



**WELCOME  
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BIBLE HOUSE  
OF  
GRACE**

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**Faith  
and  
Faithful**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Faith and Faithful.

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### Topics.

- The faithful of the Old Testament had an intimate faith with God.
- Christian faith and false faith.
- Faith is not a formula.
- Faith toward God.
- Great faith and true faith.
- Misguided super faith.
- Scriptures of faith from Hebrews chapter eleven.

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### THE FAITHFUL OF THE OT HAD AN INTIMATE FAITH WITH GOD

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God is abounding in steadfast, love, grace, goodness, and forgiveness

- **Psalm 86:5:** You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. <sup>6</sup>Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

David is perfect evidence that the faithful of the Old Testament, though under the law, and considered it of the utmost importance before God to adhered to the Levitical ceremonial rites and holy days, their faith was not limited to keeping such laws. We do them a great injustice if we think their entire faith solely existed in adhering to outward laws. Here (and in many other Psalms) it is very clear that David had a very real intimate relationship with God as did many other prophets, and faithful men and women of the Old Testament. David speaks of God being:

- Good and forgiving.
- Abounding in steadfast love, and listens to his pleas for grace.

These are emotions and attitudes that dwell in the heart, and cannot be known by strictly adhering to outward religious laws and customs. Though it was right that the faithful under the Old Testament law attached more importance to adhering to the Levitical ceremonial rites and Jewish external forms of religion than the faithful do today, it should not be thought that they were so bound by them that they had no spiritual communion with God apart from them. This truth is made very clear as we read the writings of the Old Testament prophets and faithful men and women who were dwelling great distances away from the temple and yet still had great faith toward God and intimate fellowship in prayer with Him.

The Psalms and many other Scriptures shine a spotlight upon the truth that many of the faithful desired to be on the path to the LORD and share the joyous company of others that come up from every corner of the land singing songs of praise as they travelled to the feasts in Jerusalem and share in communion with each other and with God at the temple. The common cry of the Old Testament faithful was, "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!" This shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that we do the faithful of the Old Testament a great injustice if we conceive their faith in God, and their walk with Him, was only being

slavishly bound to external forms of ceremonial rites and outward acts of religion, especially since it is a principle of life, those who willingly set their trust in another, bond and feel endeared to the one they are trusting in. The prophets and the faithful men and women of old understood that if the chief aim of their heart was the desire to get closer to God, and they accepted that God's great purpose was that they would be moulded into a people that would become His treasured possession, then not only would all their sorrows and tears become a sources of spiritual growth, and all their troubles, large and small would look different, but they would also be enriched by the indwelling of God's love and grace, and at the end of their days resurrected to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

**NOTE:** the joy faithful Old Testament believers who loved God, felt in their heart, as they travelled together to the temple of God on Mount Zion in the city of Jerusalem to worship, and the joy, New Testament believers feel in their heart as they travel to a Christian gathering of faithful believers, whether it be to their local church, in a park, a coffee bar or home etc., is the same, for the following two reasons:

1. God's love, and the excitement and joy of those who are united to Him is the same for everyone united by faith to God, no matter what historical era they live in.
2. Christ's church (the body of Christ) is not a bricks and mortar building, or a location, but the people gathered-together in Christ's name to fellowship in the presence of God, because Christ's church is not bound by stone walls, or to any location.

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## CHRISTIAN FAITH AND FALSE FAITH

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Faith for the Christian is a firm persuasion, expectation, and confidence that God will perform all that he has promised to us in Christ. This persuasion is so strong that it gives a very real:

- Possession and present reality of things unseen and hoped for.
- Spiritual enjoyment of things unseen now in this present time.
- A very real subsistence and reality of things unseen in the heart, and the mind.

It is because Christian faith deals with spiritual and invisible things exclusively, that faith is the faculty needed to grasp hold of the things unseen. The word of God states; God created the universe and by faith we believe what cannot be proven, it is with this same unquestionable faith in the word of God that Christians place their eternal future on. Faith continues whether what it is set upon is true or false, well-founded, or not, and will give all the force of reality to what is believed. This is because the human nervous system does not have a mind of its own, and because of this, cannot tell the difference between what is a real image, and what is an imaginary image, and therefore the emotions respond to both as though they are real, and affect people's actions and behaviour accordingly, supporting this idea are the following three facts:

1. Men confessing to be Christians throughout history have killed faithful Christians believing they were acting in the name of God.
2. Radical Muslims kill innocent people believing they are acting in the will of God.
3. Hindus believe in Buddha with the same faith that Christians believe in Christ.

The stronger the belief we have in something, the greater affect it will have on our emotions and feelings, and the more it affects our emotions and feelings the greater the affect it will have on our actions and behaviour. This does not mean we should deny emotions altogether, for God gave them to us to enjoy, especially in worship and praise, but it does mean our faith should not be built upon emotions and feelings, and that we should always be open to examine what we believe, is what the word of God is teaching.

**SNAPSHOT:** the fact people believe and have faith in all sorts of things, and act on them accordingly, highlights the truth, faith does not need proof to affect people's emotions, feelings, and actions. However, Christian faith is based on a vast number of evidences that prove what we are believing has a solid base (i.e., the word of God, many amazing prophecies that have been fulfilled throughout history, archaeology, it perfectly describes the nature of mankind, etc.), and its foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ, his word, and the Gospel.

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## FAITH TOWARD GOD

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All Christians know that no-one can be saved without faith, and the author in the following verse tells us it must be faith in God:

- **Hebrews 6:1:** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

While Paul went from house-to-house teaching, we are saved by repentance toward God and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:

- **Acts 20:20–21:** testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Added to this the Gospel and many other Scriptures clearly teach that it is it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that saves to eternal life. The fact some Scriptures say we are saved by faith in God, while others say we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, has led some to believe Jesus is God, which is a great error. This can be easily explained, in the following way, faith in God, embraces the idea of having faith that God is the creator and source of all life, who planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began, that mankind's salvation would be through faith in His Beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This means two things:

1. Without God's pre-ordained plan no-one could be saved.
2. Without the Lord Jesus Christ God's plan would be left bankrupt.

Biblical writers naturally suppose that their readers will understand this basic truth, especially since one cannot be separated from the other in regards to eternal salvation. No-one can believe in the true God of all creation, who does not also believe in His Son, likewise, no one can believe in His Son who does not believe in the true God of all creation.

- **John 5:23:** that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.
- **John 17:3:** And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

This is a foundational and fundamental truth and principle, without faith in our heavenly Father and His Beloved Son, it is not only impossible to please God, but also impossible for anyone to be saved.

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## GREAT FAITH AND TRUE FAITH

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As one travels through the Old Testament it becomes very clear (especially in David's Psalms), that the love our faithful fathers had for God was never dependant on their outward circumstances or their inward condition (whether they were good or bad). Their faith always soared above:

- Their wealth or lack of it.
- Their sickness.
- Their sin.
- Their defeats by their enemies.
- Their despair and their depression etc.

It did not matter what emotional or physical condition they were in; it did not affect their faith and their love for God or God's love for them. This is because great faith is not dependent on success, good feelings or emotions, true faith soars above all circumstances, trials, and troubles. The faithful of old could be lying on their bed in deep depression with their friends plotting to kill them and their armies defeated, yet their love for God did not fail, neither did it cause them to think God did not love them. Next to God's steadfast love their greatest desire was to see God exalted and His glory, cover the earth.

- Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Psalm 108:5).

Faith can only rejoice when it trusts in the promise of God, the Holiness of God secures the fulfilment of God's promise for He cannot lie:

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- **Numbers 23:19:** God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
- **Titus 1:2:** in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began
- **Hebrews 6:18:** so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

The fact God is Holy and cannot lie is the reason the faithful of the Old Testament were able to speak confidently of future things, true faith never considers the promise of God as fiction, but always as truth and therefore rejoices in it.

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## MISGUIDED SUPER FAITH

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Due to misguided teachings, some Christians have the idea, if they have super faith, they would never feel any negative or depressing emotion or have any negative experience, but this thinking is not in harmony with the lives of the faithful prophets and kings of Israel. Psalms make this very clear especially David's Psalms, and God said of Him, he was a man after His own heart:

- **1 Samuel 13:14:** But now your (king Saul) kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man (David) after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

- **Acts 13:22:** And when he had removed him (king Saul), he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’

Feelings and emotions are not faith. Faith is not dependent on how we feel. Faith is belief, it is independent of emotions, faith may produce emotions and feelings, but faith is not the feeling that it is producing. A person can be full of joy, and yet have very little faith, while another may be in great distress or despair and yet have great faith, because faith is independent of joy or despair, faith may produce joy, but joy is not faith. This means we can all be constantly connected to God by faith, regardless of how we are feeling in our emotions.

Many of the Old Testament faithful complained and moaned before God, and expressed their true feelings, emotions, and thoughts (good and bad), and prayed for a positive outcome, but underneath all their complaining was a deep-seated faith in God, that no matter what did befall them, they would continue to trust in the LORD, and rest in the confidence, they would not be cast down to eternal destruction, but raised to eternal glory and everlasting happiness. As they waited with patience for that glorious day, they trusted that the LORD would continue to uphold them, strengthen them, and comfort them by His Spirit, His love, and His grace. Job and Habakkuk are good examples of such great faith, even though Job suffered great affliction his attitude was:

- Though he slays me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).

Habakkuk said, “His body trembles at the power of the LORD and he feels weak and feeble because of the enemies who are coming to invade his land,” and then ends his prayer with the following great words of faith.

- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup>GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Hab. 3:17-19).

The great men and women of old made God their fortress and refuge, by making Him their greatest love, their best thought, and the passion of their heart and mind, and by resting in the knowledge that should everything fail in their life they would be raised to eternal glory where everlasting happiness dwells.

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## SCRIPTURES OF FAITH FROM HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

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- **Hebrews 11:1:** Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- **Hebrews 11:2:** By faith believers of the Old Testament received honourable mention.
- **Hebrews 11:6:** Without faith it is impossible to please God, because whoever draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him.
- **Hebrews 11:7:** The only righteousness that God accepts comes by faith.
- **Hebrews 11:8-10:** By faith Abraham left his homeland not knowing where he was going to live in the land of promise, because he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- **Hebrews 11:16:** God has prepared a city for all who come to Him by faith, because He is not ashamed to be called the God.

**SNAPSHOT:** faith is not a formula to be followed, but a relationship to rest in. (Graeme Schultz)

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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