

Faith

Growing in the Faith 2019

"Make Your Call and Election Sure"

2Peter 1:5-11

Faith

2Pe 1:10 So, dear brothers and sisters, **work hard** to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. **Do these things**, and you will never fall away.

2Pe 1:11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Faith

- Questions:
- **How important is faith to you?**
- **How important is faith to God?**

How important is Faith?

- Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

How important is Faith?

Faith is involved in our Salvation

- Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God*,

How important is Faith?

Faith is involved in our Salvation

- Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God*,
- 2Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation **through faith** which is in Christ Jesus

Faith as a weightier matter

- The word “weightier” is from the Greek word **Barus**
- Barus means: **of grave importance**

The Just shall live by Faith

- Heb 10:38 **NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM."**

Faith

- **What is Faith?**

What is Faith?

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the ***substance** of things hoped for, the ****evidence** of things not seen.

*Greek word can be translated: substance, trust, confidence.

** Greek word can be translated: evidence, proof.

What is Faith?

“Faith” is defined in Webster's new international dictionary as ...

- The act or state of wholeheartedly and steadfastly believing in the existence, the power and the benevolence of a Supreme being.
- Of having confidence in His providential care.
- Of being loyal to His will as revealed or believed in.

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Enemies of Faith

- What are enemies of Faith?

Enemies of Faith

- Worry
- Jesus said God would take care of our needs, cautioning: “Do not worry . . . Now if God so clothes the grass of the field [splendidly], which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more cloth you, ***O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry ...***” But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:25-33).

Enemies of Faith

- Fear
- While on a boat in the middle of a storm, the disciples woke Jesus and pleaded that He save them from drowning. He answered, “***Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?***” Then He rebuked the sea and it immediately grew calm (Matthew 8:23-26).

Enemies of Faith

- Doubt
- Peter saw Jesus walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee and asked if he could do the same. Jesus invited him to join Him, and Peter, too, began walking on the water. “But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid” and began to sink (Matthew 14:30). Christ “stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘***O you of little faith, why did you doubt?***’” (Matthew 14:31).

Enemies of Faith

- Human reasoning without spiritual understanding
- Jesus warned His disciples, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees” (Matthew 16:6). He was cautioning them against the wrong *teachings* of these religious leaders (Matthew 16:12), but the disciples initially thought He was talking about the physical leavening of bread since they had not brought any bread with them (Matthew 16:7). **Jesus responded, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves** because you have brought no bread?” (Matthew 16:8). He then said that they wouldn’t have missed His point if they’d kept in mind that He could miraculously provide physical bread if there was a need, having done so to feed thousands on two occasions (Matthew 16:9-11).

Faith as a mustard seed

- Luk 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, **"Increase our faith."**
- Luk 17:6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith **as a mustard seed**, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Components of Faith

- Belief
- Trust
- Obedience

Components of Faith

- James 2:14-19 NKJV
- *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 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? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
- *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. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*

Components of Faith

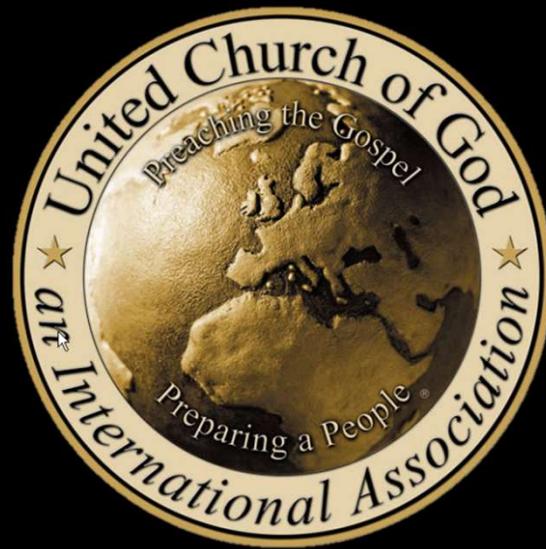
- James 2:20-23 NKJV
- *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made perfect**? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness...”*

Components of Faith

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Faith

- Rom 10:17
- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*



Virtue

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Virtue

- 2 Peter 1:5
- “... add to your faith, **virtue** ...”

- **What is virtue?**

What is Virtue?

- *Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is **any virtue** and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

What is Virtue?

- *Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is **any virtue** and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things.*
- *Phil 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.*

What is Virtue?

“Virtue ” is defined in the dictionary as ...

- Behavior showing high moral standards.
- Moral excellence and righteousness: goodness.
- Conformity to a standard of right: morality

What is Virtue?

“Virtue ” in the context of a Man or Woman of God...

- YOUR Behavior showing high moral standards.
- YOUR Moral excellence and righteousness: goodness.
- YOUR Conformity to a standard of right: morality

Virtue

Examples of Virtue

- Ruth 3:11
- And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are a virtuous woman*.

Virtue

Ruth 3:11 (OKJV)

- And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a **virtuous**^{H2428} woman.
- Exo 18:21
- Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people **able**^{H2428} men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:
- **Hebrew H2428 Chayil** = virtue, valor, strength

What is Virtue?

- Phil 4:8
- *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any **virtue**,^{G703} and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*
- Greek G703 = excellence, virtue, praise, valor

Virtue

*What is your vocation (job)?

Virtue

- *What is your vocation (job)?
- *Do you have a second vocation?
 - * Eph 4:1 Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called

Virtue

- * What's the difference between a vice and virtue?

Virtue

Group Discussion

Discuss at your tables how virtue (moral excellence) is used in the following areas of your life:

Table 1 – Your Words

Table 2 – Your Dress

Table 3 – Your Relationships

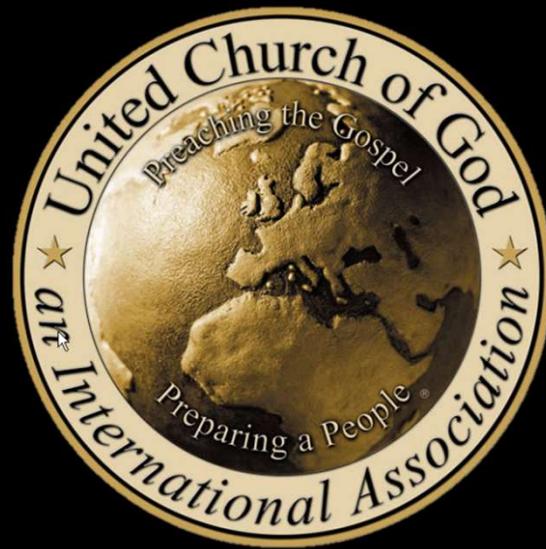
Table 4 – Your Work (or Job)

Table 5 – Your Family

Table 6 – Your Church involvement

Virtue

- * What's the status of virtue in our culture today?
- * Do most people want virtue?
- * Is the lack of virtue easily seen?
- * Are we called to virtue?
 - * Col 3:12-17



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