

**James 1:6 - 18 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

<sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

<sup>8</sup>*being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup>But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

<sup>10</sup>and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

<sup>11</sup>For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

<sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

<sup>14</sup>But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

<sup>15</sup>Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

<sup>17</sup>Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

<sup>18</sup>In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

**What is biblical faith?**

**Does everyone have faith automatically?**

**Is faith a gift from God?**

**How does one increase their faith?**

1. **What is biblical faith?** (*see below*)

2. **Does everyone have faith automatically?** Natural faith = yes. Saving faith = no.

3. **Is faith a gift from God?** - Yes.

**Ephesians 2:8** (KJV) <sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

**Romans 12:3**(NLT) Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

4. **How does one increase their faith?** \_\_\_ Luke 17:5-7 and Rom. 10:17, Acts 17:11.

**Psalms 37:5** (KJV) Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

**Luke 17:5 - 6** (NASB) <sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

Romans 10:17 (KJV) <sup>17</sup>So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Key word: Faith-** Gk. *Pistis* = Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; the conviction or belief, idea of trust, relating to God; the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ. relating to Christ, a strong conviction that we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God. fidelity, faithfulness

## 1. What is biblical faith?

B. Simple definition of faith: Heb 11:1 = Faith is the substance of hope

a. "Substance": Lit. Greek: "a standing under"

b. Faith "stands under" our hope, is the foundation of our hope: Rom 8:24,25

c. Faith is the "title-deed" our pledge to things hoped: Heb 3:14

**Faith (Gr: pistis) used in four ways:**

### **#1: Mental acceptance & acknowledgement of God's existence:**

Demons believe, even confess Jesus as Lord: Jas 2:19; Mk 1:24,25 There is a difference between faith only and saving faith: Jas 2:17,24

Jn 7:12,13 no one was openly speaking of His

Jn 12:42-43 many believed but would not confess the name of Jesus

Jn 9:22 Parents would not confess for fear of being put out of synagogue

### **#2: A conduct or work inspired by the complete surrender to mental acceptance:**

Jas 2:14-26 We show our faith by our works; 2 Cor 5:7 we walk by faith not sight

We must have an obedient faith: by faith, Abraham obeyed: Heb 11

### **#3: A trusting or trustworthiness: (Gk. pistis)**

1. Mt 24:45; 25:21,23; Lk 19:17 "faithful servant". Rom 3:3 the faithfulness of God

### **#4: The System Of Doctrine And Morality Peculiar To Christianity:**

- Jude 3 contend earnestly for the faith. Eph 4:5 only one faith
- Eph. 4:23 until we all attain to the unity of the faith
- Acts 14:22 encouraging them to continue in the faith
- Acts 16:5 strengthen in the faith
- 2 Cor. 13:5 test yourselves to see if you are in the faith
- 1 Cor. 16:13 stand firm in the faith
- 2 Ti 4:7 have kept the faith

## How do we get saving faith?

1. Rom 10:5-18 = v. 8 "the word of faith"; v.17 faith comes from hearing the Word
2. Jn 20:30-31 these things are written that you may believe
3. Jn 17:20,21 believe on me through their word.
4. Acts 14:1 spoke in such a manner that many believed
5. Acts 15:7 hear the word of the gospel and believe
6. Acts 17:11, 12 searched the scriptures daily-many therefore believed
7. Acts 18:8 many Corinthians, when they heard were believing being baptized

Tested Faith Is Strong Faith	
Tested faith brings about a depth of character	Romans 5:3-5
Tested faith enables us to comfort and encourage others	2 Corinthians 1:3-5
Tested faith increases dependence on God for wisdom	James 1:5; 3:17-18
Tested faith encourages us to lead a productive and effective life	2 Peter 1:5-9
Tested faith helps us to identify with Christ	Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 5:7-10
Tested faith allows us to focus on our future hope in Christ	Romans 8:18-24

### Let us ask in faith.

The one condition for receiving this gift of God is *faith*.

Our faith is being tested by various trials (1:2-4).

When we ask, we *must believe*.

Faith is single-minded commitment, trusting fully in God.

Faith holds on to God during testing (see also Job 13:15; Daniel 3:16-18).

It is continued confidence in God despite outward circumstances. The writer of Hebrews expresses both the importance of faith and the kind of faith that God requires: **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)** <sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**With no doubting.** *Doubt* means "a divided mind." Doubting here has nothing to do with doubting whether God can do something; rather, it describes a people "divided" between being self-centered and being God-centered. This is the reason why James adds the idea of the "wave," because it really means to be tossed to and fro between self and God. Doubting is trusting in self more than God and being earth-centered rather than heaven-centered in our prayer requests and in handling the problems of this life.

### Monday Morning Moment:

*There is great power in even a little faith when God is there. It is not the amount of faith that matters; rather, it is the power of God available to anyone with even the smallest faith.*

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