

# Knowing Jesus Bible Study Guide #9 FAITH

© 2013 Thomas A. Bentley (you may copy and use for non-commercial purposes)

In this lesson we will conclude the first part of the Knowing Jesus series by talking about the topic of faith. Faith and grace are topics that often are confused and misunderstood. Last time we learned that grace has three characteristics; 1.) Grace is a gift of God, 2.) Grace saves you, 3.) Grace revives you. All three of these characteristics are what God does for you in Christ Jesus. Therefore grace really is Jesus both before and after you became a Christian. Faith is different as we shall see.

## 1. Where does faith come from?

ANSWER: Romans 12:1-3 - \_\_\_\_\_ gives a measure of faith to everyone.

Note: The faith mentioned here is in the context of submitting your life to God out of the world and the thoughts of worldly people. Faith is what propels us in every area of life.

## 2. How can you increase your faith?

ANSWER: Romans 10:17 - Faith increases as we hear God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: faith is never based upon feelings but upon the truth found in God's word.

## 3. Is faith something a Christian can be without?

ANSWER: Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

## 4. What is faith?

ANSWER: Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Bible commentator E. G. White wrote: "Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the sea of life." "Faith is the spiritual hand that touches infinity."<sup>1</sup> Imagine that someone holds a chair for you to sit in. What is required for you to allow this? As we saw in question 3, God desires that we have faith that He has our best interest at heart and they He will reward us. Notice the two parts to faith in Hebrews 11:1

A.) Faith is assurance in what you \_\_\_\_\_ to happen.

B.) Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ in your life of something you expect that is not proven at the moment.

*In our example having faith means that you are completely sure that the chair someone is holding for you will be there if you decide to sit and the evidence of faith is seen when you actually move to sit in it.*

<sup>1</sup> Desire of Ages, p 336; 6 Testimonies, p.467

**5. How did James in his epistle describe the results of faith in a Christian's life.**

ANSWER: James 2:14-20 He said that belief without application is \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Faith is much more than simply believing something to be true. Faith for it to be real requires action. This is the situation where you believe I will hold the chair for you but you refuse to sit.

**6. What is it that seems to erode our faith?**

ANSWER: James 1:1-8 Our \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: it is true. Life events that don't go the way we had hoped or are troubling tend to erode our trust in God. The suggestion James gives to our problems is not to shrink in faith but to ask for wisdom to deal with them and not to waiver in the asking.

**7. Who does Paul tell us is our example of someone who had saving faith?**

ANSWER: Romans 4:16 The faith of \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: for Paul this is the essence of faith, to trust wholeheartedly in the promise of God. To trust so much that you would leave everything you knew to follow where God would lead you.

**8. What is the result of faith?**

ANSWER Romans 5:1: our \_\_\_\_\_.

READ Romans 4 again. Notice that in chapter 4 of Romans Paul uses the life of Abraham as our example of a life of faith. What did Abraham's faith cause him to do? Paul is clear that Abraham was justified not by what he did but by believing God's promises and acting on them. Paul would never have said that Abraham was justified by faith if he heard God's promises but decided to stay in his hometown and not leave for the promised land.

**9. What can even a small amount of trust in God on our part do?**

ANSWER: Luke 17:5-6 - Move \_\_\_\_\_.

**10. What happens when faith increases?**

ANSWER: 2 Thessalonians 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_ in the fellowship increases.

**11. What was Jesus concerned about in the time just prior to His second coming?**

ANSWER: Luke 18:1-8 - That people would still have \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: the parable describes an unjust judge who finally acted on behalf of the oppressed. God is not unrighteous but when we are going through trials and problems that seem to have no answer in prayer we tend to lose our faith. Jesus assures us that God will act to avenge us but reminds us that He is patient with all that all might be saved. SEE 2 Peter 3:9

**12. What characteristic does the book of Revelation say God's last day people have?**

ANSWER: Revelation 14:12 They have \_\_\_\_\_ to act on their faith even during a trial.

Note: God's last day people have active and living faith that is played out in their obedience to God's commandments.

**APPEAL: Would you like to commit your life in faith to Jesus today?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

ANSWERS: 1) God. 2) words 3) yes 4) trust, 4.A) expect, 4.B) evidence. 5) useless. 6) Circumstances 7) Abraham. 8) justification 9) trees. 10) Love. 11.) Faith. 12.) Perseverance.