



# MASTER BOOKLET

## 2.1 FAITH IN GOD

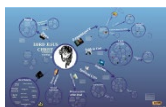


### Key Objectives

- Understand the definition of faith
- Know where to get faith from
- Who can please God through faith
- Understand faith and salvation
- Trust God with every aspect of your life
- Faith without works is not true faith

### Omission

Religious traditional and lukewarm Christian life, or unsaved














Prezi link:

[https://prezi.com/bytkjcxfn9px/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](https://prezi.com/bytkjcxfn9px/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)



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Certificate course version 5.25.2024

#### Legend Keys:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
|  | - Read scripture   |
|  | - Heart question   |
|  | - Draw             |
|  | - Memory verse     |
|  | - Greek word       |
|  | - Hebrew word      |
|  | - Group practice   |
|  | - Watch YouTube    |
|  | - Key scripture    |
|  | - Group discussion |
|  | - Prayer point     |



## How to get the most out of this booklet



Before we begin, it is important to emphasise that gaining scriptural knowledge in itself, though necessary, 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)! 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 in 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 your learning with a friend.

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## REFLECTION



What did you learn in your last session and were able to put into practice?  
With what did you struggle to put into practice?



What can you keep on doing or change to grow? Spend some time in  
prayer with God.

Are you getting out of this training project what you want? Why? Why not?

JesusDust is keen to receive your feedback from your sessions! [www.JesusDust.org](http://www.JesusDust.org)

## ELEMENTARY TEACHING – FAITH IN GOD



**Hebrews 6:1-3** Therefore let us move beyond the elementary ...read all

What is the “Elementary Teaching” that follows “Repentance”?  
Why is this the next “Elementary Teaching”?

## Original Language Of Faith



*Faith - pistis (pis'-tis)*

*Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT (New Testament) 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.*



## WHAT IS FAITH?

### What to have Faith in?

**Mat 28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ...(read all)

Who should we have faith in?

### Faith, Grace, and Works



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

Can we save ourselves?

Why were we created?



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

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

### Definition Of Faith



**Heb 11:1** Now faith is being sure of what we hope .....read all

What are we hoping for that we don't see?



**Heb 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to .....read all

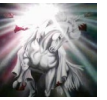
What does it look like when someone "earnestly seek God"?



Do you believe God exists and why? Do you "earnestly seek God"?

Do you believe God will reward you if you "earnestly seek him"?

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



## Faith as a Mustard Seed



**Mat 17:18-20** Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of .....read all  
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?

## WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

### God's Word



**Rom 10:15-17** Consequently, faith comes from.....read all

What is the "Word of God"?

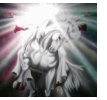
How do we hear the "Word of God"?

What results from hearing the "Word of God"?



How can you grow your faith?

Are you making an effort to grow in your faith?



## Holy Spirit



**Eph 3:16-17** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may ...read all

What does God use to strengthen us?

What is the outcome of being strengthened?



What can you do to obtain this power from God?

Do you have the Holy Spirit?

## Creation



**Rom 1:20-21** For since the creation of the world God's.....read all

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?

## YouTube Faith in God

Watch the video, and in small groups of +-4, practice teaching one another this teaching.

<https://www.jesusdust.org/faithdrawing>

## Visualise Faith in God

How to draw:

Divide the paper into 5 horizontal sections. Leave a little more room for the bottom section. Sections are for **God**, What is Faith?, **Where** does faith come from?, **Who** is faith for?, How does to **Work**?

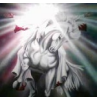
Top **GOD** section: Exclamation around a heart (God of love), Cross and crown (Jesus Christ), Flame (Holy Spirit), present (gift of God).

**What** section: Man (Me), heart (belief), crossed out eye (cannot see), victory cup (reward), mustard seed (little faith), mustard tree (faith's impact).

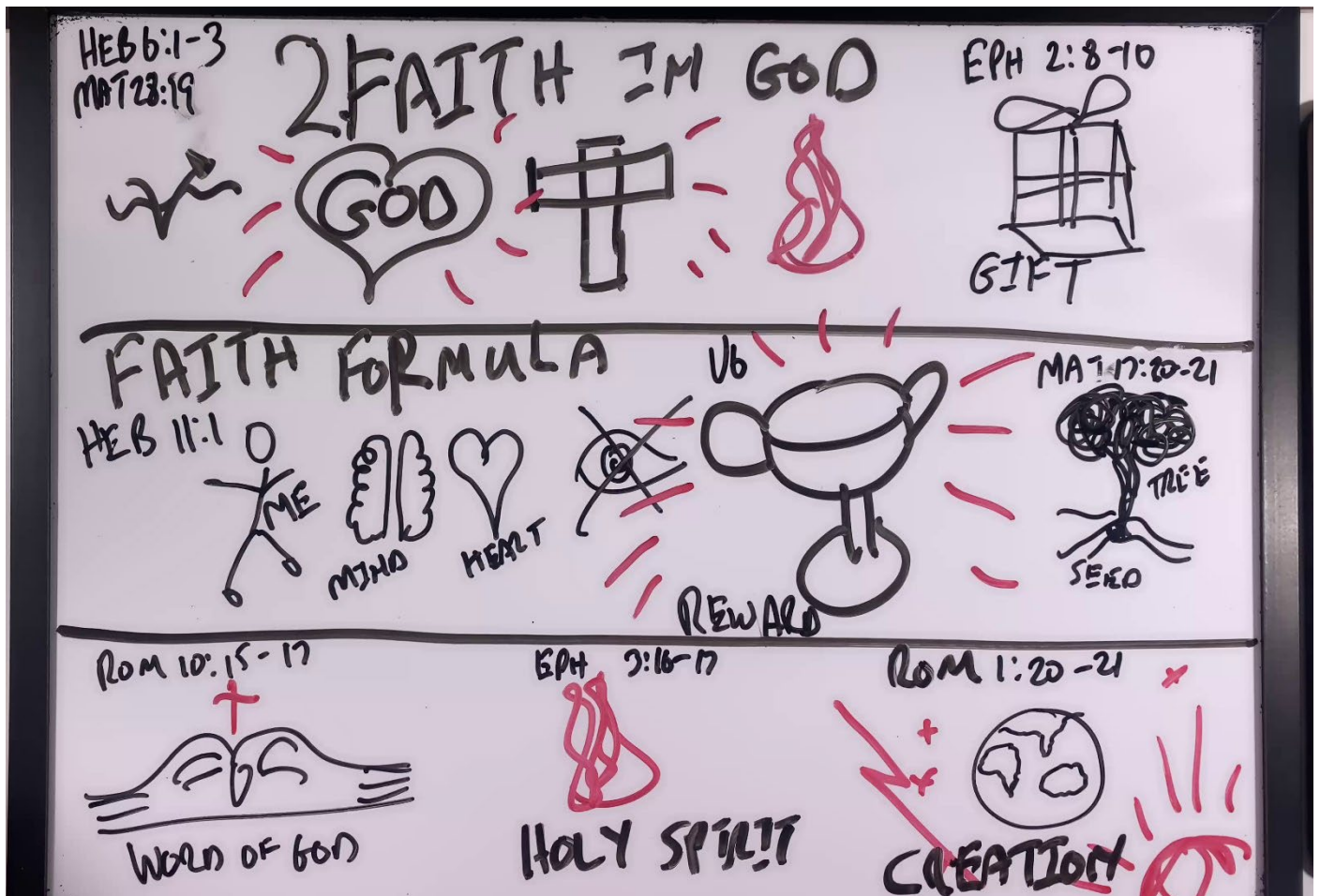
**Where** section: man (messenger), Word, flame (Holy Spirit), Earth (Creation).

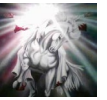






## FAITH – WHAT, WHERE

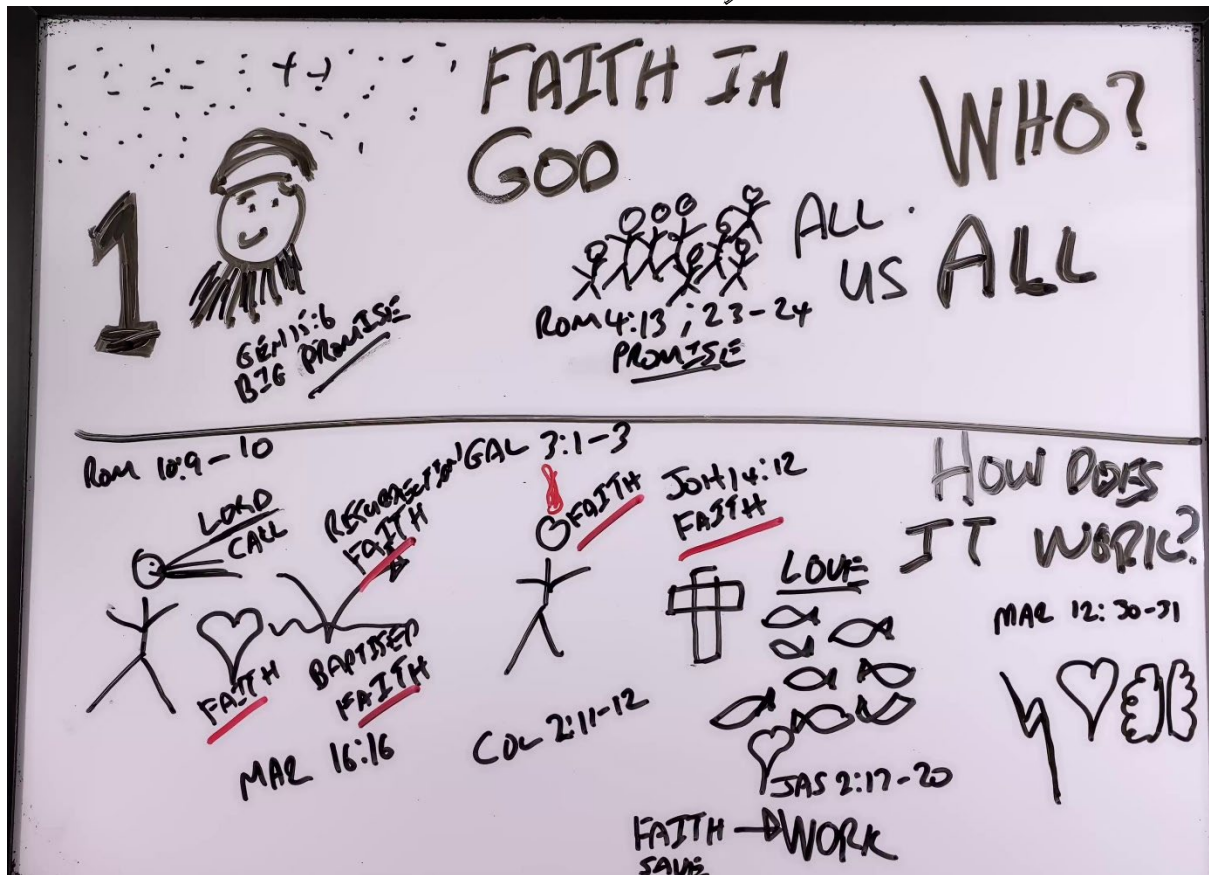




**Who** section: Old man face (Abraham/ father of faith), people (offspring/ faith in Christ).

**Work** section: Man, heart & voice (Rom 10:9-10 – believe in your heart and confess with mouth Lordship), Man baptized (Mark 16:16 – believe = faith & baptized), Man raised to new life (Col 2:11-12), Man with Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit is a gift and not through works), Cross and man fishing (Joh 14:12 – our response is to do Christ's work/ Jas 2:17-20 – deeds is an act of faith), Treasure box (1Pet 1:7 – faith is a treasure to us), Heart, mind and lightning bolt (Mar 12:30-31 - for faith to work you need to put in all your heart, mind and strength), Check box (are you putting in your heart, mind and strength?).

## FAITH – WHO, HOW







## WHO IS FAITH FOR?

### Father of Faith



**Gen 15:6** Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to .....read all

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?



Do you know the promises of God to you?

### Abraham's Offspring

**Rom 4:13, 23-24** The words "it was credited to him" were .....read all

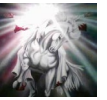
To whom will God also credit righteousness?

Who saves us? What saves us?



Do you believe in Jesus Christ?





## HOW DOES IT WORK?

 Visualise Saving Faith



 YouTube

<https://www.jesUSDust.org/savedcircle>



Draw the largest circle you can on paper with two other circles inside the outer circle.

**WHEN:** The outer circle we will identify all the elements connected with “**when are we saves.**”

**WHAT:** The inner we will identify all the elements connected with “**what saves us.**”

**HOW:** The middle circle we will identify all the elements connected with “**how are we saves.**”

Note: Some elements are shared between more than one circle. Find the detailed trainer guide at the following link:

[22. HOW - SAVED CIRCLE Trainer Guide](#)

### WHAT:

God the Father (scripture examples: Tit 3:4, Joh 3:16-17)

SON - JESUS BLOOD (scripture examples: Mat 26:28, Eph\_1:7)

CROSS (scripture examples: 1Pe\_2:24, 1Co\_1:18)

HOLY SPIRIT (scripture examples: Joh 3:5, Rom 8:9, Tit 3:5-7)

### HOW:

FAITH (scripture examples: Rom 10:10, Act 16:31-33, Eph 2:8-9, Eph 4:4-6)

DEEDS (scripture examples: Jas 2:26, Jas 1:21-22)

REPENT (scripture examples: Luk 13:3, Act 2:36-41)

GIVE UP EVERYTHING (scripture examples: Luk 9:23-24, Luk 14:33)

STAND FIRM (scripture examples: Mat 10:22, Heb 6:4-6, 1Pe 1:3-5)

WORD (scripture examples: Jas 1:21-22, Joh 12:47-48)

DECLARE WITH MOUTH “JESUS IS LORD” (scripture examples: Rom 10:9 13, Act 2:21)

LIFE AND DOCTRINE (scripture examples: 1Ti 4:16)

BORN AGAIN WATER & SPIRIT (scripture examples: Joh 3:3-7, Tit 3:5-7)

RESURRECTION (scripture examples: Rom 10:9, 1Co 15:12-14, 1Pe 1:3-5, 1Pe 3:21-22)



# FAITH IN GOD INTRODUCTION



## WHEN:

DECLARE WITH MOUTH "JESUS IS LORD" (scripture examples: Rom 10:9-13, Act 2:21)

BORN AGAIN WATER & SPIRIT (scripture examples: Joh 3:3-7, Tit 3:5-7)

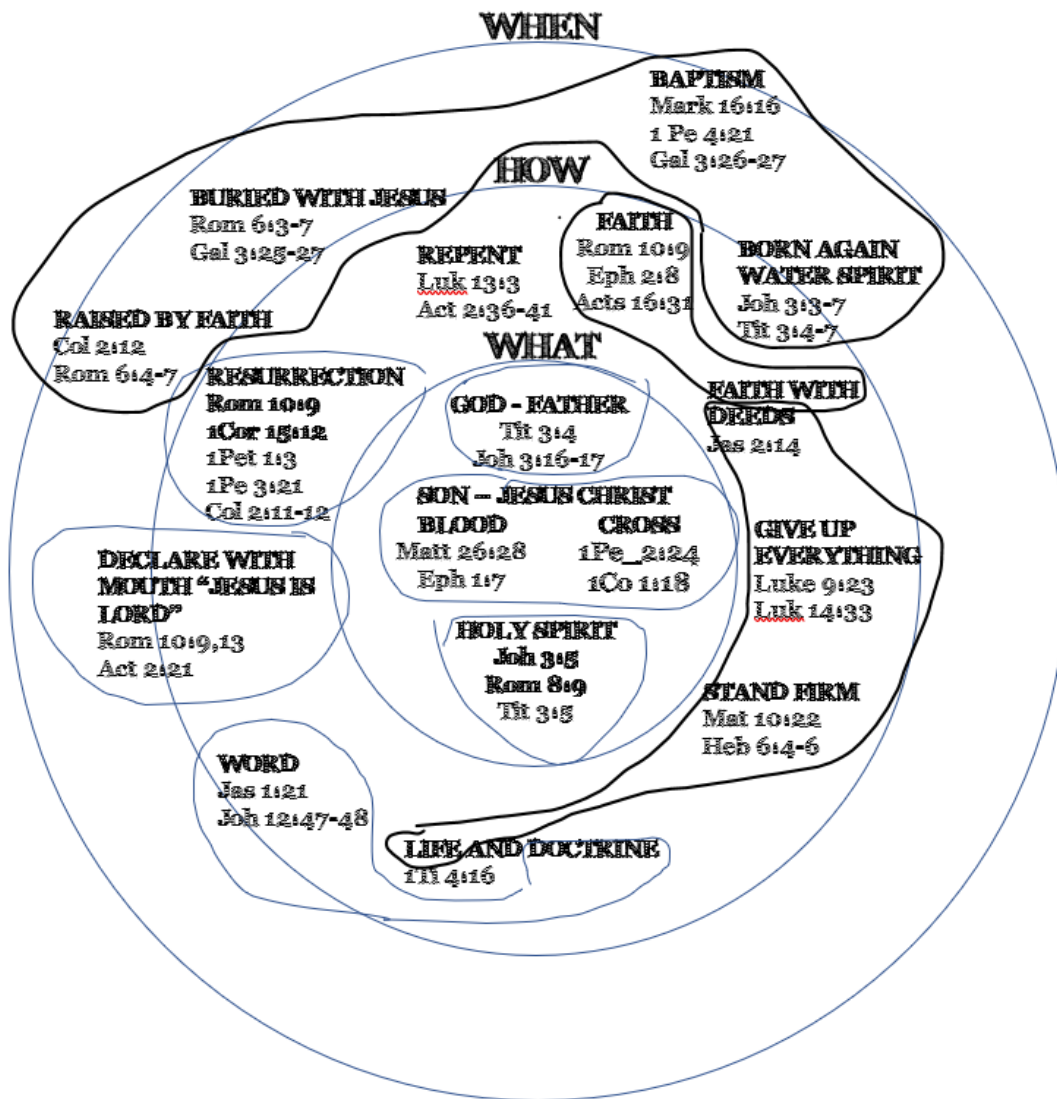
BURIED WITH JESUS (scripture examples: Rom 6:3-7, Gal 3:25-27)

RAISED BY FAITH (scripture examples: Col 2:11-12)

BAPTISM (scripture examples: Mar 16:16, 1Pe 3:20-22, Gal 3:25-27)

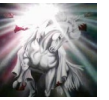
## SAVED CIRCLE TRAINER GUIDE

What does the scripture teach about being saved?



Have you used the saved circle to be saved? Do it right the first time, the bible way!





## Saves



**Mar 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptised will be ...read all

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

What saves us?

When are we saved?

## Holy Spirit



**Gal 3:1-3** You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before...read all

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?



Did you believe everything you heard about the Holy Spirit?

## Resurrection



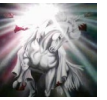
**Col 2:11-12** In him you were also circumcised, in the putting .....read all

What should we believe to be saved?

How can we tell if we believe in the resurrection?



Do you believe in the resurrection?



## PRODUCES WORK

### Faith's Outcome



**Joh 14:12-14** I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith ...read all

What is the works Jesus did?

How is it possible to do greater things?

Why does faith transpire into works?



Do you believe God can use your life?

### Greatest Command

**Mar 12:30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your ... read all

Why does it mean to love God with all your heart?

Why does it mean to love God with all your mind?

Why does it mean to love God with all your strenght?



Do you love God like that?

### Works



**Jas 2:17-20** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not .....read all

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?

Based on your deeds, how is your faith? What can you do about it?





## Tested



**1Pe 1:7** These have come so that your faith—of greater worth ...read all

What is the worth of our faith?

Why is our faith tested?

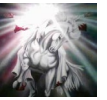
What are some of the tests we could face?

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 Wressle with Belief

For twenty-six years, I went to church, unable to find faith in God. I visited church because it was part of my culture's tradition, my parents sent me to a Protestant Sunday school class at young age. I did know if there was any alternative for the Christian belief system, I continued with it. Some would have asked me, "Do you believe in God or Jesus?", I would have responded, "I don't know, but I think so." Then they would have proclaimed, then you are saved. Today I know I had no faith at all. I believed in myself, whatever I could see and what my mind could conjure up. I was shocked the day I realised I am religious, but I am not a Christian.

I know so many people that struggle with the concept of faith. So, when exactly do you have faith and what is enough? Well, I cannot measure faith with a ruler but although it is abstract we can see the results. Because of this, I was having a battle to try and get a balanced view on the truth about faith. At times I was insecure, and then I was afraid of how my life would turn out or maybe I was somehow delusional.

It is strange how difficult it is to reach a point of proper balance or equilibrium. In our human world, forces are always 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 in a chaotic world. To create wonders using what seems to be random to us. We, however, manage to overcomplicate faith to the size of a mountain or, on the other hand, to oversimplify it to that of a powerless myth.

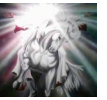
I tend to "overcomplicate" things and can go on into a few loops to finally surface with a truth. Others might go to the other extreme to say that "it does not matter what you believe as long as you believe in something. So, we end up believing in strange things, little statues, rituals, a corporate ladder, reincarnation as an animal, we have peculiar life philosophies, idolise and follow leaders, or life meaning in a relationship, we find joy in a pack of gambling cards, mountain hikes, sports teams, etc. These things become our joy, security, anchor, and idols. All are competing in the space of "Faith", although we would not recognise that.

Then there is also the misnomer that you only have faith if you reach a spiritual level where mystic powers are at work in some supernatural dimensions. Since only a few can attain this fantastic level of faith, most get discouraged and start to doubt even the tiny mustard-seed faith they have. We should be careful – because our faith might never measure up to the spiritual elite's 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 own critical thoughts. We have to fight to remain clear-minded about the simplicity of faith that Jehovah requires. It refers to a "mustard seed of faith" as the requirement, not a





“mountain of faith”. If faith in an intellectual commodity, how in the world would simple people come to faith, which was the very intent of the Gospel. Today I am involved in ministries where the church leaders cannot read or write, and the members live from hand to mouth.

I would describe myself as an intellectual of some sort, a scroller of the scriptures, yet after 30 years in the church, I find myself again baffled at the inability of spiritual leaders that advocate truth. The church, under the leadership of charismatic theologians, has gathered themselves a comfortable following that is unable to fulfil the task of evangelising the world for Jesus Christ. Having no faith, not even a little faith, yet preaching Sunday after Sunday. If the church and its member had faith, the world would have been evangelised by now.

This study intends to invite you to a house with a ceiling you cannot touch. I hope to inspire you to reconsider what your faith should produce in your life. This may be humbling and difficult learning to you but the outcome is worth it. When my faith was challenged, I remember how I responded in anger and denial. You, too may have such a response, that is normal. I encourage you to surrender all pre-conceived ideas because that will not matter when you stand before an all-powerful God.

Here is some advice. You will not obtain faith from this reading unless you make the scriptures the foundation of your discovery. Nevertheless, here is my feeble attempt to inspire, help you along.

Here are some popular faith-related 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?

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. The Word study already warned us against tradition, religious teachers, ourselves and for that matter, even against this writing. You have to discover the truth for yourself and not wait for some respectable spiritual teacher to guide you but to find your 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.*





Let's start with the first question - **What is the context of faith in the elementary truths (Heb 6:1)?**

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**.*

The elementary teachings are about "Christ Jesus", therefore all elements to follow in the passage are Christ-centred.

Verse 1, "Faith in God" follows after "repent" or "change mindset" regarding dead works and right before baptism. This is not a coincidental sequence because, without faith, we cannot progress to baptism, holy spirit, resurrection or judgement. Unfortunately, simply believe the scriptures or understand the theology. If you are part of the "simple people" that God is trying to reach, then you have your answer. However, if you are intellectual, it will take some time for you to come to faith, because you will need an understanding of all the teachings before you have faith. Even this conversation illustrates why so many intellectuals don't believe because they first want to understand.

The first elementary teaching, "Changing your mind about dead works", means that there is something wrong with the idea related to "dead works" and Christ Jesus. It is, however, the first step, but there is still a long journey ahead to unravel this for the intellectual mind.

Next, we need to ask, "What is dead work?" And to understand that, we need to ask the question, "Who was this written to?" These baby steps might frustrate you but it will all come together in a miraculous way. The book Hebrews was written to "Hebrew people". Jewish people familiar with the Tanakh, and as far as they understood, salvation came through observing many "deeds". These "deeds" included sacrifices and many rituals. These "deeds" were now classified as "dead works" because it could not bring about salvation. Their deeds are dead as far as attaining salvation. Neither did "dead works" refer to "Stop sinning", as many Christians incorrectly believe, because even by "stop sinning", you cannot bring about or maintain salvation. Letting go of your sins will not bring you in favour with God because you cannot even "stop sinning", even if you tried. There is not point in doing "good things" because that also does not offset your already sinful ways. Most religious people, agnostic people and even Christians are stuck at this very point. Consider this scripture:

**Isa 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like **filthy rags**; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.





The second elementary teaching of Christ, “Faith in God” is pointing to a new way of salvation, giving depth, rooting us, instilling endurance, energising us and providing us with spiritual glue to God and Christ Jesus. It is an “elementary teaching about Christ Jesus” through which we can obtain salvation in God.

And “faith in God” in sequence before baptism is also there for a specific reason. Why? Because faith is required for baptism. Unfortunately, immediately and intellectually, it 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. Again, ordinary people accept the sequence and are baptised, but the intellectual needs detailed discovery to accept any change in his traditional theology. 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, I want to surrender my traditions and opinions to the author of the scriptures, God. 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.





# FAITH IN GOD

## INTRODUCTION



*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.

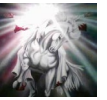
**Eph 5:25** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

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](#)).

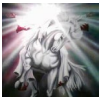
There is a subtle difference for pagans (non-Hebrew or non-believers ) to come to faith.

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:

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



**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!

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.

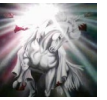
Faith is simple and accessible, otherwise how should everyone believe and be baptised. Surely the gospel is not meant for complicated, intellectual and religious people but for ordinary human beings.

**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 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.





# FAITH IN GOD

## INTRODUCTION



**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.





## 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.

*Make three goals for the next week based on what you have learned today.*

Goal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal 3: \_\_\_\_\_



Submit your goals to God in prayer.

## ACHIEVED Outcomes



- ☐ Understand the definition of faith
- ☐ Know where to get faith from
- ☐ Who can please God through faith
- ☐ Understand faith and salvation
- ☐ Trust God with every aspect of your life
- ☐ Faith without works is not true faith



## 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 memorise.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.	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.	Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.
Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.	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.	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.
Joh 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.	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.	



