

What Faith Is and What Faith Is Not – Part 1

Overview: This teaching will help you to understand what is the difference between what faith is and what faith is not. Instead of assuming that you are operating in faith, you will learn how to confidently activate true biblical faith.

A. What Faith Is.

1. The Bible's definition of faith. Hebrews 11:1
 - a) The King James Version reads, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - b) Moffatt's Version reads, "Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see."
 - c) The New English Bible Version reads, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see."
 - d) The Amplified Version reads, "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."
2. Faith is in the present or past tense.
 - a) **Now faith is...** Hebrews 11:1
3. Faith **believes** that you have **received**. Mark 11:24
 - a) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
4. Merriam Webster's definition of faith (noun):
 - a) Belief and trust in and loyalty to God.
 - b) Belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion.
 - c) Firm belief in something for which there is no proof.
 - d) Complete trust; something that is believed especially with strong conviction, without question.

B. What Faith Is Not

1. Faith is not acting foolish. Proverbs 9:6
 - a) Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.
 - b) Merriam Webster's definition of foolish (adjective) is lacking in sense, judgment, or discretion, absurd, ridiculous, marked by a loss of composure, or insignificant.
 - c) Example: Discontinuing to take insulin when the blood sugar is still high.
 - d) Example: Discontinuing to take insulin while under a doctor's authority and care.
2. Faith is not in the future tense.
 - a) Example: Incorrect affirmation: "I will be healed by the stripes of Jesus;" means that you'll never get to that future point.
 - b) Example: Correct affirmation: "I **have been healed** by the stripes of Jesus;"
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, 1 Peter 2:24
being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes **ye were healed**.
 - c) I hope (wish) it will happen versus I believe it has already happened;
and I know God's Word is true.
 - d) I have received it.

3. Faith is not hope (heart versus mind).
 - a) Faith is that which brings your hopes into reality.
 - b) Now faith is the substance of things hoped (past tense) for...
4. Faith is not doubt and unbelief.
 - a) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Mark 11:23
Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart**, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
 - b) And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about Mark 6:6
the villages, teaching.
5. Faith is not assumption nor presumption.
6. Faith is not mental assent.