

Biblical Faith

by Abri Brancken

Quotes:

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

- [Corrie ten Boom](#)

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

- [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

“Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right.”

- [Max Lucado](#)

“All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

- [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

What people think faith is

Many people have various ideas of what faith is, but what does God say it is?

For some faith is:

1. Wishful thinking - the illusion that what you wish for is actually true.
2. Hope - A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.
3. Positive feeling about the future
4. Optimism -
5. Some see faith as the belief in a thing for which there is no (empirical) evidence.
6. Some think faith is part of religion, when in fact it is part every aspect of our everyday lives:
7. Critics say: Faith is a non-rational belief in some proposition.
8. How do you see faith? What is faith for you.

God says - Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6), so it is important to understand and adhere to the concept of faith.

God uses our faith

God brings about great things in our lives, but He uses our faith to bring it about. According to your faith it shall be done to you. You have faith whether you feel it or not (Rom 12:3).

So let's see what the Bible says faith is.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, and the sign that the things not seen are true. BBE

(Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ESV)

Faith in Greek

"pistis"

pis'-tis (persuasion, absolute conviction)

"hypostasis" (*hoop-os'-tas-is*)

setting under (support), placing under, foundation, is firm. To get an even better understanding, lets look at the Hebrew.

Faith in Hebrew

Hab 2:4 "...but the righteous shall live by his faith" - ASV

In Hebrew it reads: vetzaddik be'emunatov yichyeh (but the just, by his faithfulness shal live)

Faith = Emunah in Hebrew. Hebrew is a root word language. The root for Emunah is Aman, meaning "to build up, support, establish, to give permanency to something." Aman, the root word for faith is a verb.

From Aman we get words like:

1. Omenet = nurse (Rut 4:16). To get someone back to a good state.
2. Omenot = pillar or supporter of a door (2 Kings 18:16)
3. Amen = let it be so. It is stable, trustworthy, everlasting.
4. Emet = truth, unshakable, permanent, un-destroyable, everlasting.
5. Emunah = stable, security, full of faith, faithful, loyal

All these concepts focus is on firmness, stability, support, trustworthy. How did Biblical writers see faith (Emunah)? They believed that everything can shake, except God's word.

For Biblical authors faith is a fixed trust, not just a head knowledge, but a faith that goes over into action. Our actions must be in line with what we know and believe about God. For us faith is sometimes a mystical thing. Biblically, we can "do" and "act" upon our faith because I have a fixed belief and conviction that God can and will fulfil His promises. Faith is demonstrating the Kingdom.

Dr. Marvin R Wilson wrote the following

(Was professor of Biblical Theological Studies at Gordon College, Massachusetts.)

To the Hebrew mind, therefore, faith meant confidence. It was the capacity to enter life with courageous expectation. The person of faith did more than believe in his heart, or develop an attitude of trust. He stepped out into life to act on that belief. His mental assurances and convictions were transformed into actions. For the Hebrew faith was more than a theory; it was wed to a life of service. Indeed, the Hebrew could serve God through work. He knew that God was always met in history, in the context of events, in the world of activity and doing. The person of faith was one who was so committed to God that, like Abraham, he ventured into the unknown with the full expectation that God would meet him there. Thus, in the biblical sense, to have faith was to move out in life and know God would be there waiting. It was the call to step boldly into tomorrow, to embrace the new-with confidence that every new day would prove to be a meeting place with the holy and eternal God. Biblical faith, though

conscious of heaven, operates in, and is only at home in, the realm of flesh and blood. This biblical quality of faith has the possibility of transforming this life so that those thereby changed may attain, by God grace, of the life to come.

Now James makes sense:

Now the book of James makes sense:

Jas 2:16 And one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warm and full of food; but you do not give them the things of which their bodies have need, what profit is there in this?

Jas 2:17 Even so faith without works is dead.

Jas 2:18 But a man may say, You have faith and I have works; let me see your faith without your works, and I will make my faith clear to you by my works.

The proof of true Biblical faith are deeds. Faith must go over to deeds or else it is not Biblical faith per definition.

Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. *It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is a real seeing.* Faith involves having a burning desire for what God revealed and you must keep on seeing that goal accomplished.

Speak the Word

Often, we pray one thing but speak fear and unbelief because we are guided by what we see and not what we believe. Your faith becomes usable by God as you actively journey on the road God has called you to!

Conclusion

Life must be in constant movement towards Kingdom life and principles. God calls those things that are not yet as if they are already.