

---

## Faith Towards God

*Mark 1:14-15*

*Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

We have begun going through the foundation elements we see in Hebrews chapter 6. We began with the first element of “Repentance from dead works”. We learned:

- Repentance is a mind change. Reconsidering one’s way of thinking to another.
- Turning from a way of living to a new way.
- This way is the way of the Lord. In the fall, man took from the tree of his own understanding and rejected God’s wisdom.
- To repent is to leave your own understanding and lean back to His wisdom.

In this lesson, we will dive into the second element of our foundation: “Faith Towards God”.

- What is Faith?
- How do we live in faith?

This is the second element we find in Hebrews 6. Faith towards God should always go hand in hand with Repentance from Dead Works. Repentance is a turning away from the tree of knowledge and a turning to the wisdom of God. So repentance and faith towards God should be at the same moment.

## Things To Watch Out For

One can repent from wicked ways and not turn to the ways of God. This is what the majority of religions are built on as fundamental truths. I can turn from my wicked habits of drugs, lust, and pride and never turn to God. I would only be turning to another self-acknowledgment but now in a different area.

## What Is Faith?

Here are a few greek translations of the word faith used in the scriptures.

3640 - confidence

4102 - belief, assurance - living in a reality

1680 - hope, anticipation with pleasure

“Confidence” is used only 5 times.

“Assurance and belief” around 228 times.

“Hope with anticipation” is used 1 time

It is important to notice that the majority of the uses concerning faith is assurance and belief and living out this belief. It is not just a simple mental assent but one is living out what they believe with assurance.

## Faith Arguments

1. In some commentaries about faith, it is said that faith is always given by God and can never be generated by man! I would have to disagree with this view as we see in scripture that people are credited for having or not having faith, not God giving or not giving faith to them and we also see God giving faith as a gift.

Jesus said.. “I have not seen such great faith in Isreal..”  
He also said “.. your faith as made you well..”

There is a faith that is generated by our belief and one that is given by God as a gift. There is a gift of faith just like there is a gift of giving, but all can give.

2. Others say that faith is a mere mental assent of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ. And belief in that event and what He did alone is what saves a person. This again, is not the basis of faith required.

## What Is The Foundational Faith Required?

*Hebrews 11:1-2*

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.*

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.* It is by this type of faith that the men of old gained approval. And if they gained approval by this type of faith, this is the same mind we should have to also gain His approval. If you read the entire chapter 11, you will see that the lifestyle of the men of old was not the typical American life you see lived today.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. This goes alongside the definition of faith spoken about 228 times. Faith is the belief with assurance and living it out, experiencing evidence of your hope not seen. Hebrews 11:1 is literally given you the exact definition of what faith is.

This type of faith is the faith God is looking for as a foundational element. All must live with a faith they believe in without a shadow of a doubt, assured of the things hoped for.

*... the conviction (evidence) of things not seen.*

The evidence - the tangible evidences of the things I do not see. The evidence of things not seen is the proof of the assurance of things hoped for.

Faith is when a person sets their assurance on a hope, lives by this hope and then begins to see evidence of the unseen. In the case of a believer in Christ, what is the hope one would have faith in? Where is our assurance?

The first part of faith is to believe in the things hoped for, the gospel. What one must live in hope for is the restoration of all things and the promise of the crushing one. The hope that there is a day fixed where the Judge of all will make the earth a place of righteousness and where He will dwell. It is by this hope that one's faith will continue to grow as the days go by.

*Hebrews 10:25*

***not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.***

“The day” drawing near is the day we should be hoping for. The day is what we are still waiting for and our belief in that coming day is the faith that is required by God. To believe and live your life in accordance to the fact that God is the rewarder of all.

The more our gatherings surround this day and the more we encourage one another, the more our faith will be cemented.

***Hebrews 11:6***

***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.***

Anyone who comes to God *must* believe (trust, live in accordance to) that God is The One and that He is and will reward those who *seek Him*. So the first step of faith is to have a belief in something that is not seen and yet hoped for and that our lifestyle will be in accordance with a reward for seeking him.

## What Are We Hoping For?

If we continue to look at the chapter at the people who lived in accordance with this truth, we see that the scripture says “For by it the men of old gained approval.”

They were all looking to the new earth and heaven where God will take vengeance over their enemies and give them the inheritance of the land. If we live by the same principles of faith, approval is assured.

What they were living for was beyond this present age. It is said of Abraham, that he is the Father of us all in this faith.

***Hebrews 11:8-9***

***By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land,***

***dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.***

8-10 Looking to receive an inheritance by looking for a city which has foundations made by God and not man.

***Vs 13-14 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.***

These people's hearts were not looking to this age. The faith they carried was beyond this present age to an age to come. When the Lord would speak, they had no reservation to do what He willed. This is because to them, this age was passing away and thus, nothing mattered but pleasing the Lord.

***Read Hebrews 11:32 - 12:3***

- Notice the life of the followers of the Lord. How they would give their lives in light of their hope. And they welcomed it knowing they would not obtain it in their lifetime.
- We should live in such a way that the weights of this present age will not bring us down. But that we would fix our eyes on the coming of Jesus.

Let this be an example that faith in Jesus is not merely a belief that He died for sin and rose on the third day but a faith of a promise, which brought Him to the cross. This is the foundation of your faith and this is the faith of your foundation.

## Jesus Proclaiming The Promise

Jesus constantly talked about this inheritance while proclaiming the coming Kingdom.

***Matthew 5:3-12***

***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.***

***Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.***

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.***

***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.***

***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.***

***Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

***Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.***

***Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

These “shall” statements are future events. They have not happened yet. These are what we look forward to when we live righteously in this present age. There are aspects of these “shalls” we experience now, but they are merely tastes of the age to come as we see in Hebrews 6.

***Hebrews 6:5***

***and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,***

What we see here is that the tastes that we taste now are the powers of the age to come. These are the evidence of the things not seen as of yet.

- Healings today are pointing you to a day where there will be no more pain or diseases.
- Unclean spirits driven out of a person are signs pointing you to a day where there will be no more evil in the kingdom of God.
- When you see the dead raise to life, it is because there will be a day with no more death.

## From The Beginning

From the fall of man, there was a promise from God to humanity that He would destroy His enemy by a man and this man would restore of all things back to its original purpose. This is the same promise that we are still looking for. Adam and Eve waited for this promise with every man child that was born.

Now we believe the same promise and hope to one day obtain the inheritance of a perfected new Heavens and new Earth.

## The Requirement For Having This Faith

- We have to be at peace with God
  - Turning from the patterns of this world
  - Turning from our own understandings to God's wisdom
- Fix your eyes to the promise of God
  - The restoration of all things

*1 John 5:19*

*We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

The whole world lies in darkness because of the fall, so there is no peace between God and the world. If the plan of God is for the restoration of mankind, there must be a peace-making agreement with Him.

*The preaching of the Gospel of the kingdom is a call to action:*

- 1. to change one's mind from the world's understanding to God's understanding*
- 2. to believe in the coming Kingdom.*

Repent and believe the Gospel. This is the foundation of having peace with God. These two elements are the first requirements for being restored into the Kingdom of God. Once one has believed this with their whole heart, turned away from the patterns of the world with a mind to serve the King, then there is peace with God and access to the Grace poured out for the forgiveness of sin.

## Peace With God

- Having a fixed view of the age to come and the revelation of King Jesus, brings justification and peace toward God.
- Before when the mind was on the patterns of the world, we were hostile towards God.

*Romans 5:1-2*

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

This faith is the same faith Abraham had.

- Abraham believed God when God promised to bless the nations through him.
- And this blessing would be the restoration.
- Abraham saw the end blessing and believed it. Nothing could shake him from this promise.
- And because he believed, it was credited to him as righteousness

This is the same faith we should have

- We also, when we believe with that same faith, we have peace with God.
- We receive the same justification as Abraham received when we believe the same promise Abraham believed.

Because Abraham believed what God promised about a distant future, his lifestyle had changed. He showed his belief and faith by the way he lived. When he believed and said “but I have no son”, God responded “You will have a son”. Abraham did not doubt because he believed the outcome God promised.

When the Lord gave Abraham a command to sacrifice the promised son, he was able to do it with no doubt because he knew God could raise his son from the dead. Abraham was already living his life in light of the coming hope.

**Hebrews 11:17-19**

***By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.” He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.***

- Abraham considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead.
- “If God promised the nations would be blessed through this son, God must be able to raise him again.”