

What is Faith?

Oftentimes when people try to defend their lack of commitment to spiritual things, they justify themselves with the expression, "I believe in God!" And they feel that somewhere deep within themselves they have this faith that makes everything right. As long as they do not do anything seriously wrong- at least in their eyes- they can say and do as they please, and this "I believe in God" is sufficient for their spiritual needs.



But what is faith? Is it really this "feeling" deep inside? Maybe you will be surprised to learn that faith is not just something that we "believe." Faith is an action. It is demonstrated. It is not just some sort of deep down feeling on the inside. It is active and alive. To help you with this truth, we are going to share three ways a person actively lives their faith: by professing, obeying and receiving.

Faith Speaks!

The first concept is found in 2 Corinthians 4,13. Here it says, "I believe, therefore I spoke." Faith is proclaimed! It is not something that is hidden within. A similar Scripture is Romans 10, 9 & 10. Here it says that when we confess "with our mouth" that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved.

Friend, faith is not simply a feeling deep down within. It is a proclamation. Proclaim what you believe! Start off by thanking God for His wonderful salvation. Then tell your family and friends how you believe in God and what He has done for you. This is putting your faith into action. As you verbally acknowledge God in all of your ways, your faith will become very active indeed!



Faith Obeys!

A second sign that you have faith is the act of obedience. Hebrews 11:8 says that "By faith Abraham obeyed." Faith and obedience go hand in hand! When we believe, we obey! What do we obey? First of all, we obey His Word. You see, reading the Word is like looking in a mirror. You don't always like what you see, but then you make the necessary changes! So it is with God. When you seek God in His Word, He will speak to you. And oftentimes He will show you things about yourself that are not too nice. When you make the necessary changes, you are putting your faith into action.



God does not speak to us just through His Word. God will also speak to you through His Spirit. And when He does, do what He says! For instance, maybe you hear about someone in need, and God impresses you to give them \$100. Faith obeys! It does not say "No," or "Maybe!" It obeys.

Follow through when God speaks to you like this! Your faith will be alive!

God undoubtedly will also speak to you to about sharing your faith with someone, maybe with a neighbor or friend. Do it! For instance, you could give them one of these brochures and explain to them how God became real to you, and how He can help them as well. This is using your faith in a very practical and helpful manner.

Faith Receives

A third way of demonstrating faith is when you pray. Prayer is not just asking! It is to be combined with faith to receive the things for which you ask. For instance, consider what James 1:5-7 says. Verse five says that if we need wisdom, ask God for it and He will give it to you. In fact, it says that He will give it to you liberally. Verses 6-7 go on to say that we must, however, ask in faith, not doubting. Otherwise, we will not receive.



Believe before you see!

How do we ask in faith? First of all, we must grasp what His Word says. Here, it says, that if we ask Him for wisdom, He will give it to us. So do what it says. Tell God that you need wisdom for whatever you need. What do you do now? Thank Him for it! Thank Him at once and then relax. The answer will come! He will give it to you into your heart and you will have your answer.

So it is with all prayer. Faith is not waiting to receive before we believe. It is believing that when we pray according to His Word and His will, we receive what we asked for. Thank Him in advance for it, and the answer will come.

Speaking, obeying and receiving: three simple ways to put your faith into action. Do these, and watch your faith become very alive in your life!

You believe in God?



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