**SCOTT –CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**RESEARCH PAPER –FAITH**

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**OUTLINE**

1. Thesis statement
2. Introduction -**faith**
3. What is **faith** and demonstrations by various characters in the Bible
4. What the Bible says about faith in reference to certain scholars in different books.
5. Benefits of **faith**
6. Applications
7. Conclusion
8. Bibliography

**THESIS STATEMENT**

This research paper introduces us to faith and what it is all about. Its first mentioned in the Bible, who were the key holders of real faith and the kind of Faith they had and to which God..The paper also explores the main characters in areas of faith,relevant book citations and bible verses on the same, The importance of faith and its benefits and results to lack of faith towards God.

**INTRODUCTION**: In Hebrews 11:1 and I quote “Now Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”.,and without Faith it is impossible to please God because any one who comes to him must must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. The central feature of faith is confidence or trust. In the bible the object of faith is God and his promises. In Habbakuk he said the just shall live by faith. Faith is always a paradox.

-According to G.Campbell Morgan,D.D in his book “THE TRIUMPHS OF FAITH” ‘the righteous one shall live by faith” a sense of certainty in spite of appearances and a condition of consequent trustworthiness ;for the word “faith”here is rendered by some “faithfulness”

Faith clears doubt and the notion that things are doomed to fail.By having great faith we feel more encouraged to try new things thus giving purpose to one’s life. Faith has meaning, it is a source of inspiration, it shapes our lifestyles and it creates hope and expectation.

In this paper the researcher will try to explore faith as experienced by the underscored characters:

*1.G.Campbell Morgan D.D;The triumph of faith.By London Pickering & Inglis LTD 1947 pg 11*

Enoch

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Noah

**THE FAITH OF 1.ABEL 2.Abraham 3.Isaac.4.Jacob5.Joseph 6.Moses 7.Israel 8.Rahab 9.Supreme witnesses present times and others**

**1.-The faith of Abel.**

In the book of Hebrews 11:4 and I quote “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.

In the book of the Triumphs of faith by G-Campbell Morgan D.D the writer quoted “My righteous one shall live by faith’ this has been defined also as consiousnes,”,Faith is the confidence of things hoped for ‘based upon ‘conviction of things unseen” ,Moreover we have considered what may be described as the creed of faith “God is’and “he is a Rewarder”’of such as “deligently seek after Him’Abels faith was first mentioned at worship as a pricnciple worship is the highest function of human life, so an act of faith is perfect in itself .

**2.THE FAITH OF ENOCH**-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 pleases God. HEB 11:5 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he reward those who honestly seek him .HEB 11:6

Gen5:24”Enoch walked with God; and he was not for God took him ‘Enoch pleased God and therefore God translated him that he should not see death. When and if a man walks with God it means first he moves in the divine direction, secondly it means he is in agreement with God. Thirdly, it means there is mutual trust. Here a man trusted God and God trusted him .Finally, if a man walks with God it means that he keeps steps with God.

*2.IbIbid page 34*

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3\_**THE FAITH OF NOAH-HEB11**:7-“By faith ,Noah when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear build an ark to save his family.By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

In regard to faith.F Gerrit Immink asserts that””our faith depends to a large extend on the measure of trustywortyness we attribute to the other person” Noah really trusted the lord and believed in his promises to mankind. Noah’s story is remarkable, indeed unique and faith is revealed by building the arc Noah saw no reason except that God commanded him. God wants us to witness by faith, when all things seem contradictory, when all the circumstances of the hour seem to show that the things we are doing are supremely futile.beleiving in God ,hearing his voice ,believing his word we match on and by our obedience we condemn the world. Noah walked and carried on with God by faith

**THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM:**

By faith Abraham when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country ;he lived in tents as did Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise for he was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God.HEB11:8-10;HEB11:17-19. By faith Abraham when God tested him offered Isaac as a sacrifice .He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son even though God had said to him it’s through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned .Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.HEB11:19 Faith is conviction of God and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**THE FAITH OF ISSAC** :( GEN27:1-4and 26-40)

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*3.F. Gerrit Immink.”Faith, a practical theological reconstruction; William Eerdmans publishing company Grand rapid, Michigan, Cambridge, Uk 2005 pg. 28*

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even concerning things to come”HEB 11-20.the act on how Isaac got his wife was by faith.

In reference to Campbell Morgann,D.D and he writes in his book the triumphs of faith “that was the deepest fact in Isaac ;that faith in the God of his father Abraham ,that faith that had been the inspiration of his quite passive life, and that faith that prevailed after all .He attempted to change the divine purpose as declared to him but faith nevertheless was the greatest thing in his personality”.

The purposes of God must prevail as was in case of David .It was never more completely revealed than in the altitude he took up after his outstanding sin .also Peter cursed and swore that he did not know Jesus. But it was that breaking heart, and watch all that followed after out of absolute failure, g resulting from a failure, at last faith, burned brightly and triumphed.

Whenever a man has faith, sooner or later, even though it falter, faith will be seen in its true perspective and it will surely triumph and manifest itself in love.

**THE FAITH OF JACOB: GEN 10:8**

“By faith Jacob when he was dying blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped leaning upon the top of his staff” HEB11:21. Jacobs faith desired an entry into the blessings of his father. God helps anybody who is imagining he can in the last analysis help the fulfilment of divine purpose in life. The appearances of God to Abraham and Jacob suggested some new venture of faith and the same ware corrective.in blessings faith recognized God. The outlook of faith makes the gathering shadow shine with the bright light of faith.

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*4.G.Campbell Morgan,D.D;The triumphs of faith,London Pickering Ingils LTD page 62*

Faith makes possible the action of God, by faith, one is able to at last tell the story and to tell it so completely, and Jacob told it in terms of blessing the sons of Joseph. God honors our faith being a principle of our victory.

**THE FAITH OF JOSEPH:**

By faith Joseph, when his end was nigh, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel: and give commandment concerning his bones-HEB 11:22.The illustration of faith concerning Issac,Jacob and Joseph,came at the end of their life.

G.Campbell Morgann ,D.D in his book the triumph of faith quoted that:”By faith Joseph when his end was nigh,”when all the interesting and fascinating things recorded concerning him were coming to conclusion and very soon he would have done with earthly affairs and pass on in to the life that lies beyond,mysterious and marvelous,”when his end was nigh,”what did he do “he made mention of the departure of the children of Israel,and gave commandment concerning his bones.”It was 144 years before the exodus.

The issue concerning Joseph bones and the departure of the children of Israel,was contraly to reasonableness. It was faith that talked about going back and not reason. Faith looks beyond natural outlook and if it does not, it is not faith at all. The principal of faith operating works mightier issues than it knows. It has also been revealed that:

-Faith inspires hope, creates courage and acts rationally and it is faith all unconsciously cooperating with the purpose of God.

**THE FAITH OF MOSES** “By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter” Hebrews 11-24.By faith he forsook Egypt-Heb 11-27, By faith he kept the Passover Heb 11-28.By faith Moses, when he was born was hid three months by his parents, because they saw he was a goodly child and they were not afraid of the kings commandment.

The secret of Moses success was that he endured as seeing Him who is invisible oh the glorious paradoxes and contradictions of the life of faith .By Moses keeping of the Passover in Egypt was an act of obedient faith.

*5.Ibid page 70*

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**THE FAITH OF ISRAEL**-“By faith they passed through the red sea as by dry land; which the Egyptians by trying to do were swallowed up. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about for seven days.Heb 11-29 and 3.In the bible books of Mathew, mark and luke Jesus calls them”a faithless and perverse generation. Despite the cohorts of Egypt behind the Israelites they marched in faith. Remember when faith acts, it is not faith does the work. It is faith makes possible the activity of God.

As of Egyptians who were swallowed up by Red sea actions which appear to be actions of faith but which are not based on faith may lead to uttermost and terrific disaster. We may take an action, which appears to be exactly what the people of faith are doing, but if not an action of faith, it may lead to disaster.

**THE FAITH OF RAHAB**-“By faith Rahab the harlot perished not with them that were disobedient Hebrews 11-31 .Rahab was inspired by works and her faith operating in Obedience

**THE FAITH OF OTHERS**-“The time will fail me” Heb11:32 “of whom the world was not worthy “Heb 11:38 “these all were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. The just shall live by faith. Faith is a conviction of things hoped for and consciousness of unseen things. Faith is seen to be a continuous principle.

Through faith kingdoms subdued, righteousness wrought promises obtained the mouth of lions stopped, the power of fire quenched, the edge of the sword escaped and the strength proceeding out weekend .Faith only becomes majestic and supreme when it realized the ultimate purpose of God for this earth and humanity the promises that they did not receive was that God had reserved “some better thing” for us that they without us should not make perfect.

Jesus is the author and perfect or of our faith. Faith is cooperation with God in the interest of the consummation) upon which has not yet been reached. This concludes up the faith of the supreme witness (heb 12-2.

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Faith in present times.”Have faith in God.”Mark 11.22 “You believe in God, believe in me “John 14.1

“He that has seen me hath seen the Father John 14.9

The principle of life, of whole life, of complete or real life is Faith. Faith always is the result of the vision of God.ie the spiritual conviction of God. Faith fastens upon the faith of God always. It is the vision of him which is the inspiration of the faith which we have been considering. The faith that characterized all these men and women, these heros and heroines, these witnesses and martyrs of the past, was the vision of God. If we lose the,, if we allow the mists and clouds that are gathering about us to obscure that vision, then faith will fade. In our present times, the vision of God is grounded to us now in Christ.

**BENEFITS OF FAITH,**

Having true faith help a lot. In heb 11.1 “Faith is being sure of what we hope and certain of what we do not see

-By faith we understand that the universe was formed of Gods command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

-By faith we believe God exists without doubt and hence create a real relationship with him.

-Without faith it is impossible to please God. We believe in Gods existence and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**APPLICATION.** For all of us without Faith it is impossible to please God for he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. The just shall live by faith .Faith clears doubts and notion that things are doomed to fail. By having great faith, we feel more encouraged to try new things thus giving purpose to one’s life. Faith has meaning, it is a source of inspiration, it shapes our lifestyles and it creates hope and expectation**.**

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**CONCLUSION**

**Faith is** always a paradox. The just shall live by faith. Faith is a conviction of things hoped for and consciousness of unseen things and is seen to be a continuous principle. By faith kingdom are subdued, righteousness wrought promises obtained. The mouth of lions stopped, the power of the fire quenched, the edge of the sword escaped and the strength proceeding out of weakness. Faith only becomes majestic and supreme when it reaches the ultimate purpose of God for this earth and for humanity.

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