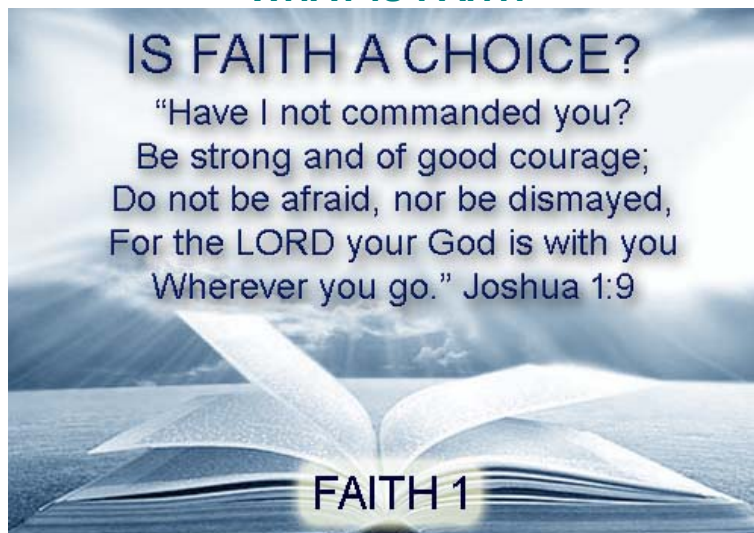


WHAT IS FAITH

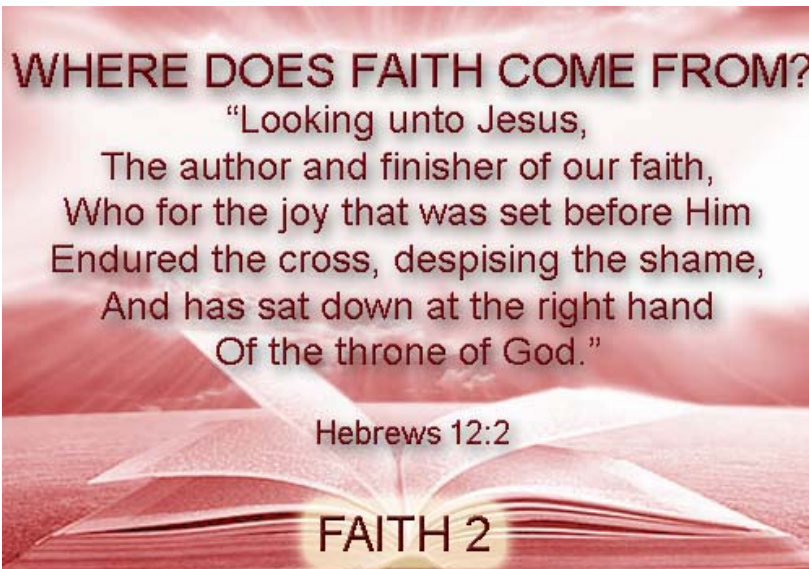


Is exercising faith in God a choice, or do we simply say, “Whatever happens, happens as after all, God is Sovereign”? The featured scripture leaves no doubt that having faith in God is in fact a command for believers, just as it was faith that first brought us to salvation?

Paul in Romans 1:16-17 said; “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... as it is written, ‘the just shall live by faith.’” So faith is the element necessary to allow the power of God to bring salvation in our lives. Therefore, if we have believed God for granting us eternal life in His presence, shouldn’t we trust Him for this life? Faith doesn’t stop at salvation, but as well must be the essence of our day to day life.

Paul again, in Hebrews 11:6 said this; “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. So, if we diligently seek Him, God will reward our faith. Doubt is the enemy’s tool to distract us in our faith. That’s why Proverbs 3:5-6 says: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

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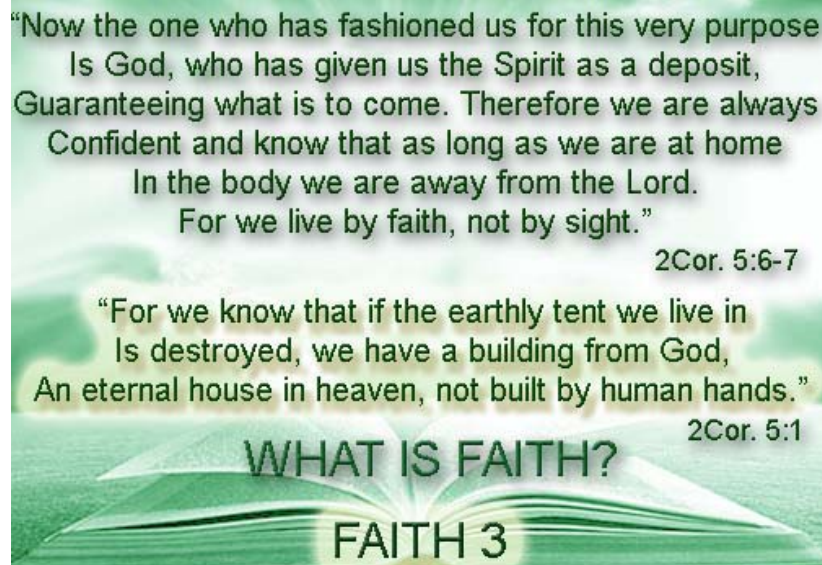
Where does faith come from? Are we born with faith, or are some given faith while others are not? Paul to the Hebrews in the featured scripture tells us that Jesus is the author of our faith.

How then does one find out about Jesus and God? Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” So anyone who ever hears about God and His salvation message through Christ, and everyone who ever heard about the bible, have the necessary basic knowledge to search the truth and receive faith.

Is there more besides hearing about the bible and the gospel message? Psalm 19:1-2 says: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.” So, even if one never actually hears about the bible or salvation, God’s creation reveals that there is a superior Being, God, who has created this magnificent world, and therefore all should seek to discover who God is, and as Jesus said, “Seek and you will find.”

All creation shouts that God is, and thereby He is the source of faith; so we either seek to know God and receive faith, or we don’t and die in our sins forever.

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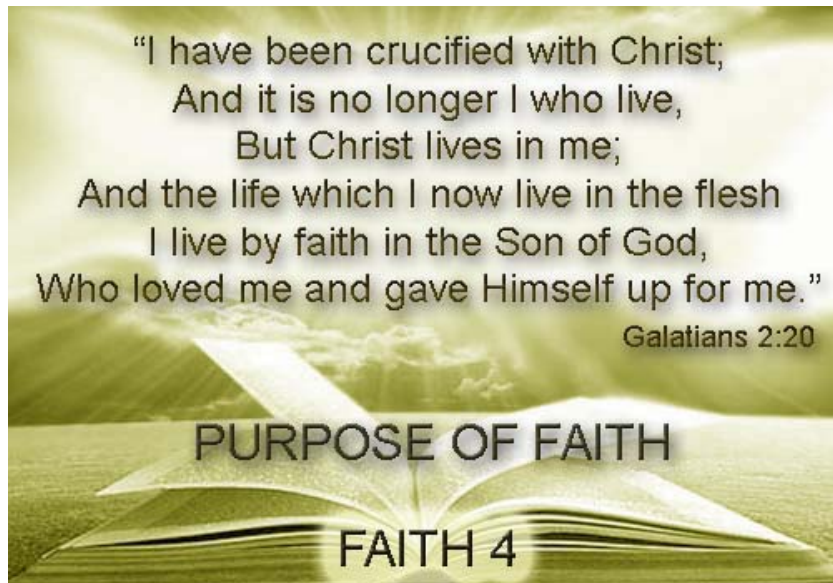


What is faith? Is it to simply believe in an idealistic sort of life or afterlife, or rather is it based on knowledge? Hebrews 11:1 describes faith this way; "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

In essence, faith is the result of trusting God through believing in His Word. We first hear the message about Christ, and the purpose of His resurrection to provide eternal life to those who believe. We choose to believe and therefore faith is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. That is the basis from which we acquire faith and put our trust in the true God.

Why then are there so many religions in the world that believe in a different god? The one and only difference is that religions teach about a god they invent, a god that looks to the superficial man, rather than producing a change from the heart. In other words, they invent ceremonies, liturgies, garbs and teachings that have for sole purpose mind control and pride. Some even disguise themselves as Christian, yet they deny Christ through their teachings and lives. Paul in 1 Cor. 2:5 says this, "That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." Simply said, faith is to believe God at His Word, not in men's lies.

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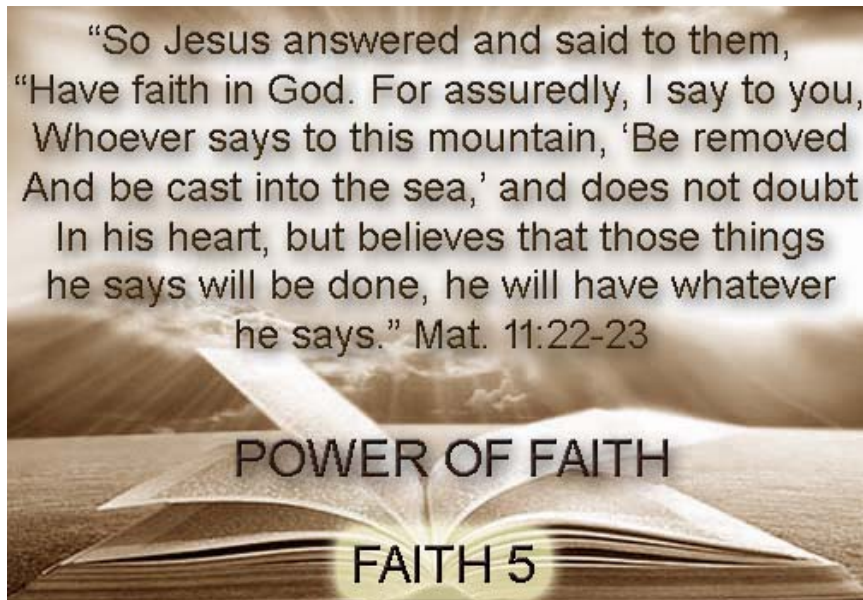
Every attitude and decision in life always produces a corresponding reaction, just as putting our faith in God and Christ does. Galatians 3:26 says, “For you are all sons *and daughters* of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” So faith in God and Christ results in God considering us His children, thereby loving us with the love a father has for his children.

Paul in Ephesians 3:16-17 said, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” In essence, faith in God and Christ allows Christ’s Spirit to live in us and to strengthen us, so as to provide us with the very power of God to live victoriously under God’s protection against the enemy.

In Romans 5:1, Paul adds, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” So, to believe in God and Christ also provides us with His peace that passes understanding.

Finally, in John 6:47, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life;” and in John 7:38 He added, “...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Can we say, “GLORY TO GOD”?

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Is there power in faith? In reading the featured scripture, do we think, “Wow, I never seen such an event in my life?” Yet, have we ever stopped to think how the power of faith has brought us to the door of salvation? We were in the kingdom of darkness, and through the power of the Holy Spirit saw the light, so that it turned our hearts from the darkness of sin, and gave us that courage to step out of the world and into God’s Kingdom; is that not power enough?

John 1:12 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” 1John 5:4 says, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith.”

Even in the natural, Jesus performed many miracles, and in Mat. 9:22, He told the woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years, and who believed in His power against all odds, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” Again, in Luke 18:27 Jesus said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Finally, Eph. 6:16 tells us that the shield of faith enables us to defend ourselves against the attacks of the enemy. By faith Noah... By faith Abraham... **POWER ENOUGH?**

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