

103 January 7, 2023 – Faith & Trust

Faith defined is a firm belief based upon confidence in the authority and truthfulness of another, rather than upon your own knowledge, reason, or judgment. It is earnest and **trustful** confidence: as, to have **faith** in the testimony of a witness; to have **faith** in a friend. In fact, living with confident, secure, bold, and hopeful expectation would be a fitting description of living by **faith**.

Faith, as defined in the Bible, is stated in Hebrews 11:1 as *“the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”*. It is the strongly held conviction and proof that God not only exists but that He rewards those who seek Him as He says in Hebrews 11:6 *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him”*. It is both a gift that must be given and a fruit of God's spirit within a person (Ephesians 2:8, Galatians 5:22). Surprisingly, the English word **faith** appears only twice in the KJV Old Testament. It comes from two closely related words which mean faithful, **trusting**, or **trustworthy**. In the New Testament, however, the word appears 245 times. Five instances of it (Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8 and Luke 12:28) are found within a phrase derived from a single Greek word. This phrase, spoken by Jesus, refers to someone who lacks confidence or is **trusting** too little. All other occurrences come from the meaning of a moral conviction or reliance on God as well as an assurance on Him.

Jesus asked His disciples, “Where is your **faith**?” You are only afraid of the presence of God if you are not ready to face God. True **faith** is evaluated, not in the good days, not in the peaceful days, but in the bad and troublesome days. That is when people will look at you and see if your **faith** really is solid. Everything is fine when He is walking with you and life is great, but then comes a time to **trust**. That time challenges you to believe once the storm has come. So then the questions arise. How come you failed now? How come your **faith** has disappeared? How come He is here with you, yet you are so afraid? So as Jesus asked where is your **faith**?

The following are some of the important Biblical quotes regarding **faith** as a most critical component of a believer's life:

*Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast”.*

*Romans 10:17 “So **faith** comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

*Romans 1:17 “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith** to **faith**; as it is written, ‘but the righteous man shall live by **faith**’”.*

*Galatians 3:11 “Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, ‘the righteous man shall live by **faith**’”.*

*2 Corinthians 5:7 “for we walk by **faith**, not by sight—”*

*Hebrews 10:38 “But my righteous one shall live by **faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him”.*

*Habakkuk 2:4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his **faith**”.*

Ephesians 6:16 *"in addition to all, taking up the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one".*

But are you willing to understand, that **faith** without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar? . God requires those He calls to obey him and fill their life with good works. We deceive ourselves if we think merely a belief in Him is enough to save us.

Trust defined is assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something - one in which confidence is placed. **Trust** as it is used in the Bible, means to have confidence in, place reliance upon, reasonably expect, believe, and entrust. We are to **trust** in and His love to provide what we need – both in this reality and the next. The Bible warns not to place **trust** in our money, job, possessions, ourselves, or others. The Hebrew word for **trust** means "confident, secure, bold, carefree, hopeful". Our **trust** in God is our shield to protect us in times of trouble and temptation. Whether you are reading from the Old or New Testament - from Hebrew or Greek texts - the **trust** that produces confident, secure, bold, and hopeful expectation is that which is placed in the Lord and not in self.

While the two attributes, **faith** and **trust**, are clearly distinct in their definitions, they are inseparable companions. You will not have **faith** in someone you do not **trust**, and you cannot say you **trust** someone but not put your **faith** in them.

Some scriptural verses that emphasize **trust** are:

Psalms 37:3 *"**Trust** in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness".*

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 *"For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not **trust** in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us".*

Proverbs 3:4 *"**Trust** in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding".*

Isaiah 26:3 *"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he **trusts** in You".*

