

“FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH”

What faith is. What faith does. How faith comes.

HEBREWS 5:11-6:2 ESV

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. ^{6:1} Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of **faith toward God**, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

WHY IS FAITH IMPORTANT?

Without it you can't be saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, please God, walk free, or worship. Faith causes your hopes and dreams to come to pass, faith heals, saves, delivers, and receives every promise of God.

The Bible speaks of little faith, no faith, weak faith, mountain moving faith, no faith, failing faith, and dead faith. It speaks on the positive of being “full of faith,” growing faith, building faith, sincere faith, established faith, steadfast faith.

Hebrews 11:1-6 ESV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is a firm persuasion. Faith is simply what we believe.

WHAT DOES FAITH DO?

Faith receives heaven's promises.

Romans 4:18-25 ESV

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

HOW DOES FAITH COME?

Faith comes by hearing.

Romans 10:14-17 ESV

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

FAITH CONFESSIONS

FAITH WEEK AT HILL CITY

Thayer's Greek Dictionary defines faith as a "firm persuasion." Because God has created our beliefs to determine our direction and our direction to determine our destiny, we must not overlook the power unlocked only by everyday practices that align our beliefs with God's Word. Please use the confessions below to persuade your heart of their associated scriptures promise.

As a disclaimer, I must write that In our culture, "faith" has been misused to force God to do the follower's task – this transactional approach could not be further than what God intended for us. Faith, apart from connection to God, is no different than the common practice of "manifesting" we see in the world today. But true faith, being a gift of God, only grows in the context of a relationship with God. If we point to our "great faith" after seeing the results living by faith brings, or someone else's, we are taking the glory away from God. I implore you never to use these confessions to take God's glory away from him and onto anything else he has created, including you.

God saved me by grace through **faith**. (Ephesians 2: 8)

Christ dwells in my heart through **faith**. (Ephesians 3: 16-17)

My **faith** is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2: 8)

God gave me just as much **faith** as he has given anyone else. (Romans 12: 3)

My faith pleases God. (Hebrews 11: 6)

God's gift of **faith** to me preserves my soul. (Hebrews 10: 29)

By **faith** and patience, I will receive every promise of God for my life. (Hebrews 6: 12-15)

Faith will help me stand in God's grace no matter what comes. (1 Corinthians 16: 13-14)

I overcome all the power of the enemy through **faith**. (1 John 5: 4)

Today I choose to walk by **faith** and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5: 7)

I will live my life fighting to good fight of **faith**. (1 Timothy 6: 12)

By **faith** to me causes me to approach God confidently. (Ephesians 3: 12)

Faith moves mountains in my life. (Mark 11: 23)

Faith helps me to forgive quickly and often. (Mark 11: 22-25)

Anything is possible because I **believe**. (Mark 9: 23)

Any tests I encounter develop my **faith**. (James 1: 3)

My **faith** is growing and expressing itself love in my life. (2 Thessalonians 1: 3)

Faith causes me to believe what I do not yet see. (Hebrews 11: 1-2)

God's gift of **faith** to me helps me to talk differently. (Romans 4: 17)

God's gift of **faith** to me makes my prayer life effective. (Matthew 21: 22)