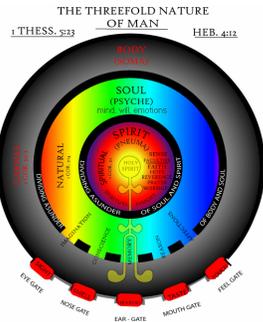


Faith Acts on Truth

Galatians 2:20

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NAS:
 "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Faith Acts on Truth

What faith is not:

- Faith is not positive thinking.
- Faith is not a hunch that is followed.
- Faith is not hoping for the best, and that everything will turn out all right.
- Faith is not a feeling of optimism.
- Faith is not a manufactured "hope-so" feeling
- Faith is not an intellectual assent to a doctrine or belief system.
- Faith is not believing in spite of evidence! That would be superstition.

What have others said concerning faith?

Faith Acts on Truth

"Illogical belief in the occurrence of the impossible."

H.L. Mencken

"Faith: not wanting to know what is true."

Friedrich Nietzsche

"Faith is not the holding of correct doctrine, but personal fellowship with the living God."

William Temple, Sr.

"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time."

Oswald Chambers

"Faith... is the art of holding on to things your reason once accepted, despite your changing moods."

C.S. Lewis

Faith Acts on Truth

"The way to see by Faith is to shut the Eye of Reason."

Benjamin Franklin

"Faith must trample under foot all reason, sense, and understanding."

Martin Luther

"Reason is the enemy of faith"

Martin Luther

"Vision looks inward and becomes duty. Vision looks outward and becomes aspiration. Vision looks upward and becomes faith."

Stephen S. Wise

"Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen."

J. Oswald Sanders

Faith Acts on Truth

A description of faith: **Hebrews 11:1,6**

- This is not a definition of faith but a description of what faith in God accomplishes and how it works.
 - This is the only description of faith in the Bible!
1. "faith is the assurance" (kjv: substance) – *lit.* to stand under, to support
 - a. Faith is to the NC what a foundation is to a house
 - b. It gives confidence and assurance that we will stand.
 2. "of things hoped for" – faith commences with **hope**.
 - a. It starts with a sense of discontentment.
 - b. If we do not feel dissatisfied with the way we are, then it will be impossible for us to exercise any faith.
 - c. This is why, all through the Bible, the great enemy of faith is a complacent spirit, an attitude of apathy towards the wonderful things offered to us through the NC in Jesus.
 - d. If we are dissatisfied, if we are looking for something better, then we are in a position to exercise much faith.

Faith Acts on Truth

A description of faith: **Hebrews 11:1,6**

"You can never have much faith unless you are dissatisfied with the way you are now, and are longing for something better."

Ray C. Stedman

3. "the conviction of things not seen." – faith is empowered through an awareness of something else, or better, an **awareness of Someone else**.
 1. As our faith grows, we become more and more aware that true reality is the invisible spirit kingdom.
 2. As we learn to walk by faith, we increasingly realize that there are realities which cannot be seen, weighed, measured, analyzed, or touched, and yet which are more real than anything we can see.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Kings 6:15-17

Faith Acts on Truth

A description of faith: **Hebrews 11:1,6**

4. "He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." – the cycle is completed!

Our faith in the unseen One – Jesus – leads us to sit, walk, or stand in a direction that will lead to the desired change within us!

But there is a grave warning and caution – it's not only a "belief" but an obedience (spirit action) to His words that will lead us to the change – or rest! **Hebrews 4:1-3**

Faith Acts on Truth

"If a random sample of one thousand American Christians were taken today, the majority would define faith as a belief in the existence of God. In earlier times it did not take faith to believe that God existed – almost everybody took that for granted. Rather, faith had to do with one's relationship to God – whether one trusted in God. The difference between faith as 'belief in something that may or may not exist' and faith as 'trusting in God' is enormous. The first is a matter of the head, the second a matter of the heart. The first can leave us unchanged, the second intrinsically brings change."

Brennan Manning – The Ragamuffin Gospel

Belief merely sits on Truth, but faith acts on it.

