

# The Foundation Of Faith

**Ephesians 2:8** [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God,”*

Faith is a gift from God, it is **not** something we can “work up,” it is a miracle.

Faith is the ability given to humans who have been cut off from their Creator God to trust Him and obey Him.

**Faith rests solidly upon the very nature and character of the Creator God.**

**Hebrews 1:1-3** [NIV] *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ is the exact representation of the Godhead in nature and character, [**Colossians 1:15**].

**Romans 10:17** [NIV] *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

Faith comes to us through hearing the message that the Triune God sent to humanity through His Son, The Word, Jesus Christ the Son of Man, [**John 1:1, 14**].

**Therefore Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith.**

**Hebrews 11:1-6** [NIV] *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 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.”*

Without faith it is impossible to please the Creator God, therefore without earnestly seeking Jesus Christ in our lives we can have **no** sure foundation of true faith.

How do we receive Jesus Christ in our lives so that we can have true foundation of faith in God?

**John 14:15-18** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Notice that with the coming of the Holy Spirit in our lives Jesus Christ told His disciples *“I will come to you.”*

How then do we receive the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ in us, from the Triune God?

**Acts 5:32** [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

**Only** given to those who are seeking to obey God.

**Luke 11:13** [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

We have to ask for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:5-8** [NIV] *“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

The indwelling active Holy Spirit will then work in us in these three ways.

Convict us of our sins, [**1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10**].

Reveal true righteousness, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24; Isaiah 64:6**].

Remind us that there is a day of judgement for every human being, [**2 Corinthians 5:10-12**].

In all of these things, part of the work of the Holy Spirit in us, we are being pointed to Jesus Christ as the foundation of true faith.

Jesus Christ is involved in all this work of the Holy Spirit in us, Jesus Christ’s sacrifice, His righteousness in us and He will be our judge.

**Hebrews 11**, is referred to as *“the faith chapter”* but in the light of what we have just studied I feel a fuller understanding of this portion of God’s Word should be entitled, *‘The faith in the character of God chapter!’*

The word *“faith”* can mean a thousand different things to as many people.

This is especially true if their thinking is **not** based on God’s Word, and no consideration of God’s will for all humanity.

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, is not a book to use to reason about things are good and things that are bad.

The Christian Bible is an authoritative book clearly demonstrating for us exactly what is good and what is bad.

On this basis what does the Christian Bible tell us about genuine faith?

Without dealing in pinpoint definitions, we know that true faith as demonstrated in the Christian Bible is complete confidence and trust in the Creator God and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

As a result of this confidence in our Creator God and His expression of deep love for every human being, [**John 3:16-18**], we can in faith surrender our lives to His care and the task of bringing each one of us to spiritual maturity.

**Romans 12:1-3** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”*

This is how we show our faith is our Saviour, Lord and Creator Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 1:13-16** [NIV] *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”*

This is the goal of this surrender to the will of our Creator God and allowing Him to re-educate us.

**Isaiah 64:8** [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

Our whole life and nature must be remoulded by the Creator God in whom we have total faith.

**Romans 9:13-21** [NIV] *“Just as it is written: ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: ‘I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of you will say to me: ‘Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?’ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? ‘Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?”’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”*

The Creator God chooses who and when human beings are given the gift of faith in Him, but eventually all humans will receive this gift of faith.

**2 Peter 3:9** [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

The vast majority will be through a resurrection back to human existence, after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This time as *“King of kings and Lord of lords,”* [**Revelation 19:11-16**].

**Revelation 20:11-13** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

This will be a time for these people to receive the gift of faith in their Creator God, freed from the deception of Satan, [**Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:1-3**].

**True faith must be demonstrated, not just defined.**

**2 Corinthians 5:7** [NIV] *“We live by faith, not by sight.”*

A true Christian lives day by day in the faith that the Creator God has a reason for their calling to live a godly life now.

**Hebrews 10:35-39** [NIV] *“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, ‘He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.’ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”*

The Greek word translated “confidence” is an active word “*parrhēsia*” meaning frankness, even bluntness and being made public!

The same word is used in **Hebrews 3:6** and is translated “courage” indicating a life that is a living example of faith in the Creator God, is willing to face isolation and persecution.

Also used by apostle John in **1 John 2:28; 1 John 3:21; 1 John 5:14**.

**James 2:14-26** [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have*

*deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”*

James expands on the fact that faith must be accompanied with physical works.

James gives us two very different people whose lives illustrate what he is saying, Abraham and Rahab.

**Luke 17:5** [NIV] *“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’”*

The disciples of Jesus Christ asked the question that we all would ask when we realise how important active faith is to our maturing as potential created children of the Triune God.

**Luke 17:7-10** [NIV] *“Suppose one of you had a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”*

The answer that Jesus Christ gave was similar to what He preached as recorded by Matthew.

**Matthew 5:41** [NIV] *“If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”*

This was directly referring to the Roman law of occupation that a soldier could demand anyone to carry his pack for one mile. If you offered to carry it a second mile you can imagine the impact this would have on the soldier.

Note the context to the command.

**Matthew 5:43-48** [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

Part of our active faith in action on our way to become perfect even as our Creator God is perfect.

The Greek word translated “perfect” is “*tēlēiōs*” meaning complete in moral character, from a root word “*tēlōs*” that means the attaining of the goal set before us, end result or purpose.

**Genesis 17:1** [King James] *“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*

Abraham’s walk of faith resulted in the end being perfect, Hebrew word “*tāmîym*” meaning entire without spot or blemish, [**Ephesians 5:25-29**].

The unbeliever who does **not** take the Creator God into consideration, is in effect saying, “*my gift of human reason tells me that you are unreasonable in the matters of your faith.*”

**In such a person human reason or human wisdom is king.**

Human reason has always been in rivalry with faith in the Creator God, right from the beginning of the human race.

**Genesis 3:1-6** [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”’ ‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

The human race fell into rebellious sin when Satan persuaded Adam and Eve to disobey their Creator God.

Satan told them it was reasonable that they should have the same knowledge and wisdom that God Himself had.

Our first parents discarded faith in their Creator God’s Words and bowed to faulty human reason.

We are only too well aware of the results of their failure to have faith in their Creator’s words.

As a result their posterity eventually lost their capacity to know and have faith in anything that really matters.

Once we enter by faith into the realm of our Creator God, human reason becomes a useful servant, **no** longer ruling our lives like a false god.

On the other hand, those who live without faith in Jesus Christ will unknowingly live their lives in a very real kind of sub-faith, strange as it may seem.

The rationalists all exercise faith, their habits as so-called liberal thinkers have a certain kind of faith and trust in the physical world in which we all live.

Yet they reject the validity of any religion because it requires faith, **not** discerning that they are going through many motions of faith every day.

We who are believing Christians simply accept our new realm of spiritual life and faith, where human reason becomes our servant.

**Hebrews 11:3** [NIV] *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”*

Proud thinkers tell us they believe in eternity of matter.

**Matthew 11:25-26** [NIV] *“At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.’”*

Faith becomes an organ of true knowledge.

**Luke 18:15-17** [NIV] *“People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”*

Little children have faith in their parents!