

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW MEMBER LESSON #2 – FAITH



**Introduction:**

Faith is a complex word which can be defined in several ways. Some common definitions are: Trust, Belief, and Complete Confidence in someone or something (without proof!). The biblical definition of Faith is derived from Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. “Without faith it is impossible to please God”. (Heb. 11:6)

The brow raising phrases are: ‘without proof’ and ‘do not see’. Human faith believes what it can see, hear, taste, touch, or feel. Christians operate in faith based upon the track record of Jesus Christ. Faith is God’s gift to every believer. We spend our wheels trying to get more faith when God has given to every believer a quality and quantity of faith. It is up to us to activate our faith. (Romans 12:3)

**The Lesson:**

This lesson will examine Faith from a natural and biblical perspective. One can have faith in a number of things, however for the Believer; Our Faith is in God alone. It took faith to begin this journey and it will take faith to complete this journey.

**How Do We Obtain Faith?**

Faith is visible all the time – How do we know? (a) We fly in airplanes (b) We let doctors put us to sleep for surgery (c) We get married 1-2-3 times (d) We purchase large items on credit (e) We go to work and wait 2 weeks for a pay check (f) We take risk/gamble. These actions require faith in something or someone, who may or maybe not have our best interest at heart.

The moment we trusted Jesus as our Saviour we were gifted with Faith. We then have a choice to allow faith to work or doubt to continue. Romans 10:17 states that Faith comes by hearing the word of God.

We live in the information age. We “hear” from the time we wake up until we lie down to sleep. What we hear can insight fear, worry or anxiety. The news is broadcasted all day long. If we only tune in to the media reports of the world, it will affect us emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Perhaps you grew up around people who chanted seeing-is-believing; however Faith is just the opposite. Faith relies solely on the promises of God. We must choose to hear the report of the Lord. Once we hear the word of God, His Spirit illumines our heart to believe. Every born again believer (those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior) has faith. If we need to increase our Faith, reading the word of God will do this. There are biblical truths which address every situation in life. Reading what the Bible has to say about life will increase our Faith and give us the strength to live by God's plan.

### **Activate Faith**

We activate Faith by first, believing Jesus is the Son of God. We acknowledge the power of God, which supersedes any human thoughts or imaginations. We apply the word of God to life situations by making decisions that honor the word. We trust that God always knows what is best and we whole heartedly rely on him to direct our path. We may not be able to see immediate evidence, but we said at the outset that Faith is the evidence of things unseen.

Noah had faith to build an Ark when there had not been rain on the earth. Moses had faith to leave his homeland and go to the unknown. Jesus followed God's plan all the way to the Cross. We are challenged on a daily basis to respond by faith in Jesus or respond by human instincts. It's faith in Jesus that makes us righteous before God and produces good results. (Galatians 2:16)

Building faith is a daily challenge. We are blessed as we intentionally ask God in prayer for His perfect plan to be revealed and we purposefully follow the plan. Too often we take humans at their word before we will take God at His word. The Lord's track record is perfect. Some bible characters that showed faith in Jesus were:

- a. Woman with the issue of blood – moved in the crowd by faith to touch Jesus (Matt 9:20-22)
- b. Military Officer told Jesus, just say the word and my Son will be healed (John 11:25)
- c. Mary the Mother of Jesus – said 'be it unto me according to your Word' (Luke 1:38)

When we believe God and take Him at his word, we receive unlimited promises: Salvation, Power to become God's children, Sin debt is paid, Eternal Life and hope for the future. When we call on God, He promises to tell us great and mighty things that we did not know [wisdom and knowledge]. (Jeremiah 33:3)

One cannot have a living faith by just sitting around and verbalizing faith. Faith requires us to move or take a stand. The biggest hindrance to our getting ahead is apathy and a "do nothing attitude". Ask God for the plan. Take action to follow the plan. It appears that God wants more for us than we want for ourselves.

### **What have you been putting off?**

Take a leap of FAITH and apply for the new Job. Ask for the promotion. Obtain the new skill. Write the book. Complete your education. Launch the business. Propose to your Soul Mate! Dream and expect God to respond!

Faith makes us eager to do what is good and to cooperate with God's plan for us and our neighbors. Our response to God through faith is evidence of having a relationship with Christ. **Got Faith-Yes!**

**FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP  
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE THE WHOLE STAIR CASE. (MLK)**

## REVIEW

1. What is Faith?
2. How do we obtain Faith?
3. What are the benefits of an active faith?
4. Can one have a living faith by doing nothing?
5. Name a biblical character that had faith? What did he/she do?
6. What steps are you taking to activate your faith?

Name

Date