

The Foundation of Faith

If our faith is to have a firm foundation we must be convinced beyond any possible doubt that God is altogether worthy of our trust.

This conviction must be more than a tenet of a creed to which we give nominal assent.

Our conviction must penetrate to the profoundest depths of our human spirit, [**Proverbs 20:27**].

As long as we question the wisdom of God's way of life, as shown in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit inspired text of the Christian Bible, our faith will be tentative and uncertain.

Hebrews 11:1 [NIV] *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*

Faith enters when there is no supporting evidence to corroborate God's Word of promise and we put our confidence blindly in the character of the One who makes the promises.

Matthew 26:36-39 [NIV] *“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

Faith that asked no proof was manifested by Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, when He was enduring His ordeal of agony before and on the cross.

Psalms 22:3-5 [NIV] *“Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. **In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.** They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.”*

Christ knew that God was holy and could do no wrong, so He bore the agony until His Father released Him.

Hebrews 11:35-40 [NIV] *“Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawn in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated, the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. **These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.** God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”*

These were ordinary people **not** superior leaders or great men of God.

Faith is **not** a virtue attainable by only a limited few.

Faith is simply the bringing of our minds into accord with the truth.

Titus 1:2-3 [NIV] *“a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,”*

Faith is adjusting our expectations to the promises of God in complete assurance that the Creator God cannot lie.

We can look at a mountain and affirm “*that is a mountain*”.

There is no particular virtue in the affirmation.

It is simply accepting the fact that stands before us, and bringing our belief into accordance with the fact.

We did **not** create the mountain by believing, **nor** can we annihilate it by denying it is there.

The same is with the truth about God for human unbelief cannot alter the character of God.

Exodus 3:13-14 [NIV] “*Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*”

God is what He is in Himself, He does **not** become what we believe He is.

Our faith is only on safe ground when we know what kind of God He is then adjust our entire faith and being to this holy concept.

Psalms 9:10 [NIV] “*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*”

The name of God is the verbal expression of His character and confidence rises or falls with known character.

This is why it is so important that we do not limit our comprehension of the character of God.

John 14:9-14 [NIV] “*Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 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. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*”

The more we study and meditate on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the deeper will be our understanding of the character of God.

We must always remember that God always acts like Himself, in character with His infinite perfections of love, compassion and faithfulness.

God dwells in the centre of eternal mystery, outside of time and space, but there is no need to be uncertain as how He will act in any situation covered by His promises.

These promises of God are infallible predictions.

God will always do what He has promised to do when His conditions are met.

Psalms 1:5 [NIV] “*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*”

The warnings of God are also no less predictive.

A promise is only as good as the one who makes it.

By cultivating an intimate relationship with God, and knowledge of His promises, we can strengthen our faith in Him, making it the foundation of our life.