

Holy Bible

“The Righteousness of God Is Revealed From Faith To Faith”

“The Righteousness of God Is Revealed From Faith To Faith”

- What is faith?
 - Heb. 11:1 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- Confidence, trust, conviction in object of faith
 - 2Cor. 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
 - Heb. 11:2-3 - “For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

“The Righteousness of God Is Revealed From Faith To Faith”

- Many people have strong confidence in God, yet believe and live differently from others who profess faith
 - One's faith is subjective
 - But faith has always involved both the subjective and the objective
 - The New Testament speaks of "the" faith and "our" faith; two closely related, yet very distinct, matters

The Faith

- The New Testament frequently speaks of the faith, using the definitive article
 - Acts 6:7 - “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”
 - Acts 13:8 - “But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.”

The Faith

- Acts 14:22 - “Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
- Rom. 14:1 - “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things”
- 1Cor. 16:13 - “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”

The Faith

- The New Testament frequently speaks of the faith, using the definitive article
 - 2Cor. 13:5; Gal. 1:23; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 1:25, 27; Col. 1:23, 2:7; 1Tim. 1:2, 3:9, 3:13, 4:1, 4:6, 5:8, 6:10, 6:12, 6:21; 2Tim. 3:8, 4:7; Titus 1:13, 3:15; James 2:1
 - Jude 1:3 - “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

The Faith

- These passages are clearly not talking about one's personal conviction
 - "The Faith" is distinct and self-existing apart from the individual.

The Faith

- “There exists a body of revealed truth on any given Bible matter. That body of truth is called the faith (Jude 3). There is a means whereby one apprehends that body of truth. That means is described as one’s faith. One’s faith, based upon the faith, can be strong or weak, depending on his rate of growth and willingness to study. However, the faith is not modified by the strength or weakness of one’s own faith; it remains constant. Therefore, one’s faith must come to measure up to the faith.” *(prb)*

The Faith

- What is "the faith"?
 - The faith involves Jesus, the Gospel, and the Kingdom
 - Acts 2:22-36 - Jesus' life, death, resurrection, Lordship and Kingdom
 - 1Cor. 15:1-4 - Jesus' death, burial, resurrection
 - 2John 1:7-11 - Jesus as the Incarnate Christ, the Son of God
 - The body of instructions, individual and collective for Christians
 - The faith is the objective standard that must be accepted

Our Faith

- The New Testament also speaks of "our" faith, personal confidence, conviction and belief
- Encouragement from shared faith
 - Rom. 1:12 - “that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me”

Our Faith

- Faith is the means of life and righteousness
 - Gal. 3:11 - “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.”
- Growth in faith
 - Rom. 4:20 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God”
- Live life by faith
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Our Faith

- This faith is our personal confidence, trust, conviction
- Our faith is placed in what we choose
 - 2Cor. 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
- Our faith can be strong or weak
 - 1Cor. 8

Our Faith

- Strengthened or weakened
 - Rom. 4:19-20 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”
- Comes from hearing the message of God
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Our Faith

- Acting without faith is sin
 - Rom. 14:23 - “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”
- Our faith is to work and do so in love
 - Gal. 5:6 - “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

Our Faith

- Our faith, even though subjective, is necessary to please God
 - Heb. 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

The Faith And Our Faith

- The faith is the objective standard to be accepted by all those who would be Christians
- Our faith is our personal trust, confidence and conviction in the faith
- Our faith must be in the faith

The Faith And Our Faith

- Christians must accept and promote the faith
 - Phil. 1:27 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”
- We can only accept the faith through our own personal faith. An indicator of the strength of our faith is how well we understand and embrace the faith and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are the source of the faith.
 - 1Cor. 2:5 - “that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

The Faith And Our Faith

- Faith that is not according to "the faith" is not accepted. We cannot have faith in God that is not according to "the faith"
- Many have departed from the faith while retaining a faith
 - 1Tim. 4:1 - "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons"
 - 1Tim. 6:20-21 - "O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- 21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith."

The Faith And Our Faith

- Our faith must be genuine and in deed
- Faith is made evident by works
 - James 2:14-26
- Jesus condemns those believe in Him and do not do God's will
 - Matt. 7:21-23
- Without love, faith can do nothing
 - 1Cor. 13:2 - “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

The Faith And Our Faith

- The faith and our faith are distinct and interconnected
- "The faith" represents objective principles consistent throughout time
- Ideally, our faith should perfectly reflect the faith

The Faith And Our Faith

- However, we are all growing in faith, and while we may have a good grasp of the basics of the faith, there is always room to grow
 - Phil. 1:25 - “And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith”
 - 2Peter 3:18 - “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
- Those who truly walk by faith will accept and abide in the faith.