

The Just shall Live by Faith

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The idea of faith has always been difficult for me. In this study, I focus on the epistles of Paul. I hope to grasp an understanding of faith that will enable me to truly live by faith.

Question One: According to Paul's epistles, what is **the source of faith**?

Paul informs his readers that faith is a gift of God. It is resident in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is said to deal to each believer a measure of faith; that faith is in Christ Jesus and can be granted as a gift by the Holy Spirit. We are informed that faith comes to us by hearing the Word of God.

Question Two: According to Paul's epistles, who is **the object of faith**?

Paul informs us that the object of our faith is God and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Question Three: Are there levels or **degrees of faith**?

Paul seems to outline degrees of faith. In reference to the nonbeliever, Paul states that not all have faith. He points out that some men have empty and futile faith.

In reference to the believer, Paul states that God deals a measure of faith. The believer is said to possess sincere and genuine faith. Though some are said to have weak faith, Paul states that God intervenes to strengthen faith. Faith can increase and grow exceedingly. Men can abound in faith, become steadfast in faith and even perfect it. Faith can move out. Paul also states that some can receive the gift of faith from the Holy Spirit.

Question Four: **What are the channels through which faith travels?**

Paul informs us that the word of faith is preached. Faith is said to travel into the ear when we hear the Word of God. The hearing of faith is possible when words carry faith. When words carry faith, men receive the Spirit, supply the Spirit and work miracles and nourish the hearer. Faith is said to work through love.

Question Five: **What are we called to do in relation to faith?**

We are called to stand, walk, and live by faith in the Son of God. We are to minister according to our proportion of faith. We are to be faithful in all things and be an example of the believer in faith.

Question Six: When we exercise faith, what are some of the products of faith?

We become the righteousness of God and Jesus is set forth as our propitiation. We receive justification, the promise of Abraham, and access to Father. We are saved through faith; we receive, supply the Spirit, work miracles and nourish others through faith. We are blessed, become sons of God, receive the hope of righteousness and become members of the household of faith. We receive boldness with confidence. Christ indwells us through faith. We become sons of Abraham and receive righteousness from God.

We are buried and raised with Him through faith,

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Question Seven: What does Paul tell us about the faith as doctrine?

Paul speaks both of faith as something internal, but also makes reference to faith as a body of teaching.

Men are called to be obedient to the faith. We are to stand fast in the faith, examine ourselves as to whether we are in the faith. We are to preach the faith. Paul states that there is one common faith and that we are to work toward the unity of that faith. We are to strive together for the faith of the gospel, continue in the faith, be established in the faith, and hold the mystery of the faith. We are to be bold in the faith and ensure that we do not depart from the faith, deny it, strayed from it, or overthrow it. Those that do so are said to be of corrupt minds and disapproved. Paul states that he kept the faith. We are to be sound in, love those in the faith and are responsible for sharing our faith.

Miscellaneous: Faith is accounted for righteousness, the righteousness of faith, those who are of the faith, sought righteousness by faith, Faith speaks ... the word of faith is near ... in your mouth... in your heart, Have faith to yourself before God, what is not from faith is sin, your faith should rest in the power of God, the spirit of faith, peace to the brethren and love with faith, joy in faith, service of your faith, your work of faith, good news of your faith, know your faith, comforted by your faith, God fulfill the work of faith with power, godly edification is in faith, grace was exceeding abundant with faith, This is a faithful saying, she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, hold fast the pattern of sound words ... in faith, things you have heard commit to faithful men who are apt to teach, the faith of God's elect

Metaphors for faith: the shield of faith that quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one, breastplate of faith

Characteristics of Faith in Men: Your faith is spoken of, mutual faith, stewards must be found faithful, Timothy is a faithful son, Tychicas – a faithful minister in the Lord, Epaphras – a faithful minister of Christ, Onesimus – a faithful and beloved brother, God counted me faithful, Timothy having faith, Titus – a true son in our common faith, Bishop must have faithful children, hold fast the faithful word,

Characteristics of Faith in God: God is revealed from faith to faith, faithfulness of God, God is faithful,

Mechanics of Faith: Law of faith