

Understanding Faith

1 John 5:1-21

Why do persons struggle with overcoming the world? 1 John 5:4 -5
It is faith that allows a person to overcome the world. Belief in Jesus Christ is what helps us overcome the world.

Illus: Thinking you are going the right direction and being sincerely wrong.

Object of our faith is more important than the sincerity of our belief. The man who thinks he is right but is not sure may be far better off than the one who is "sure" but absolutely wrong. The credibility of our faith begins with objective truth and ends with internal trust.

Six types of faith that describe the believer's relationship to God:

Doctrinal Faith

The source and foundation of all faith is the Bible. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17)

It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **1 John 5:6b**

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
1 John 5:20 (NASB)

Throughout the New Testament the phrase "the faith" and "doctrine" are used interchangeably. When faith has an article preceding, it means "the statement of faith." Therefore, to have correct faith, we must have an accurate statement of doctrinal faith.

1 Tim 4:1 "departed from the faith"

1 Tim 5:8 "denied the faith"

2 Tim 4:8 "I have kept the faith"

Jude 3 "earnestly contend for the faith"

A growing Biblical faith is grounded in a correct knowledge of God.

If our statement of faith is wrong, then our personal faith is misplaced.

Saving Faith

⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. **1 John 5:9-13 (NASB)**

Faith must be grounded in the correct person. (Scripture make a distinction between “believe that” and “believe in.”)

Faith involves:

knowledge (cognitive)

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. vs. 10

emotional (feeling) – relevant, learning feels good about what learning, student has a relationship with student

Matthew 22:37 (NASB)

³⁷ And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart , and with all your soul , and with all your mind . '

doing (behavior)

Romans 6:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

1 John 5:2-3 (NASB)

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Justifying Faith

This is the understanding that we have been justified or declared righteous.
Romans 8:34, Romans 5:1

Our legal position in heaven is changed. We become children of God.

1st transfer – sin transferred to Christ

2nd transfer – perfection of Jesus credited to our account (2 Cor. 5:21)

1 John 5:1-3 (NASB)

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

1 John 3:1-3 (NASB)

¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Indwelling Faith

One cannot overcome sin and sinful habits by himself. Faith is the secret of the victorious Christian life (1 John 5:4)

Person must walk moment by moment in communion with God.

- Must allow the life of Christ to flow through us
- Must surrender fears and rebellion to Christ

Reckon, Yield, Present (Romans 6)

The agent of faith – Holy Spirit (John 16:8-9)

The instrument of faith – Scripture (tool in the hand of God)

Daily Faith

Live by faith, set apart: sanctification (positional, progressive)

How is a tower built? One brick at a time. (Trust God daily, each act of faith or obedience is a brick)

- We grow in faith through the Word of God
- We grow in faith by following biblical principles

- We grow through seeking the Lord
- We grow through confessing our sins
- We grow through surrender
- We grow through constant communion
- We grow through testing of difficult experiences¹

The Gift of Faith

One of the gifts that the Holy Spirit supernaturally gives men to serve God.

Gift of faith is considered to be a serving faith which is also called a gift.

Passages: Romans 12:7, 1 Cor. 12:9

Definition: The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

¹ Lesson based on chapter entitled "Understanding Faith." in Elmer Towns. (2006) *Concise Bible Doctrines*. AMG Publishing