

“CLOSER TO GOD SERIES”

GET CLOSER
TO GOD



IF YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO
GOD YOU MUST HAVE FAITH

Hebrews 11:6

“Without faith it is impossible to
please Him.”

WHAT DOES FAITH MEAN?

faith DOES NOT mean:

- Faith is not a blind leap that has no basis in reality.
- Faith is not some abstract idea that can't be defined.
- Faith is not some emotional feeling that you have work up.
- Faith is not positive confession.

“WHAT IS FAITH?”

Trust, reliance, confidence in the Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) of the Bible.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “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 seek Him.”

Christian faith has two components:

- 1. Belief that God exists.**
- 2. Belief that God rewards those who seek/worship Him.**

HEBREWS 11:1

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

“Hope is faith looking forward. The word faith carries a strong element of trust. If my hope is based on something God has said will happen in the future, the hope I have for that future promise finds its substance from my trust and confidence in the One making the promise.”

R. C. Sproul

“The region of the visible is not the land of faith...faith asks no other evidences than God’s word and its own assurance. It is the evidence. There is no greater lie then that “seeing is believing.” Faith believes where it cannot see, nay, believes what sight and evidence even seem to contradict, if only God has said it.”

AB Simpson, In the School of Faith, pp. 13-14.

John 1:1

“what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life.”

Jesus said to Thomas, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed”

John 20:29

“Man’s faith is that which responds to and is sustained by God’s faithfulness.

In other respects there can be a progression of thought, for faith on the part of man should lead to his own faithfulness.”

R. E. Nixon, “Faith, Faithfulness” in Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, vol. 2, p. 479.

“One of the most wonderful gifts of a loving marriage is the ability to trust your mate—trust that he will be true to you emotionally; trust that she does what she says she will do; trust that he is the same person on the inside that he presents on the outside; trust that she has your best interest in mind. This creates safety, security and a deeper capacity to love. Successful marriages are built on trust.”

John Townsend

SO WHY DON'T PEOPLE TRUST GOD?

- **They don't know Him**
- **They suppress the truth in unrighteousness**
- **They trust other things**

1 Timothy 6:10

“The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith.”

SO WHY DON'T PEOPLE TRUST GOD?

- They think faith is foolish

1 Corinthians 1:18

**“The word of the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing.”**

**Mark Twain said “Faith is believing something
you know ain’t true.”**

**Benjamin Franklin said, “The way to see by faith
is to shut the eye of reason.”**

SO WHY DON'T PEOPLE TRUST GOD?

- They are afraid-

Mark 4:40

Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

- They are angry-
- They don't think God is trustworthy-

SO HOW CAN YOU HAVE MORE FAITH?

- **ASK FOR IT**

Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you.”

Luke 17:5

“Lord, Increase our faith!”

“If your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

Luke 17:3-4

LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE

Romans 10:16

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

**THERE A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
READING GOD'S WORD
AND
HEARING GOD'S WORD.**

Romans 10:16

**“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by
the word of Christ.”**

**“The word” here is the greek word Rhema.
Rhema is the spoken word.**

JOURNEY WITH JESUS

2 Cor. 5.7

“We walk by faith not by sight.”