

Overview:

Faith goes beyond a saving faith in which a person trusts in Christ for their salvation. Faith is also a way of life; it is a dependence upon God. It is a belief that not only is He going to save us, but that He will continue to act in and through our lives, that He will fulfill His promises, and that He will reward those who diligently seek Him. Faith is a gift of God. Everything we do should come from faith, expressed in love, resulting in action.

Outline

- I. We are called to a life of faith.
 - A. Pursue it - 1 Tim 6:11,12; 2 Tim 2:22
 - B. Imitate it - Heb 13:7
 - C. Teach it - Titus 2:2
 - D. Live it - 2 Cor 5:7
- II. Faith is more than just a blind leap. It is based upon our understanding of who God is, what He has done or is doing, and what He has promised to do.
 - A. Faith involves believing in the existence of the God of the Bible. (Heb 11:6)
 1. Rahab - Josh 2:1-6; Heb 11:31
 2. The centurion - Matt 8:5-10 "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."
 - B. Faith is being sure of what we hope for. (Heb 11:1) Faith is based upon our understanding of God's character.
 1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Daniel 3:17,18 "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king."
 2. David - 1 Sam 17:47 "...the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
 - C. Faith is being certain of what we do not see. (Heb 11:1) Faith is based upon the promises of God.
 1. Noah - Hebrews 11:7
 2. Abraham - Rom 4:20
 3. Ex: Seeing in the dark
 - D. Faith is believing that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6)
 1. Abraham - Gen 15:1-6
 2. Moses - Hebrews 11:24-26
 3. Having an eternal perspective
 - a) Matt 6:19-21 (Treasures in heaven)
 - b) Heb 11:39,40 (Not received... yet!)
- III. Faith is expressed through our actions. Faith without works is dead, and works without faith are dead. If faith does not overcome our fears and emotions, it is useless.
 - A. James 2:14-26 Faith and deeds
 - B. Gal 5:6 - Faith expressed in love is all that counts.
 - C. 2 Cor 5:7 Faith is a way of life.
- IV. How do we increase our amount of faith?
 - A. Our faith is very small and we need more faith to do some greater things.
 1. Matt 17:20 Disciples rebuked for lack of faith
 2. 1 Cor 13:2 Some are gifted in faith
 - B. We can do very great things, even with a very small amount of faith.
 1. Luke 17:5,6 Faith of a mustard seed
 2. John 14:12 Anyone who has faith will do greater things than Jesus.
 - C. Our faith is based upon what we know to be true. By understanding God and His promises better, we can make our "leap of faith" shorter.
 1. Rom 10:17 Faith comes from hearing
 - D. Ask God for more faith, but be faithful with what he's given you.
 1. Faith is a gift - 1 Cor 12:9
 2. "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. John 3:27
 3. Act on the faith you have - Luke 17:5,6

Conclusion:

God is continually at work in us and around us and as our faith grows, we will trust less on our own efforts and more on his, thereby freeing us up to action, and allowing Him to use our lives for greater works.

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Matt 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Luke 17:5,6 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. (Also: Matt 21:21; Mark 11:22,23)

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 6:5a This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit;

Acts 11:24 [Barnabas] was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Romans 4:20,21 Yet [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 14:23b and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

1 Cor 2:4,5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Cor 12:7-9a Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... 9to another faith by the same Spirit,

1 Cor 13:2b ...if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Cor 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 5:6b The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

1 Tim 1:4b,5 These promote controversies rather than God's work-- which is by faith. 5The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Tim 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Tim 6:11,12a But you, man of God... pursue... faith... 12Fight the good fight of the faith.

2 Tim 2:22a Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace...

Titus 2:2 Teach the older men to be... sound in faith...

Heb 10:38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

Hebrews Chap. 11 Hall of Faith

Heb 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Heb 11:39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

James 1:3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

James 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

1 Pet 1:7 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.

2 Pe 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness...

1 John 5:4a This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Quotes:

Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you cannot understand at the time.

Oswald Chambers

The Bible teaches that faith does not end with trust in Christ for our salvation. Faith continues! Faith grows!
Billy Graham

True faith is never found alone; it is accompanied by expectation.
C.S. Lewis

Faith is not believing that God can, but that God will!
Abraham Lincoln

Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength.
Dwight L. Moody

Faith is an activity; it is something that has to be applied.
Corrie ten Boom

God... cannot believe for us. Faith is a gift of God... but whether or not we shall act upon that faith lies altogether within our own power. We may or we may not as we choose.
A.W. Tozer

Faith is the root of works. A root that produces nothing is dead.
Thomas Wilson

References:

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Macmillan Publishing Co, 1956, Chapter: Faith, p 121-131

Meyer, J; Nelson, S.; Bush, S., "Hebrews 11 Faith Series" (tapes), 1/28/96-2/25/96, Summitview Community Church, 633 S. College, Suite C, Fort Collins, CO 80524