

# Faith and the Promises of God

A group of people once asked Jesus how they could do the work of God. Jesus replied, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent" (John 6:29). God desires belief and faith from individuals, for "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).

Often in modern society faith is nothing more than wishful thinking - "I hope everything works out all right. I have 'faith' that it will." The biblical concept of faith far surpasses this superficial approach and is a vital necessity for walking with Christ.

## Walking by Faith

1. How does faith relate to the beginning of the Christian life? Ephesians 2:8-9

2. You received Christ by faith, how then should you live? Colossians 2:6

3. How would you define faith from:  
Acts 27:25

Romans 4:20-21

Hebrews 11:1

"Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in His Word is true, and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. ....Faith is not a matter of impressions, nor of probabilities, nor of appearance."

4. What does faith make possible?

Matt. 21:22

Rom. 15:13

Eph. 3:12

Eph. 6:16

5. What sin can exclude you from seeing God work? Matt. 13:58

The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is unbelief. Doubt only needs more facts. Unbelief is disobedience and refuses to act in accordance with what God has declared.

### **Objects of Faith**

6. What are some of the unworthy objects in which people may place their faith?

Ps. 33:16-17

Ps. 146:3

Prov. 3:5

Prov. 28:26

Jer. 9:23

7. Who should be the object of your faith? Mark 11:22

8. Your confidence and faith in God are built on your knowledge of who God is and what He is like. What verses about God's nature and character have been significant to you?

Verse

What this shows you about God

## The Promises of God

9. God makes certain promises to you. What does the Scripture say about the words of God?

1 Kings 8:56

Ps. 89:34

Is. 55:11

2 Pet. 1:4

Why do you think God's promises are trustworthy?

"Faith always attaches itself to what God has said or promised. When an honorable man says anything, he also does it; on the back of the saying follows the doing. So also it is with God; when He would do anything, He says so first in His Word."

- Andrew Murray

The New Life, 1965, Bethany Fellowship, Inc. Minneapolis

## Promises to Claim

10. Fill in the following chart.

<u>Verses</u>	<u>Promise</u>	<u>Condition, If any</u>
John 15:7		
Lam. 3:22-23		
Rom. 8:28		
Gal. 6:7		

11. What is God's attitude about fulfilling His promises to you? 2 Cor. 1:20

12. What should your attitude be in claiming God's promises? Heb. 6:12

13. Discover how Jehoshaphat utilized the promises of God. Read 2 Chron. 20

a) What was the first thing Jehoshaphat did? Verses 3, 6-12

b) How did God answer him? Verses 15

c) Was this a promise?

d) What was his next response?

e) What shows that Jehoshaphat believed God's promise?

f) How did he encourage other? Verse 20

g) What was the result? Verses 22, 27

## **Summary**

### **Walking by Faith**

Faith is based on the certain Word of God. Believing God and His Word gives the Christian the experience of hope, joy, peace, answered prayer, and the fulfillment of many other promises of God.

### **Objects of Faith**

People may entrust their lives to a number of objects which will ultimately fail. The only worthy object of faith is God and His Word.

### **The Promises of God**

God is a faithful Promiser whose words never fail. God does what He says He will do because He is faithful to His Word.

### **Promises to Claim**

Christians should avail themselves of the opportunity to claim God's promises, for God desires to respond to a claimed promise.

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