

Faith

(Hebrews 11:1)

Introduction:

1. The Bible speaks a lot about “faith.”
2. Faith is only as safe as the object in which it is placed.
3. In order to find happiness, we must believe the right things.
4. Believe in the wrong things and we’ll be misled and more than likely, we’ll get hurt.
5. What we believe determines our choices in life. We certainly don’t want to find ourselves pushing pencils through our ears because of a misplaced belief.
6. Therefore, we need to be extremely alert to what we believe because our beliefs will determine our choices in life. Our beliefs will decide whether we will obey or disobey God.

I. Definition of Faith

- A. Some cynics have defined faith as “believing in spite of the evidence to the contrary.”
- B. In fact, more than a few Christians view faith as something that is irrational, contrary to logic and knowledge, or even wishful thinking.
- C. Hebrews 11:1 - **“substance” & “evidence.”**

II. The Reasonableness of Faith

- A. God does not expect us to believe that which is without evidence; He has left himself a witness.
- B. (Acts 14:17; Psalm 19:1)
 1. Revelation - Natural & Written.
 - a. Prophecy
 - 1) It is said that there are more than 300 prophecies concerning Jesus himself. All precise. All without historical hints. All fulfilled to the letter.
 - b. History, Archaeology, Scientific Foreknowledge.
 - 1) Not one spade of dirt has been uncovered that has discredited a single word in the Bible.
 - 2) Sir William Ramsey (1852) - 32 countries, 44 cities, 9 islands.
 - 3) Bible not a science textbook, but when it speaks on scientific issues, it deals with them accurately and avoids the superstitions of the day.

Conclusion:

1. What we desperately need is to open God’s word and study it.
 - A. It’s the primary witness that God left of himself to convince you that your faith in him is not vain. Do you wish to increase your faith? Then study.
 - B. Also, observe the result of obedience and disobedience in your life as well as the lives of others. Sin never works. Righteousness never fails. When we come to the point where we deeply believe that, it will significantly strengthen us, because God has built into us an inclination to choose the things we believe will bring us the greatest happiness.
2. The fact is, the shortest distance between you and the life you long for is total obedience to Christ.