

How does scripture define faith?

Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

How then can anyone have faith in God?

Romans 10:17 says, "Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

In other words, the revelation received from the Word of God is the only reliable source of knowledge to build our faith in God.

As such:

1 Corinthians 2:5, "Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

The reason why:

John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

What's more?

Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

1 John 5:4, "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Therefore:

Proverbs 3:5-6, "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."

Is my faith grounded in the Word of God, so I truthfully live to follow Christ and abide in Him?

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## THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

### WHY?

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”*

*Romans 1:16*

Why must we live by faith?

Hebrews 11:6, “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.”

As such:

2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Why must we guard our faith?

1 Peter 5:8, “Because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

The reason why:

2 Corinthians 10:3-4, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

What’s more?

Ephesians 6:12, “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Therefore:

Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

How steadfast am I to trust and follow Christ by faith?

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How must we stand against the enemy of our faith?

Romans 12:1-2, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Philippians 2:12, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure."

Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life."

What's more?

1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things."

Therefore:

Ephesians 6:10-11, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

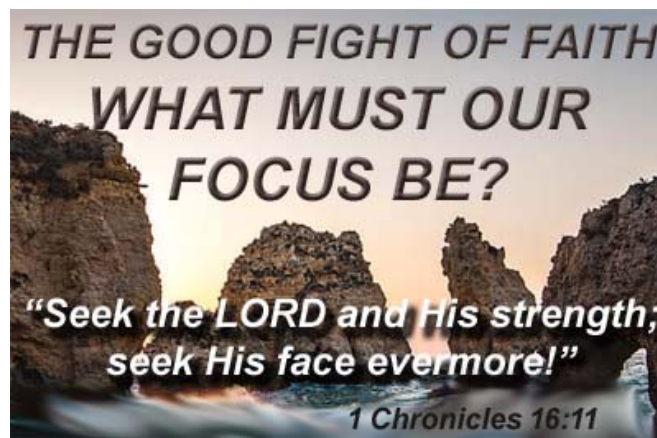
As such:

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

How committed am I to fight the good fight of faith, so I live to abide in Christ?

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How can we focus our lives to keep the faith, even through life's temptations, challenges, difficulties and even trials?

Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith."

1 Timothy 6:11, "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."

2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

James 4:7, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

As such:

Philippians 3:12-14, "I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Why?

2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

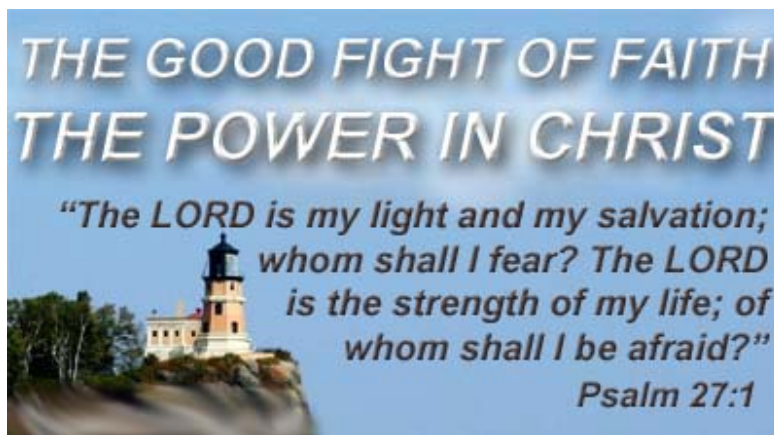
What's more?

2 Corinthians 5:1, "We know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

How strong and committed is my focus on Christ, so I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

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In fighting the enemy of our faith, where do we find the power to be steadfast and trust God?

Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Why?

2 Timothy 1:7, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

What's more?

Romans 8:35-37, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Speaking of Jesus Paul said:

2 Corinthians 12:9, "He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'"

Therefore:

1John 4:4, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

As such:

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

How strong is my faith in Christ right now?

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# THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH WARNINGS

*"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

*Matthew 26:41*



How must we avoid being deceived by the enemy of our faith, so we are not drawn by the world's lusts?

1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

Why?

Jude 4, "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

As such:

Romans 8:9, "You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

The reason Jesus added:

Matthew 12:36-37, "I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Therefore:

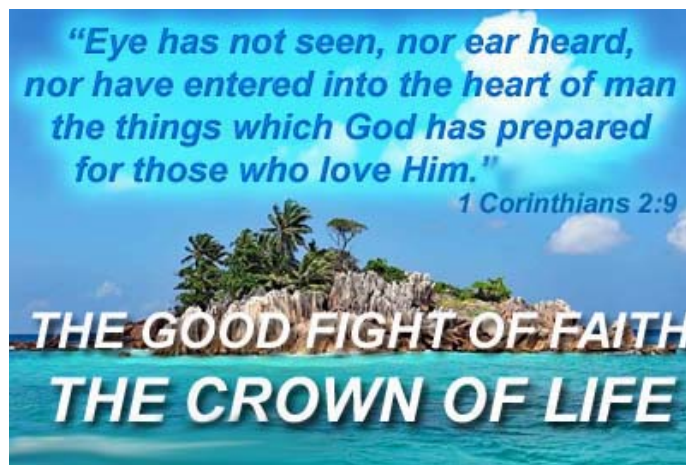
Romans 8:18, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

James 2:17, "Also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Do I take the Lord's warnings seriously to follow Christ by faith rather than the world?

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After all is said and done, when we leave this world having kept the faith in Christ and lived by His Word, what can we expect that God has prepared for us?

2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

As such:

Isaiah 54:17, "This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* from Me," says the LORD."

Philippians 1:6, "*I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians 15:57, "Thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

What's more?

1 Peter 5:4, "When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."

The reason why:

James 1:12, "Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Therefore as Christ said:

Revelation 2:10, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

How faithful am I to follow Christ, live by faith and abide by His Word?

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