

## BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF FAITH

NOTE: It is not enough for the Christian to know about the provision God has made for his daily life, he must know how to appropriate that provision and how to put it into practice.

### 1. Faith - a tentative definition

Faith is the response of the total person, to God as a Person, in loving submission, trust, and obedience, in and through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind offers Himself to the Believer, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Scripture, as his daily sufficiency.

### 2. Observations concerning faith

- a. Faith is not a feeling - but a decision. It is a decision to take God at His word and to act upon it. Note the words denoting decision in Hebrews 11:24-28:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them."

- B. Faith has characteristics that can be easily recognized.

1. Submission to God, His work, His Word.
2. Obedience - the practice of truth
3. Trust - dependence on God to fulfill His Word.

- C. Faith has a Person as its object - God

Acts. 16:31 *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

Acts 27:25 - *"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."*

- D. Faith has a context - love

Galatians 5:6 - *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."*

For faith to "work" one must have genuine love. Love and faith are mutually dependent.

**\*NOTE** - this is why it is so hard to exercise faith when we are out of fellowship with God.

E. Faith has a basis - the Scripture

Hebrews 4:1-3 - *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

John 17:17,19,20 - *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."*

3. Steps in a decision of faith.

NOTE - Decisions of faith must be used in every area of life, but for the sake of illustration we will use one of the most often used. Often one has the need to exercise faith in regard to some specific sin. I John 1:9 gives us the pattern for decisions of faith.

A. Confess -

B. Forsake -

C. Believe God -

D. Receive (appropriate) Jesus Christ as God's provision

E. Believe God's Word and live in the abundance God has provided.

In the area of sin - Note illustration.

Confess ... it as sin

Forsake ... it as sin.

Believe God . . . that He will forgive and cleanse you (deliver)

Praise Jesus Christ ... as the cleansing you need.

Believe God's Word . . . and live as the cleansed person you are.

RESULTS - cleansing - forgiveness - freedom to live for God.