

The Author And Finisher Of Faith

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

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Scripture Study

Introduction

Faith may only be an abstract concept to some. You might hear terms used like the Christian faith or the Moslem faith. Faith is not an abstract formless term to be used to describe a belief system. Nor is it a well rehearsed list of confessions or formulas. Faith is our connection with God. It is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not yet seen. Faith mixed with the Word of God causes the Word to become a living reality in our life. Make up your mind to go all the way with God, don't sit on the side lines watching God use others. Dig deep into the things of God and learn His ways, faith must become an everyday way of life to the believer. "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"

Hebrews 12:1-4

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (NIV)

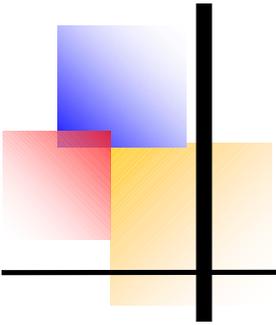
✠ The first thing we must do if we expect to have our faith developed [cultivated or perfected] is to throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us. Be determined to resist sin even to the point of shedding your blood. Then we must with perseverance press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling. The devil will offer you many detours along your journey of faith. Fix your eyes on and Consider [take heed, listen to, look at] Jesus the author and perfecter [developer] of your faith.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (NIV)

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? (NIV)



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‡ Is God's Word reliable? Every believer must settle this question. It is one thing to mentally acknowledge this fact but it is something entirely different to walk this truth out and experience it in every situation in your life. Unfortunately people are like a sponge you never know what is inside of a sponge until you squeeze it, just as you will never find out what your faith is really like until it is put to the test. It is easy to talk about faith in God's Word and say you believe every word, but many fail the test when faced with impossible situations. Saying you have faith and living by faith are two separate issues.

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (NIV)

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. (KJV)

‡ All power in heaven and earth has been placed in the name of Jesus. God magnifies His Word above His name. A man's name is only as good as his word. When we sign an agreement [contract] we put our name at the bottom to verify that we agree to the words written. These words become our bond and our name is the guarantee of the contract. God has backed the name of Jesus with His Word [covenant], which is His bond and sealed it in His own blood.

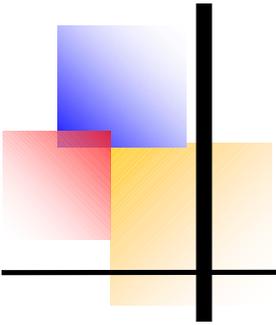
2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight (KJV)

Walking or living by faith and not by sight is fundamental to the Christian life. We must live by what we believe not by what we can see. Everything we are and everything we do must be based upon the Word of God. This brings up an interesting question, how can you live by faith which is based upon the Word of God if your not sure what it says?

Luke 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. (KJV)



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John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (KJV)

- ✠ Don't ever try to separate God from His Word they are one and the same. To know God is to know His Word. There is so much confusion in the church today over what God is or isn't or what He will or will not do. This can always be traced back to a lack of knowledge of His Word. If you want to know anything about God you are going to have to find it out through His Word.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (KJV)

Hebrews 11:6

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. (KJV)

Romans 14:23

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. (KJV)

- ✠ It is impossible to please God without faith and whatever is not faith is sin. If we want to be sin free and please God it is mandatory that we learn as much about faith as we can. Some have studied faith in order to try to gain something for themselves. This selfish motive however is not limited to faith, people come to church every Sunday to get something instead of give something. Our goal in life should be to bless the Lord and to please Him. If we really and truly accomplish these two things there will be no room found in our barns. The greatest blessing and inheritance we have is Jesus. Don't seek what He has, seek who He is.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (KJV)

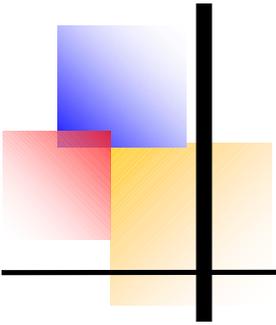
Romans 4:17-25

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;



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21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. (KJV)

✠ When we walk by faith believing according to what was spoken, considering not the circumstances, being fully persuaded that, what he has promised, he is able also to perform and being strong in faith, giving glory to God, this is the essence of living by faith not by sight and the Lord imputes [accounts] this to us as righteousness.

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

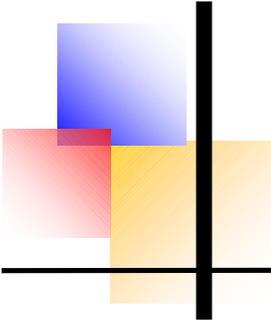
6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NIV)

✠ We should praise God for His great mercy for He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change and decay [imperishable], kept in heaven for us. This inheritance is kept [guarded] by God's power through our faith until the fullness of our inheritance is revealed. Be full of joy because of this great inheritance. Pay little attention to the distresses that come to try our faith. Remember how precious genuine [tried and true] faith is. Faith that has been refined by fire will result in praise and glory to God. Peter said the goal of our faith is the salvation of our soul. The goal of many Christian's faith is a 60 inch TV.



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Hebrews 10:35-39

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (KJV)

✚ Verse 38 and 39 in the Amplified Bible says, "But the just shall live by faith [My righteous servant shall live by his conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it]; and if he draws back and shrinks in fear, my soul has no delight or pleasure in him. But our way is not that of those who draw back to eternal misery (perdition) and are utterly destroyed, but we are of those who believe [who cleave to and trust in and rely on God through Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by faith preserve the soul." Walking by faith is complete and total reliance upon every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Not living by or being moved by what we see, feel or hear but rather basing everything we say, think and do upon what we believe.

✚ **Note:** I would like to conclude this study with some faith nuggets for your faith nourishment.

Faith Nuggets

Acts 3:16

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. (NIV)

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. (KJV)

Acts 15:9

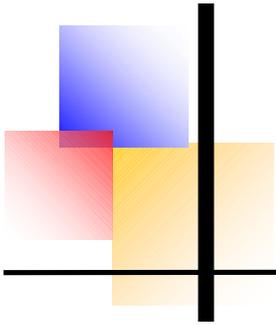
And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (KJV)

Acts 16:5

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. (KJV)

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (KJV)



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Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (KJV)

Romans 3:22

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: (KJV)

Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. (KJV)

Romans 3:30

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. (KJV)

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (KJV)

Romans 4:13

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. (KJV)

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)

Romans 5:2

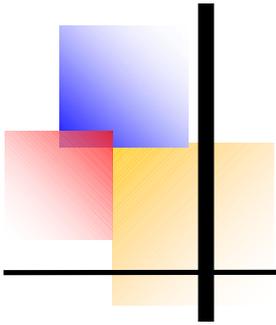
By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (KJV)

Romans 10:8

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (KJV)

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (KJV)



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Romans 11:20

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:
(KJV)

1 Corinthians 2:5

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (KJV)

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)

Galatians 3:7

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. (KJV)

Galatians 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
(KJV)

Galatians 3:14

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (KJV)

Galatians 3:26

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Galatians 5:6

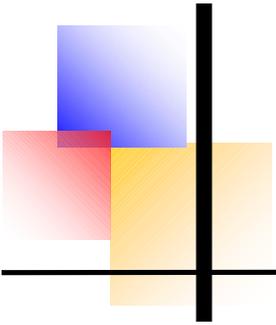
For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (KJV)

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (KJV)

Ephesians 3:12

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. (KJV)



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Ephesians 3:17

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (KJV)

Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
(KJV)

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (KJV)

Colossians 2:5

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. (KJV)

Colossians 2:7

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (KJV)

Colossians 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 3:2

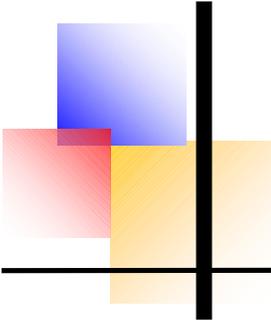
And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith? (KJV)

II Thessalonians 1:11

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (KJV)



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1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (KJV)

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (KJV)

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (KJV)

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (KJV)

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (KJV)

Hebrews 6:12

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (KJV)

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (KJV)

Hebrews 11:1

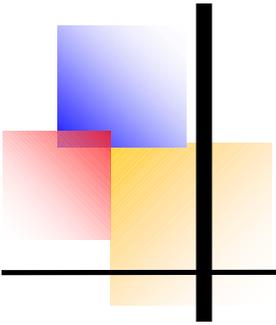
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

James 1:6

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. (KJV)

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (KJV)



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1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(KJV)

1 Peter 5:9

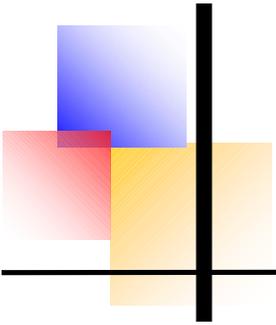
Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (KJV)

I John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (KJV)

Jude 1:20

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (KJV)



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Study Questions

1. Complete the following verse. "Let us fix..."
2. T or F. If the Word of God isn't doing what He says it will do, the problem is with us not God.
3. In your own words explain what it means to walk by faith and not by sight.
4. T or F. God is God and He is going to do as He pleases and it really doesn't matter if we have faith or not.
5. Summarize Romans 4:17-25.
6. Faith that has been tried by fire is of greater worth than what?
7. Share any insight that you received from the faith nuggets.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study to show yourself approved unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Meditate on the faith nuggets expecting God to reveal truth to your spirit man.