

FAITH BAND

ABOUT FAITH

Faith means confidence, faithfulness, trust, fidelity, assurance, belief in or confident attitude towards God; and it involves commitment to His will for one's life. Faith is the substance of things hoped for; evidence of things not seen; invisible backing of elders; creative power of divine works; divine testimony of doing basic things pleasing to God and dependence upon God's word; trusting in unknown future and seeing invisible things and assurance of God's faithfulness (Hebrew 11:1-10).

According to Hebrew 11, Faith was already present in the experience of many people in the Old Testament as a key element of their spiritual lives. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses are described as living by faith. Abraham believed in the Lord (Gen 15:6), the Israelites believed (Exodus 4:31, 14:31) and the Prophet Habakkuk taught that "the just shall live by faith" (Hab 2:4).

"Faith covers various levels of personal commitment in the New Testament. Mere intellectual adherence to a truth is illustrated in James 2:19, where even demons are said to believe that "there is one God". It reflects total attachment to Christ; and this can be viewed in two ways, namely reliance on Christ and commitment to Him. Saving grace involved the personality depending on the finished work of Christ's sacrifice as the only basis for forgiveness of sin and entrance into heaven. Saving Faith is also a personal commitment of one's life to following Christ in obedience to His commands. This is clearly expressed in the assertion that "I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (II Tim. 1:12). Faith is part of Christian life from the beginning to the end.

As the instrument by which the gift of salvation is received (Eph. 2:8-9), Faith is thus distinct from the basis of Salvation, which is grace. This is distinctly exemplified by Apostle Paul's declaration that Salvation is through faith, not through keeping the law. (Gal. 2:16).

Finally, in the New Testament, Faith can refer to the teachings of the Bible, the faith that was once for all and delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

In modern times, Faith has been weakened in meaning so much so that some people use it to mean self-confidence. (In the Bible, love and faith is confidence in God or Christ, not in oneself).