definite blessings all those who come to Him in prayer. Mark 11:24. Faith believes all that God says is absolutely true, even though present circumstances seem to be against its fulfillment.

2. When faith is used in connection with the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. There must be a knowledge of Christ's claims as to who HE is and what HIS mission is in the world.

- **as to HIS person - that HE is GOD**

"Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? John 14:8-9 and look at "I and my Father are one." John 10:30 Study also Philipians 2:6:11; I Timothy 3:16.

- **as to HIS work - saving the lost**

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 Study also Luke 24:27-44; Matthew 26:26-28.

We must accept all of these claims as true John 16:30. see also John 20:28; Matthew 16:16.; John 6:68-69.

We must personally take CHRIST as being all that HE claims to be.

John 1:12; John 8:21-24. Study also John 5:24. We must surrender to Jesus Christ as a living person. Faith in a doctrine leads to faith in a person who gives life to the doctrine. Thus, Martha was led to substitute faith in the doctrine of a resurrection for faith in the person of Christ who by His own resurrection would give life and force to the doctrine of a resurrection. John 11:25

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

- **When Faith is used in connection with Prayer**

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him". I John 5:14-15

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them". Mark 11:24

There must be no hesitation between belief and unbelief. To doubt is to question God's power to do it. Study Romans 4:20 and Acts 10:20. This is, then, limiting God; for it is to Him that we pray. Real faith thanks God for the thing asked for even before it is received, if that thing is in accord with the will of God. We must understand the promises on which we base our prayer. Believing that the promises are worth their full value, we then step out upon them. Thus, we make real that which, at the moment may be unseen, and may not even exist, so far as our knowledge and vision are concerned. However, by faith we see it and claim it as a splendid reality. Speaking of the great men of faith in Hebrews 11, God said, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, Hebrews 11:13.

- **When Faith is used in connection with GOD and HIS promises**

We should know whether or not a particular promise is intended for us, then, we must believe that God means all He says in that promise. We must accept it as true and not diminish nor discount it. God will not, cannot lie Titus 1:2. We must act upon His promises.

This is the difference between belief and faith. Faith backs up belief; gives life, reality, and activity to it Hebrews 11:1. Faith is acting upon what you believe. Faith counts every promise valid and pertinent Hebrews 11:11; no trial can shake it Hebrews 11:35; it is so absolute that it survives even the loss of its own pledge Hebrews 11:17.

- **What relation does Faith have to Works?**

There is no merit in faith alone. Faith does not save; it is faith in Christ. Some people say, "It does not make any difference what you believe so long as you are sincere." You may be sincere in what you believe, but if you believe a lie, it can profit nothing. The worshippers of Baal in the Old Testament were sincere in their faith, but their gods of wood and stone which they made with their own hands could not answer them in power as did the God of Elijah.

Faith in any other Saviour but Christ will not save. Faith in any other Gospel than that of the New Testament will not save. Galatians 1:8,9.

Romans does not contradict James concerning the matter of faith and works James 2:14-26 and Romans 4:1-12. Romans is looking at the matter from God's viewpoint and says we are made righteous in the sight of God without any works at all on our part. It is solely on the merits of Christ and His finished work on the cross. James considers the matter from man's viewpoint, saying, *"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."* James 2:24 Romans makes faith the ground or basis of our justification, but James says we show our faith through a practical

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

demonstration of works. We are justified in the sight of God by faith in the finished work of Christ, and we are justified in the sight of men by demonstrating that faith through good works, which should be the natural product of such faith. God is able to look into the heart, but men can only see that which is on the outside the out-working of the heart or the fruit of faith which is good works.

- **Where does faith come from?**

Faith is the combined work of GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, & GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **GOD THE FATHER, gives faith**

Shown in Romans 12:3; I Corinthians 12, GOD the Father bestows faith in the beginning and then provides for its development as seen in Philippians 1:29 Faith, then, is the gift of God's free grace.

- **GOD THE SON perfects Faith**

Hebrews 12:2; We are told in Matthew 14:30,31 that Peter was able to walk on the water by faith as long as he kept his eyes upon Jesus Christ. His faith was in Christ and His power to make him walk upon the water, but when he saw the rough waves beating around him, he began to doubt and fear and then began to sink. The moment we take our eyes off of Christ and look at the world around us with all of its difficulties and impossibilities, faith in Christ immediately gives way to fear of the circumstances.

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. (KJV)

- **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT Administers faith**

God the Holy Spirit is the executive of the Godhead. He administers the gift of See Galatians 5:22; I Corinthians 12:9. Faith, then, is the gift of God the Father. It is maintained and nourished by God the Son, and administered by the Holy Spirit.

- **The human side to faith**

Since faith is the work of the Godhead, we are responsible for not having it, because God desires to work faith in all of His creatures and will do so if they do not resist His Holy Spirit. We are responsible, therefore, not so much for the lack of faith, but for resisting the Spirit who will create faith in our hearts if we will permit Him to do so. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*

Romans 10:17, The Scriptures, are referred to as being instrumental in producing faith. In Galatians 3:2-5, Romans speaks about the working of miracles through *"the hearing of faith,"* and in Romans 4:19-20, Abraham's faith was wrought by claiming the promises of God. If faith comes by hearing the word of God spoken and by

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

reading the written word of God, we are responsible for the lack of faith, if we have an opportunity to hear the word of God or read the word of God and fail to do so.

Luke mentions prayer over and over again as an instrument in the development of faith. Luke 22:32. And the apostles stated "Increase our faith" Luke 17:5. Other passages that mention prayer as a vital factor in developing faith are Mark 9:24; and Matthew 17:19-21. Study these passages. Our faith grows by the use of the faith we already have Luke 17:5,6, and Matthew 25:29. Through exercise, the faith we have is strengthened.

- **What are the results of Faith?**

We are saved through faith Ephesians 2:8,9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* The power of faith is not in itself, but in the Lord Jesus Christ upon whom the faith rests. Salvation past, present, and future depends on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot start out on faith in Christ and then change over to works, which is really taking our faith out of Christ and putting it in ourselves. We are not only saved by faith, but we live in the present by faith. Romans 1:17. We are justified by faith. Romans 5:1. Our adoption is by faith. Galatians 3:26. We are sanctified by faith Acts 26:18. We are kept by the power of God through faith. I Peter 1:5. Indeed, our whole salvation from start to finish is dependent upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Faith gives rest, peace, assurance and joy**

Faith carries with it a certain feeling of safety and security, of gratitude and joy. At first there may be no conscious notice of this security and assurance, but as faith grows, the consciousness of this security and safety grows. *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) See also, Philippians 4:6,7; Romans 5:1; Hebrews 4: 3; John 14:1; I Peter 1:8.

Satan would reverse this order and put feeling before faith, and thus confuse the child of God. We should march in accord with God's order: Fact leads. Faith with its eye on Fact, following, and Feeling with the eye on Faith bringing up the rear. All goes well as long as this order is observed. But the moment. Faith turns his back on Fact, and looks at Feeling, the procession becomes unstable. So many people want to have the feeling first and then they will believe. This is contrary to God's order, and the person who adopts this order will soon suffer shipwreck on the rocks of doubt and fear. It is God's will that you should enjoy a perfect calm in the assurance of your salvation, because it all depends upon Christ and nothing on you. Unshakable faith in Christ that is based upon His unchanging Word is the key to perfect rest, peace, assurance, and joy.

- **There is no limit as to what can be done by FAITH**

Hebrews 11:32-34 *"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel,*

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. See also Matthew 21:21; John 14:12, note the wonderful things done by the men of faith as recorded in Hebrews 11. Read verses 32-40 again. Jesus attributes a kind of all-powerful to faith. The disciple, by faith, will be able to do greater things than his Master. Here is a mighty source of power for the believer. The great question for the Christian to answer is not "What can I do?" but, "How much can I believe?" for, "*All things are possible to him that believeth*" Mark 9:23.

Notes

<i>KJV</i>

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

FAITH Lesson 2

Name _____

1. What must we believe when we pray?
2. Where are all three elements of faith bound together?
3. How do we show our faith?
4. How can we come to know God?
5. Upon what is faith based?
6. What is the Word of God?
7. Explain why when we use faith in connection with Jesus Christ, we must know Him:
8. What must we know (believe) about the work of Christ?
9. Where does our faith originate?
10. What must be your response to the claims of Christ in order to be saved?
11. What is an important element required for receiving God's favor?
 - (a) knowledge
 - (b) faith
 - (c) riches
12. What is the relationship between faith and works?
13. What can be accomplished by faith?
14. What is the correct order?

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

- (a) Faith, fact, feeling
- (b) Feeling, fact, faith
- (c) Fact, faith, feeling

15. How are we responsible for having faith?



Scripture Memorization, Write these verses on the back of this page: 1 Peter 1:8-9; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17 must be in KJV

True/false

- In the exercise of faith there is no real assurance concerning the things that we believe?
- Faith, is something that we cannot touch or see?
- Faith is of no effect if that which we believe is not fully accepted as true?
- Faith is often referred to as blind trust and is, therefore, like a leap into the dark?
- Faith in God does not demand any trust beyond that which we see of Him revealed in creation around us.
- Belief in the deity (that He is God) of Jesus Christ is an absolute essential to faith in Him?
- To believe that Jesus actually existed and did all that the Bible said He did is the same as receiving Him for ourselves?
- Prayer (to be effective) must be based on faith in God's promises as found in the Bible?
- It is not necessary to know anything about the Word of God to pray acceptably?
- Faith is not a virtue, which we have from birth, but a gift from God?

Any questions?