



**WELCOME
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BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

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**Faith
and
Great Faith**

(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 Great Faith.

Topics.

- The faithful of old had an intimate faith with God.
- True Christian faith and false faith.
- Faith toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- A manifestation of great faith.
- Super faith, great faith, and true faith.
- Faith Scriptures from Hebrews chapter eleven.

THE FAITHFUL OF THE OLD HAD AN INTIMATE FAITH WITH GOD

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. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Though David considered it of the utmost importance before God to adhere to the law and the Levitical ceremonial rites and holy days, his faith was embraced much more than this, for his constant pray was, "O Lord take not your steadfast love from me." We do the Old Testament faithful a great injustice if we think their entire faith solely existed in adhering to outward laws. In many of the Psalms it is very clear David had a very real intimate relationship with God, as did many other prophets, and faithful men and women of the Old Testament. David often speaks of God being, good, forgiving, abounding in steadfast love, and in deep prayer, asks Him to listen to his plea for grace, these are all attitudes that dwell in the heart and cannot be known, simply by strictly adhering to outward religious laws and customs.

Even though the faithful under the Old Testament law rightly attached more importance 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 many Old Testament prophets and faithful men and women who were dwelling great distances away from the temple and yet remained with great faith toward God, and in intimate fellowship with Him in prayer. We do the faithful of the Old Testament a great injustice if we conceive their faith in God and their walk with Him as only ever being slavishly bound to external forms of ceremonial rites and outward acts of religion.

David's love for God was never dependant on his outward circumstances or his inward condition, whether they were good or bad. David's faith always soared above his wealth or lack of it, his sickness, his sin, his defeats by his enemies, his despair, and his depression etc. It did not matter what emotional or physical condition he was in; it did not affect his faith and his love for God or God's love for him. This is because great faith is not dependent on success, good feelings or emotions, true faith soars above all circumstances, trials, and troubles. David could be lying

on his bed in deep depression with his friends plotting to kill him and his armies defeated, yet his love for God did not fail, neither did he ever think God did not love him. Next to God's steadfast love David's greatest desire was to see God exalted and His glory, cover the earth. The Psalms and many other Scriptures shine a spotlight upon the truth many of the faithful looked forward to being on the path to the temple, sharing the joyous company of others that came up from every corner of the land singing songs of praise as they travelled to the feasts in Jerusalem, and sharing 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!" The prophets, and faithful men and women of the Old Testament understood, if they make the chief aim of their heart the desire to get closer to God, and they accepted that His great purpose for their lives was to mould them into a people that would become His treasured possession:

- They would be enriched by the indwelling of God's love and grace.
- Their troubles, large and small would look very different.
- Their sorrows and tears would become a source of spiritual growth.
- At the end of their days, they would be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

NOTE: the joy of the Old Testament faithful who loved God, and had His ways in their heart, felt as they travelled to the temple of God on Mount Zion in the city of Jerusalem to worship, and the joy New Testament believers have as they travel to a gathering of the faithful, whether it be in a temple, a church building, in a park, a coffee bar or home etc., is the same, because the church of God is not a bricks and mortar building, but the people in it, and the presence of God is not bound by stone walls.

TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND FALSE FAITH

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 not only gives the heart a possession and present reality of things unseen and hoped for, but also gives spiritual enjoyment of them now in this present time, and a very real subsistence and reality of them in the heart and the mind. Christian faith deals with spiritual and invisible things, and it is faith that is the faculty needed to grasp hold of these invisible things.

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. However, it is important to understand, faith is real and continues whether what it is set upon is true or false, well-founded, or not, and will also give the full force of reality to what is believed. Supporting this truth is the fact, throughout history religious men have killed others believing they were acting in the name of God, and devoted Hindus believe in Buddha and live their lives accordingly, and many who believe in idols and other gods live with the same faith Christians have in Christ. This is why we should always be open to examine what we believe, is what the word of God teaches. Study of the Bible is a great blessing and will strengthen and support our faith, but faith does not need proof, so a further and perhaps greater reason for study, is to make sure our faith is founded upon what the word of God proclaims.

All Christians are fully aware no-one can be saved without faith in God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. During my early years in the Christian faith, we were taught; because the Old Testament refers to God as our Saviour, and the New Testament refers to Jesus as our Saviour, Jesus must be God, but this reasoning is a great error, and is easily explained when the following truths are understood:

- God is the source of all life, and source of Salvation, for before time began, He planned and purposed in His eternal mind that all would be saved by faith in His Beloved Son, Israel's promised Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus, God's Beloved Son, laid his life down, so that whoever comes to him by faith could be redeemed and saved to eternal life by grace and faith in his name, and it is only by faith in him that anyone can be saved.

This means, without God's pre-ordained eternal plan no-one could be saved, but without Christ, laying his life down, God's plan would be left bankrupt. Biblical writers, naturally suppose that their readers will understand: belief in God, embraces believing in God our heavenly Father, and believing in His Son, Israel's Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ, because, in regards to eternal salvation one cannot be separated from the other. No-one can believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who does not believe in His Son, the Saviour of the world, anyone who says they do believe in God, and do not believe in His Son, are not believing in the God of the Bible.

- **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 principle, without faith in the Almighty Holy God of all creation, and Faith in his Beloved Son, it is not only impossible to please God, but also impossible for anyone to be saved.

A MANIFESTATION OF GREAT FAITH

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 their circumstances were good or bad. Their faith always soared above their wealth or lack of it, their sickness, their sin, their defeats, their despair, their depression, their troubles, and above whatever other hardships came their way. 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. Great faith soars above all circumstances, trials, and troubles, it is not dependent on success, good feelings, or emotions, the faithful of the Old Testament who truly knew God could be lying on their bed in deep depression, with their friends and enemies plotting to kill them, and their armies defeated, yet their love for God did not fail, neither did they ever 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, this type of faith is the manifestation of great faith.

- **Psalms 108:5:** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Faith can only rejoice when it trusts in the promise of God. The Holiness of God guarantees the fulfillment of God's covenant and promise, for He cannot lie.

- **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.
- **Titus 1:2:** in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.

Those who walk by faith regard the promise of God not as fiction, but fact, and therefore trust and rejoice in it, which is why the faithful of the Old Testament who understood this truth, were able to speak confidently concerning things promised, but yet unseen.

SUPER FAITH, GREAT FAITH, AND TRUE FAITH

It mattered not to the faithful of the Old and New Testament who had great faith whether their circumstance was (good or bad), God was always the praise of their heart, and it was God's Spirit and His steadfast love that sustained them, and what they most sought after. His love dwelling within their heart, and mind was their greatest treasure. Whether they were prospering and full of joy; in despair and depression; surrounded by their enemies; suffering persecution: lying on their bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death, they always spoke honestly to God of how they truly felt in mind, spirit, and heart.

Due to misguided teachings some Christians have the idea, having great faith, means never having any negative emotion, or negative experience, but this thinking is not in harmony with the lives of the faithful prophets, and kings of the Old Testament. Psalms make this truth very clear especially David's Psalms, he often speaks of being in despair, being depressed, and at times is suicidal believing it would have been better if he had never been born, yet God said of David, "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 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 and despair and yet have great faith, because faith is independent of joy and despair, which means we can all be continuously 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 they 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 befell them they continued to trust in the LORD, and rest in the confidence He would not cast them away, and at their end would raise them to eternal life. 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).

And, even though Habakkuk felt weak and feeble, because of the fierce and mighty enemies who were about to invade his land, he 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, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, 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).

For men and women of the Old Testament who had great faith, God was:

- Their greatest love, and best thought.
- The passion of their heart and mind.
- Their fortress and refuge.

And they rested in the knowledge, that should everything fail, they would be raised to eternal life, where every tear is wiped away, death is no more, and only peace and happiness remain.

FAITH SCRIPTURES FROM HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Scriptures state:

- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1).
- By faith believers of the Old Testament received honourable mention. (Heb. 11:2).
- 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. (Heb. 11:6).
- The only righteousness that God accepts comes by faith. (Heb. 11:7).
- 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. (Heb 11:8-10).
- God has prepared a city for all who come to Him by faith, because He is not ashamed to be called their God. (Heb. 11:16).

From this we learn: faith is not a legalistic formula to be followed, but a loving relationship with God, and with the Lord Jesus Christ, that is to be experienced now in this present time, and that leads to eternal life, and everlasting peace and happiness.

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.
