

Mastering the Basics
Lesson 10

The Doctrine of Christ: Faith toward God

The concept of faith is central to Biblical teaching. *“The response of men to the arrival of the reign of God in their midst in the Person of Jesus Christ was to be that they should “repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). The kingdom comes whether men hear or refuse to hear, but the claim which it makes is faith.” (Encyclopedia of the Bible, Vol.2, p.484).* This faith is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel. *“There is therefore at least to some extent an intellectual content to faith. Its moral content is emphasized by its close association with repentance.” (Ibid., p.485).* The construction of the Greek word for “believe” is many times used with Jesus as its object. *“The expression undoubtedly suggests not only intellectual credence, but also moral commitment to the person of Christ.”*

“Faith is connected with repentance (Acts 11:21; 20:21) and has moral consequences (Acts 24:24-25). It leads to forgiveness (Acts 10:43; 26:18), cleansing (Acts 15:9) and justification (Acts 13:39). It was the result of God’s calling (Acts 13:48) and was due to His grace (Acts 18:27). It was accompanied by the gift of the Spirit (Acts 10:43-44; 11:17; 19:2). It might be induced by a miracle (Acts 5:12-16; 13:11-12), by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11-12) or by the preaching of the Gospel (Acts 4:2,4; 18:8). It sometimes involved healing (Acts 3:16; 14:9-10). Baptism is the sign of beginning the new life of faith (Colossians 2:11-12; Galatians 3:26-27) and wherever it is spoken of, faith is assumed to be present” (Ibid. pgs. 487,489).

The Bible is clear that faith holds a prominent role in the receiving of salvation (Ephesians 2:8). It is equally clear that there must be a balanced relationship between faith and its expression in good works (James 2:14-18). The Bible indicates that it is wrong to disturb the balance of good works expressing a life of faith (James 2:26). Man is not saved by dead faith (James 2:-20), nor by works of the law (Galatians 2:16), but by saving faith in the object of God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 4:22-25; Acts 20:21). Saving faith is more than mental assent. It involves trusting someone, giving over yourselves to them (Acts 16:31 The Amplified Bible). This is the kind of faith that a Christian has in God and His Christ.

Questions

1. Read Mark 1:15. The response of individuals to the arrival of the reign of God (the kingdom) was that they should:
a. sell their house. b. get a new job. c. go to college.
d. repeat a prayer after someone. e. repent and believe the gospel.
2. Read Acts 11:21 & Acts 20:21. Faith is connected with:
a. charity. b. church attendance. c. repentance.

3. Read Acts 24:24-25; Hebrews 11:24-25; Acts 26:18-20. "Faith" has moral consequences. True or False.
4. Read Acts 10:43; 26:18. "Faith" leads to forgiveness. True or False.
5. Read Acts 15:9. "Faith" leads to cleansing. True or False.
6. Read Acts 13:39. "Faith" leads to justification. True or False.
7. Read Acts 13:48. "Faith" was the result of God's calling. True or False.
8. Read Acts 18:27. "Faith" was due to God's grace. True or False.
9. Read Acts 10:43-44; 11:17; 19:2. The gift of the Spirit accompanied the believer's faith. True or False.
10. Read Acts 5:12-16; 13:11-12. Many times faith was the result of a miracle. True or False.
11. Read Acts 4:2,4; 17:11-12; 18:8. Faith resulted from the Scriptures or by the preaching of the Gospel. True or False.
12. Read John 2:23; 4:48. Faith results from people being healed. True or False.
13. Read Mark 16:16. Whenever baptism is spoken of, faith is assumed to be present. True or False.
14. Read James 2:18. Faith can be seen by works of faith that proceed from it. True or False.
15. Read Acts 16:31 The Amplified Bible. Saving faith is more than mental assent. It involves trusting someone, giving over yourselves to them. True or False.

Scriptures to use with Questions

1. **Read Mark 1:15** [15] And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
2. **Read Acts 11:21 & Acts 20:21. Acts 11:** [21] And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. **Acts 20:** [21] Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **Read Acts 24:24-25; Hebrews 11:24-25; Acts 26:18-20. Acts 24:** [24] And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. [25] And as he reasoned of

righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. **Hebrews 11:** [24] By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; [25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **Acts 26:** [18] To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. [19] Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: [20] But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

4. **Read Acts 10:43; 26:18.** **Acts 10:** [43] To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. **Acts 26:** [18] To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

5. **Read Acts 15:9.** [9] And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

6. **Read Acts 13:39.** [39] And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

7. **Read Acts 13:48.** [48] And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

8. **Read Acts 18:27.** [27] And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

9. **Read Acts 10:43-44; 11:17; 19:2.** **Acts 10:** [43] To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. [44] While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. **Acts 11:** [17] Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? **Acts 19:** [2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

10. **Read Acts 5:12-16; 13:11-12.** **Acts 5:** [12] And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. [13] And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. [14] And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) [15] Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by

might overshadow some of them. [16] There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. **Acts 13:** [11] And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. [12] Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

11. **Read Acts 4:2,4; 17:11-12; 18:8. Acts 4:** [2] Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [4] Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. **Acts 17:** [11] These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. [12] Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. **Acts 18:** [8] And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

12. **Read John 2:23; 4:48. John 2:** [23] Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. **John 4:** [48] Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

13. **Read Mark 16:16.** [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

14. **Read James 2:18.** [18] Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

15. **Read Acts 16:31 The Amplified Bible.** [31] And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.

Answer Key - Lesson 10 The Doctrine of Christ: Faith toward God

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