

SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 – "taking up the shield of faith"
The importance of biblical faith.

- Rom 5:1 – "having been justified by faith"
- Eph 2:8,9 – "saved through faith"
- Heb 11:6 – "without faith it is impossible to please God"

What is biblical faith?

- Wishful thinking?
- Hope against all hope?
- Believing the impossible?
- Believing that which is contrary to fact?
- Believing that which is contrary to evidence?
- Ignoring or blind to reality?

SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 – the shield of *faith*

- "Taking" – a continually active thing.

Habakkuk 2:4 – "the righteous will live by his faith"

- Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:1, Hebrews 10:38

The Righteous	Shall Live	By Faith
Romans	Ephesians	Hebrews

Hebrews 11:6 – "without *faith* it is impossible to please God"

Whatever "*faith*" is, it is what the disciple of Christ is to live by, so we'd better have a solid understanding of it if we are going to find life that leads to abundancy.

SHIELD OF FAITH

What is biblical faith?

- Rom 10:17 – "faith comes from ..."
- Faith comes from hearing – literally with our ears.
- Hearing what?
- "the word of Christ"
- "word" here is *rhema* (*rhema*) – specific words or sayings; a declaration of one's mind made in words.
 - that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, a thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence (John 3:34)
- Faith then is directly related to the sayings of and about Jesus.
- Where then do we find these sayings?
 - The Scriptures!

SHIELD OF FAITH

What is biblical faith?

Access to God	FAITH
Scientific Claims	TRUTH
Historicity	(<i>rhema—logos</i>)

BIBLICAL FAITH



Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is...”

- the **assurance**,
 - a *declaration intended to give confidence; promise; guaranty; surety; full confidence; freedom from doubt; certainty; freedom from timidity; boldness.*
 - There is a reality of faith which satisfies the intellect because it is founded on reason – historically accurate and scientifically sound! IT IS TRUE. – **intellectual**
 - Romans 10:17** – “faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”
 - Faith is based firmly on Jesus as Truth and His Words as the foundation of the way things really are.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

BIBLICAL FAITH



Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is...”

- the **conviction** of things unseen .
 - a *fixed or firm belief.*
 - Because faith stands on what is demonstrably true, then when I am asked to believe what I cannot verify, I know the demands of me are consistent with what is true.
 - Romans 5:9** – “having been justified by His blood”
 - This reality of faith demands that I surrender my will and believe to be true what I can't understand or substantiate through history or science – **volitional**

BIBLICAL FAITH



The Great Warning concerning faith:

- Hebrews 4:2** – “did not profit them”
 - If Truth does not move one from mere belief to active faith, then it is of no benefit whatsoever.
 - Inactive faith is merely belief. (**James 2:14-26**)

John 20:28 – “my Lord and my God”

- “my God” – proof of intellectual faith
- “my Lord” – proof of volitional faith

BIBLICAL FAITH



3. **Hebrews 12:1,2** – “let us...”

- “the author ... of faith”
 - Pioneer, Trailblazer, Captain!
 - He blazed a trail for our *justification* before a Holy God!
- “the perfecter of faith”
 - It is now Him at work in us (**2 Tim 1:12**) to complete us – *sanctification*.

“Faith is not in itself a meritorious act; the merit is in the One toward Whom it is directed. Faith is a redirecting of our sight, a getting out of the focus of our own vision and getting God into focus. Sin has twisted our vision inward and made it self-regarding. Unbelief has put self where God should be” (Tozer, *POG*)

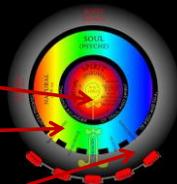
THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Hebrews 10:22

Author: Looking away unto Christ for my justification (spirit)

Perfecter: Looking away unto Christ for my sanctification (soul)

Finisher: Looking away unto Christ for my glorification (body)



Faith is an active looking away from self and seeing so clearly Who Jesus is as all Truth that our only response becomes yes, my Lord and my God, here am I, send me and use me as you desire.