

## NOT ALL FAITH IS THE SAME

Hebrews 11:6

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Without faith, it is impossible to please God, however not all faith is the same and therefore not all faith pleases God. In the Old Testament, the word used as "faith" was the word calling for one to put his/her trust in the Lord. *"...Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding..."*

**Proverbs 3:5.** In the New Testament the word "pisteuo" (faith) is the attitude by which a person abandons all reliance in his/her own efforts to obtain salvation. It is the attitude of complete trust in Christ, of reliance on Him alone for all that salvation means. "Faith" means abandoning all trust in one's own resources and casting oneself unreservedly on the mercy of God, laying hold on the promises of God in Christ and full obedience to God. This is the kind of faith that pleases God.

- 1. Today the word "faith" is used as the "cure-all" for all one's illnesses, whether moral, spiritual or even economic.**
  - Believe hard enough, somehow you'll make it.
  - WHAT you believe does not matter, just as long as you keep on believing.
  - If people believe enough, peace will come and also a disease free world, no wars, a united race of one kind with all things in common and all negative things will pass away.
- 2. For some "faith" is some great power floating around the world and anybody can have it at any time.**
  - With this unknowable, universal "faith" available for anybody, man's outlook can be changed, how one sees others, how one sees God, how one sees the world.
  - In comes optimism, confidence, success in all things ventured and fear, defeat and failure are removed.
- 3. All this is the self-deceiving "faith" the world and Satan offers.**
  - This world/Satan kind of "faith" rejects belief in the Holy Scriptures and attempts to replace God's Word with human effort and works.
- 4. Faith is true faith only when it is involved with the truth.**
  - It is not enough to just "believe" but one must believe the RIGHT thing about the RIGHT One.
  - To believe in God is more than to just believe that He exists.
  - To have a true, right faith, KNOWLEDGE is necessary.
  - What is God like and what does God want of us leads one to true faith.
- 5. To have true faith, one must believe EVERYTHING God has said about Himself and about us.**
  - We must believe that we (people) are as bad, sinful, evil as God says we are.
  - Until we believe what God says about us, we won't ever believe that He will do for us what He says He will do.
  - A problem at this point for nobody ever wants to admit that he/she is as bad or depraved as God says he/she is.
  - Most people think that "sin" is a weakness that is pardonable and that God doesn't really pay much attention to one's sins, God simply wants us to trust in HIS Goodness.

**6. A true fact: No person has the right to pick and choose which truth he/she will accept or reject.**

- God has spoken and every human being is under obligation to hear ALL that God has to say.

**7. Some try to manipulate God's Word to fit their own way of thinking.**

- Excuses for one's sins.
- Compliments and consoling despite one's rejection of the Lord Jesus.
- To believe in Jesus and be saved is to believe ALL that Jesus has said about Himself and all that the prophets and apostles have said about Him.
- Some have "accepted" the Jesus and the salvation of their own imagination and not the complete Jesus described in God's Word.

**8. The faith that pleases God is faith that brings obedience.**

- Dreamy, sentimental faith that ignores God's description of us and looks only for the pleasant verses in God's Word, overlooking God's warnings and commandments is NOT the faith that pleases God.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Christian, what kind of faith do you have?
  - Do you accept everything God has to say about you?
  - Do you accept everything God says you have to do to be saved and have eternal life?
2. The world has its kind of "faith" which is built upon man and Satan's ideas which reject the truth of God's Word in its completeness.
3. "Yeah, I've got faith..." what kind of faith? Faith in what? Faith in Whom?
4. Everybody expresses, believes in, uses something they call "faith" but not all "faith" pleases God.
5. Does your faith please God?