

# The Origin Of Faith

Intro: 2 Cor. 5:7 <sup>47</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" Although this scripture refers specifically to things spiritual, it is, never-the-less, true also of the material realm.

1. Faith is simply belief, trust, or confidence.
2. Heb. 11:1 <sup>41</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
3. It is seen in every phase of life.
  - a. Children in parents.
  - b. Children in teachers.
  - c. In the business realm, such as farmers and merchants.
4. Thus, faith from the spiritual standpoint is not foreign to man's thinking.

## I. MANY SCRIPTURES TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH.

### A. No act is acceptable to God unless motivated by faith.

1. Heb. 11:6 <sup>46</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."
2. Rom. 14:23 <sup>23</sup> And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin."

### B. Faith saves and justifies.

1. John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
2. John 3:36 <sup>36</sup> He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not [ASV—obeyeth not] the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
3. Acts 16:30-31 <sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? <sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
4. Rom. 5:1 <sup>1</sup> Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

## II. THE ORIGIN OF FAITH.

### A. There is much controversy as to the origin of faith.

1. Some say it is the gift of God.
  - a. Eph. 2:8 <sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God."
  - b. This refers to salvation being the gift of God and not faith.
2. Some say by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Not one scripture teaches this.
  - b. All would be saved, universal salvation, or God would be a respecter of persons.
    - (1) Rom. 2:11 <sup>11</sup> For there is no respect of persons with God."
    - (2) Acts 10:34 <sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"
3. Some say in answer to prayer.
  - a. Jam. 1:6 <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."
  - b. Pro. 28:9 <sup>9</sup> He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination."

- c. John 9:31 <sup>31</sup> Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”
- d. Jam. 5:16 <sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- e. 1 Pet. 3:12 <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.”

**B. How then does faith come? By hearing or reading the Word of God.**

- 1. John 20:30-31 <sup>30</sup> And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: <sup>31</sup> But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
- 2. Luke 8:12 <sup>12</sup> Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”
- 3. Acts 15:7 <sup>7</sup> And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.”
- 4. Acts 17:11-12 <sup>11</sup> These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. <sup>12</sup> Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”
- 5. Acts 18:8 <sup>8</sup> And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”
- 6. Rom. 10:17 <sup>17</sup> So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

**III. ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS PRINCIPLE.**

- A. Heb. 11:7 <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
- B. Heb. 11:8 <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
- C. Heb. 11:17 <sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,”
- D. Heb. 11:30 <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”
- E. Naaman; 2 Kin. 5
- F. In all these examples we see:
  - 1. The Word of God came to these individuals
  - 2. They obeyed the Word
  - 3. They were spoken of as faithful
  - 4. Gal. 3:26-27 <sup>26</sup> For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Conclusion: The Word of God has come to us. Have we obeyed it? Are we children of God by faith?