

FAITH AND WORKS Bible Study Outline from Wednesday, Feb 16, 2011

Faith and Works

Bible Study Guide

The faith of Joshua and Caleb
Read Numbers 14:17 -

The definition of faith according to Hebrews 11:1

(Hebrews 11:1 NIV) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

(Hebrews 11:1 KJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Discussion #1 Is there a difference between the faith, which you must have to be saved, and the faith mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 (the gift of faith)?

The first category of faith is simply the trust we have in believing that God exists; and that He sent us His son Jesus Christ; and that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins. This kind of faith is termed the regenerational faith because it will cause us to be born again. The regenerational faith is our total trust and reliance upon Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God, who is our Savior and Lord.

The second category of faith is termed the gift of faith. The following Biblical characters exhibited such faith: Abraham, and others mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11, and the Roman centurion whose servant was ill, and so on.

Discussion #2 Do we have different levels of faith? (What does it mean to use the Spiritual gifts in proportion to our faith?)

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith." (Rom 12:6 NIV)

Discussion #3 How do we increase our faith?

Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

6 He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Luke 7:8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

Discussion #4 Why was Jesus so amazed with the lack of faith on the part of his disciples?

Luke 12: 25-28 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life ?

26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, **O you of little faith!**

Matthew 14:28-31

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "**You of little faith,**" he said, "why did you doubt?"

Matthew 8:24-26

Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

26 He replied, "**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 16:7-8

7 They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "**You of little faith,** why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"

Mat 17:18-21 NKJV

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "**Because of your unbelief;** for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. *V.21* **"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."**

Discussion # 5 How can we stir each other's faith?

Our spirit must be totally controlled by the Holy Spirit. We are the spirit. People cannot see the spirit but they can tell it is there. Our spirit should be such that it should influence others. How do people around you describe what kind of the spirit you have? Joyful spirit, spirit of faithfulness, determination, sincerity? Or spirit of anger, anguish, despair, hopelessness?

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8

Discussion #6 Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

(Hebrews 11:6 NIV) 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.

Discussion #7 Are we saved by faith or works?

(Ephesians 2:8 NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

(Titus 3:5 NIV) he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Discussion #8 Is there a conflict between faith and work?

(NKJV)

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe; and tremble!

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?