



Why is faith so important?

Hebrews 11:1-6

11 Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By **faith** we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴ By **faith** Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By **faith** he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by **faith** Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵ By **faith** Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

A. Faith pleases **God**

B. Faith is the only means to **experiencing** what God promises

Romans 4:16

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

C. What **kind** of faith pleases God

Hebrews 11:1

11 Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Romans 4:16-22

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by **faith**, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the **faith** of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he **believed**—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his **faith**, he

faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through **unbelief** regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his **faith** and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

James 2:20-23

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that **faith** without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his **faith** and his actions were working together, and his **faith** was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

Biblical faith is trusting in the power and promise of God, even over our own feelings and perceptions and then committing ourselves to what we don’t yet fully see but to what we hope for

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ His divine **power** has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious **promises**, so that through them you may participate

in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Living by faith pleases God. The kind of faith that pleases God believes that God and what He says are truer than what we see or feel and then acts upon the truth of God's power and His promises.

1. The Promise of salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through **faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by **faith** into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

2. The Promise of the Holy Spirit's work

Galatians 3:1-14

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by **believing** what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? ⁴ Have you experienced so much

in vain—if it really was in vain? ⁵ So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your **believing** what you heard? ⁶ So also Abraham “**believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷ Understand, then, that those who have **faith** are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by **faith**, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹ So those who rely on **faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of **faith**.

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by **faith**.” ¹² The law is not based on **faith**; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by **faith** we might receive the promise of the Spirit

3. The Promise of answered **prayer and miracles**

Mark 11:22-24

²² “Have **faith** in God,” Jesus answered. ²³ “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but **believes** that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe** that you have received it, and it will be yours.

John 14:12-14

¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever **believes** in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.