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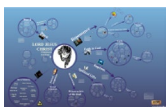
FAITH IN GOD INTRODUCTION

Key Objectives

- Know where to get faith from
- Understand the definition of Faith
- Understand that we are only faithful through faith
- Faith without works is not true faith

Omission

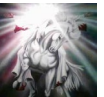
Religious traditional and lukewarm Christian life, or unsaved.



Prezi link:

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How to get the most out of this booklet



Before we begin, it is important to emphasize that gaining scriptural knowledge in itself, though important, is not enough to change character. Putting biblical knowledge into practice is the key that teaches truth and the power of God, which in turn changes hearts and lives. (John 8:31-32). The study is structured in a way that you will write out the scriptures yourselves for the purposes of deeper reflection.

Here are some key points on how to get the most out of the booklet:

- This was developed for an intimate study approach. Find a mentor that has already completed this series to facilitate your journey. You will get much more out of the series that way.
- Read the scriptures before answering the questions (really important)! . . In this way, you will learn to know the Word of God.
- Always find the answer from the Bible. Although you might think you know the answer, first find the answer in the Bible.
- Complete all the answers on the booklet.
- Be very honest with yourself, even if it hurts.
- Always have a memory verse you are working on.
- It is a good idea to share what you are learning with a friend.

Original Language – Faith



Faith - pistis (pis'-tis)

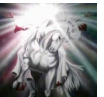
conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it, believe, faith, fidelity.



âman (aw-man)

A primitive root; properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (in [Isa 30:21](#); by interchange for [H541](#)) to go to the right hand: - hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, steadfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right.






Definition of Faith



Heb 11:1 (NIV) *Now faith is being sure of what we hope...*
What are we hoping for that we don't see?



Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please*
 Do you believe God exists and why?

I would say, " Do you believe that God will reward you if you "earnestly seek him"?"

Are you able to surrender and believe that God exists? What is holding you back?

Word's Power



Rom 10:17 *Consequently, faith comes from....*
What is the "word of Christ"?



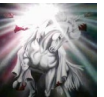
How do we hear the "word of Christ"?

What results from hearing the "word of Christ"?



QUESTIONS:
How can you grow your faith?

Are you making an effort to grow in your faith?



Creation



Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's

What are God's invisible qualities?

Why are men without excuse?



Do you spend enough time in nature?

Do you glorify God for his creation?

Father of Faith



Gen 15:6 (KJV) And he believed^{H539} in the LORD;^{H3068}

What did God promise Abram?

What was the foundation of Abraham and Israel's righteousness with God?

What are the things that we mistakenly think can make us right with God?

What does God promise us?



QUESTIONS:

Do you know the promises of God to you?

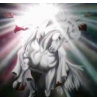
In Christ Jesus



Rom 4:23-24 The words "it was credited to him" were

To whom will God also credit righteousness?





Who saves us? What saves us?



Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Saves



Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Rom 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

What saves us?

When are we saved?

Holy Spirit



Gal 3:1-3 *You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched.....*

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?



Did you believe everything you heard about the Holy Spirit?





Resurrection



Rom 10:9-10 *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is*

What should we believe to be saved?

How can we tell if we believe in the resurrection?



Do you believe in the resurrection?

Faith, Grace and Works



Eph 2:8-10 *For it is by grace you have been saved,.....*

Can you save yourself?

Why were you created?

Do you think that you are fulfilling the purpose of your life?

Do you want to live the true purpose for your life?

Faith's Outcome



Joh 14:12-14 *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes*

What is the works Jesus did?

How is it possible to do greater things?

Why does faith transpire into works?





QUESTIONS:

Do you believe God can use your life?

Faith » Works



Jas 2:17-20 *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is*

Do demons believe in Jesus?

How do we know what saving faith is?

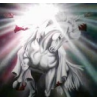
List some deeds that may accompany faith.



Do you have daily deeds that accompany your faith?

Do you have faith? What can you do about it?





Faith as a Mustard Seed



Mat 17:18-20 *Jesus rebuked the demon, and it*

What were the mountains in the disciple's lives?

What are the mountains in people's lives?



What are the mountains in your life?

What can you do to grow your faith?

Tested



1Pe 1:7 *These have come so that your faith—of*

What is the worth of our faith?

Why is our faith tested?

What are some of the tests we could face?

What can we do to prepare ourselves?



What are some of the things that tested your faith?

What can you do to be ready for the testing times?





MY STORY

It is strange how difficult it is to reach a point of true balance or equilibrium. In our human world, there are always forces at work to move conditions out of balance. Perhaps that is the very thing that Jehovah has mastered in his creation, to bring about a miraculous equilibrium. We, however, manage to overcomplicate faith to the size of a mountain or on the other hand, to oversimplify it to that of a myth.

I tend to “overcomplicate” things and can go on into a few loops to finally surface with a truth. Others might go to the other extreme to say that “it does not matter what you believe as long as you believe in something. So, we end up believing in strange things, little statues, rituals, a corporate ladder, animals, strange life philosophies, leaders, a pack of gambling cards, mountains hikes, sports teams, etc. These things become our joy, security, anchor and idols.

Then there is also the misnomer that you only have faith if you reach a spiritual level where there are mystic powers at work in some supernatural dimensions. Since only a few can attain this amazing level of faith, they get discouraged and start to doubt even their little mustard seed faith they have. We should be careful - our faith might never measure up to others' expectations.

A key scripture in this regard is:

Mat 17:20 *He replied, "Because your faith is much too small. What I'm about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there.' And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

We constantly become the victim of a judgmental society or even our critical thoughts and have to fight to remain clear based on the simplicity of faith that Jehovah requires. It does refer to a “mustard seed of faith” as being the requirement, not a “mountain of faith”.

We will be answering some critical questions throughout the sections below. Here are some popular questions:

- What is the context of faith in the elementary truths?
- What should we believe in?
- What is faith?
- How do I get faith?
- Why should we believe?
- How do we know when we have faith?

Let's be clear that the reading of many philosophical articles will not change one's faith. My intention is merely to encourage you to be clear minded, to focus on the scripture, and to warn you against thousands of years of religious distortion. I warn





you against tradition, religious teachers, yourself and for that matter even against my writings. You have to discover the truth for yourself and not wait for some respectable religious teacher to guide you but to find faith yourself with Jehovah.

Pro 2:1 *My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

To assist, I added some key faith scriptures in the top section of the writings, but ultimately you have to dig into it yourself. The section that I write below is only to clarify some issues and clear up some misconceptions.

Let's start with the first question - **What is the context of faith in the elementary truths?**

Let's consider where "Faith" fits in the Elementary Teachings of Heb 6.

Heb 6:1 *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of **faith in God**, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*

Faith in Jehovah follows right after "changes mindset" regarding Christ Jesus and right before baptism. This is not coincidental because, without faith, we cannot progress to baptism. There is no coincidental sequence in the elementary teachings.

The first elementary teaching "Changing our mind about that Jesus Christ as the living son Jehovah from dead works" is not enough to bring us to salvation. It is, however, the first step, but there is still a long journey ahead.

The second elementary teaching "Faith" is about to give depth, rooting us, instilling endurance, energizing us and providing us with spiritual glue.

And "faith in God" before baptism is also there for a specific reason --- why, because faith is required for baptism. Unfortunately, it immediately becomes a doctrinal battle with the theologians since such a statement disqualifies infant baptism. The sequence was laid down by Jehovah, and I am merely a scholar of his Word. I choose not to argue with his inspired Word. My approach remains: stick to the simple sequence of the scriptures and do not try to interpret away the simplicity of his Word. If faith is needed before baptisms, so be it. Instead, surrender traditions





and opinions to the author of the scriptures. Satan is targeting the Elementary Teachings, which is the foundation of the Christian faith. That is why faith and baptism are contentious issues. They are both salvation issues. Misleading the world on these key teachings will affect the salvation of many. Don't underestimate the cunningness of Satan.

It is, however, not my intention to provide a discourse on baptism. There is much to say about baptism, but that will be covered in another chapter.

My wife and my life are a testimony of how faith is required for baptism and to remain true to our relationship with Jehovah. Even looking at the scriptures and the book of Hebrews, it becomes evident that it is about a longer-term decision.

Heb 3:14 *We belong to Christ if we hold firmly to the faith, we had at first. But we must hold to it until the end.*

Heb 6:11 *We want each of you to be faithful to the very end. We want you to be sure of what you hope for.*

What should we believe in? By implication, faith requires that we surrender our very existence to Jehovah. We engage in a marriage with our maker to serve him, to be children of God, and we enjoy the benefits of this new relationship.

For the Hebrew audience, Jehovah was a traditional reality but not necessarily a personal faith or relationship reality. In the same way, Christianity for you could simply be a traditional lifestyle of customs without the true faith or relationship.

We don't want faith because it is the only alternative from many options. Then faith is a gamble, and the outcome unsure. It would be stupid to use faith as a safety net. Just in case it is true. And the Word anyway teaches that such faith is futile.

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.

It is a paradox, but we need to have faith in the reality. And the reality is that God created the world and we are his project. Not in a bad way, but in a good way. We are a heavily invested project that God chose pursue. The creation is described as "very good" but it costed God his one and only Son. God want us to believe the truth, but it is a spiritual truth. And we need faith to see this spiritual truth.

What is faith? We often hear people ask; how do I have a relationship with Jehovah? It will help to bring difficult concepts down to earth in search of this invisible relationship. Coming to faith is not unlike the process of choosing a partner, trusting the relationship and committing yourself to that relationship. Whether it is an earthly relationship or a heavenly relationship, faith is the key ingredient.





Marriage is a very controversial issue in this modern day. Many don't believe in the old marriage concept anymore; living together has become an accepted norm, many if not most marriages fail, and many marriages are a battle. Only a few marriages are a joy and a loving shelter for their families. Don't be fooled by my wise words, I have had my own share of hard times.

If we can't manage an earthly relationship, how can we expect to engage and maintain a heavenly relationship? This explains the emphasis in the scriptures on earthly relationships. Our earthly relationships are practice for our heavenly relationship.

Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

And

1Jn 4:20 *If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

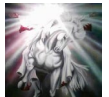
Why should we believe? The obvious answer is that we are designed to believe. We are spiritual beings. Do you believe in evil? Consider this, is evil a being or just a condition? Most people don't hesitate to believe there are an evil force. Maybe because we chose to love evil over God. Maybe we chose to be closer to evil than to God. Animals don't believe in evil, yet we do. We are significantly different from animals. We are gods, if you like. Or, we are like God by being aware of the unseen good and evil forces and beings. It is natural for us to have faith except if we choose to rebel. It is time to choose God over evil.

When we don't believe we are either unhappy or in a rebellious state. When I meet people that believe, I sense their anger and rebellion. They are in an unnatural state and they know it deep down.

We don't believe because people put concrete evidence in front of us. We believe because it is the truth.

How do I start the relationship with God? When we pursue a partner in life, we give them the following advice: Build a friendship, spend time together, learn to know them better and provide them with gifts or special moments, be vulnerable, serve and trust your partner. So put these worldly concepts to work and learn to know Jehovah, enjoy and adore Him and if you choose to commit to a relationship then work at it. This is the kind of advice that we give single men and women when they start searching for their life partners. Why would it then be so different with Jehovah?





Having faith in Jehovah is making Him real for yourself as a life partner and to commit to the terms of the relationship. This is the very reason why so much emphasis is placed on marriage in the scriptures as it equates to our relationship with our maker ([Eph 5:21-33](#)).

There is a subtle difference for pagans (non-Hebrew or non-believers) to come to faith.

Non-believers that previously trusted in statues, man-made objects or themselves built their existence and traditions around these. Now it is required of them to come to a new conviction and reject those former beliefs to put their faith in "Jehovah," the creator of heaven and earth.

In Acts, we find Paul in action as he persuades some pagans to come to faith in Jehovah.

Act 17:23 *As I walked around, I looked carefully at the things you worship. I even found an altar with TO AN UNKNOWN GOD written on it. Now I am going to tell you about this 'unknown god' that you worship. 24 "He is the God who made the world. He also made everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by hands. 25 He is not served by human hands. He doesn't need anything. He himself gives life and breath to all people. He also gives them everything else they have. 26 From one man he made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live. 27 Jehovah did this so that people would seek him. Then perhaps they would reach out for him and find him. They would find him even though he is not far from any of us. 28 "In him we live and move and exist.' As some of your own poets have also said, 'We are his children.' 29 "Yes, we are Jehovah's children. So we shouldn't think that Jehovah is made out of gold or silver or stone. He isn't a statue planned and made by clever people. 30 In the past, Jehovah didn't judge people for what they didn't know. But now he commands all people everywhere to turn away from their sins. 31 He has set a day when he will judge the world fairly. He has appointed a man to be its judge. Jehovah has proved this to all people by raising that man from the dead."*

One should not underestimate the mindset change required from being an agnostic to that of one coming to faith in Jehovah, and I might add - this is a tremendous moment !

For those that grew up in a Christian environment, this is an easy first step compared to that of an unbeliever. Religious people often underestimate this first step of belief in Jehovah.





Let's return to the book of Hebrew. True faith released the Jewish worshipers from their traditional way of worship and to a new way of spiritual worship. This faith also led them to radical changes in their religious behaviour.

Consider the consequences of faith for a Hebrew believer.

The following changes might have applied:

Old way	New way
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performed many religious acts for salvation ● Sacrificed at the temple courts ● Remained in the traditional Jewish communities ● Rejected the Christians and their fellowship ● Rejected the new teachings ● Accepted the authority of the Pharisee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put their faith in Jesus Christ the son of the living Jehovah ● Refrained from sacrificial worshipping at the temple ● Accepted rejection by the staunch Jewish community ● Engaged in a new religious Christian family ● Participated in communion on a regular basis ● Committed to the teachings of the apostles

Jas 2:14 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

It is not the “deed” that saves but the faith that results in some “deed”.

Eph 2:8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

To clarify the concept, we can use an escalator (lift) as an example. There are many invisible powers required to move passengers of an escalator to a next level. Some people, because of their fear, refuse to use escalators and rather take the steps to move between levels (If this is how you feel about lifts please don't take offence).

But if you have faith in an escalator, you get inside and push the button. This is an act of faith in invisible powers and technology. It is real faith at work when the button of the escalator is pressed. Although if the escalator was an open cage, some might have doubted the power!





FAITH IN GOD INTRODUCTION



The point is that we perform many acts of faith daily without realising it, but when it comes to religious matters faith is viewed as something else. It is the same thing, so why complicate the concept? Our physical and spiritual lives are the same!

Yet, we climb on aeroplanes believing it will take off into thin air, and we pay our bills over the internet believing that it will settle invisible accounts, we then climb into our vehicles believing a mere peddle can slow us down from 120 km/hr. in no time, and there are many more examples of how we perform small acts of faith in our every day lives, yet we struggle with the concept of having faith in Jehovah.

Faith is simple and accessible, otherwise how should everyone believe and be baptised. Surely the gospel is not meant for complicated, intellectual and religious people but for ordinary human beings.

1Co 1:26 *Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when God chose you. Not many of you were considered wise by human standards. Not many of you were powerful. Not many of you belonged to important families.*

So where does faith come from?

Rom 1:17 *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*



20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.



FAITH IN GOD INTRODUCTION



Faith can be as simple being overwhelmed by the magnificence of Jehovah's creation and being filled with a deep admiration for the Creator. It is the creation that first speaks to all of us so that we all stand without excuse. Without opening a single scripture or attending a church service Jehovah speaks to us. The question is - whether we respond and glorify Jehovah. Obviously if you want to cop out of faith at this point simply revert to a theory that omits Jehovah's involvement in creation. This is the very reason for the controversial evolution arguments. Personally, I believe that Jehovah used a process to create the universe, but I don't believe that it was a coincidence as is claimed by some evolutionists. Jehovah's most powerful hand was at work.

That is why I believe it is essential to spend lots of time in nature and to teach children and others the magnificence of the creation.

Secondly, faith comes from hearing Jehovah's word and who knows the limitations of his word. The Scriptures are preached everywhere, we can find it in books, over the radio, on television and even hear it presented by distorted men. It, however, remains the Word of Jehovah. It is for us to search for the truth amongst all the noise.

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

What will build our faith is to spend time in the Word. Faith is promised for those who seek it. Faith will, however, not come if there is not a determination to acquire it. Faith can also be lost if not nurtured and maintained.



FAITH IN GOD INTRODUCTION



Into Practice – Weekly Accountability

The knowledge acquired is worthless and only puffs us up if we don't put it into practice.

1Co 8:1 *We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.*

- Were you calm in all situations this week, trusting in God?
- What works did you do because of your faith this week?
- What are you praying for?

Key Outcome

- Faith in God and Christ Jesus
- Trust God with every aspect of your life
- Peace in your life
- Start playing a role in the lives of others

Memory verse



Don't try and learn all the memory verses at once but only select two or three verses each week. Go at a pace that doesn't add too much pressure on yourself and others. You will find new meaning in the scriptures you memorize.



<p>Heb 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.</p>
<p>Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.</p>	<p>Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.</p>	<p>Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.</p>
<p>Joh 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.</p>	<p>Jas 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 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. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.</p>	