



Global Good

News Literature

Basic Christianity



Part I

GLOBAL GOOD NEWS LITERATURE

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



“The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study are either from NIV or NKJV**

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Lesson Four

FAITH

“Faith” indicates putting your trust on something, someone or yourself. The ‘Faith’ we will be considering in this lesson would be the faith we are supposed to have in the one true God.

People have faith in different things.

1. The Bible tells us not to have our faith in ourselves.

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ‘Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.’ 2 Cor. 1:8-9

2. The Bible also warns us not to put our trust in other men or anything.

“This is what the LORD says:

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who depends on flesh for his strength
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

‘ He will be like a bush in the wastelands;
he will not see prosperity when it comes.
He will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

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⁷ "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸ He will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit." Jer. 17:5-8

3. Our faith should only be in God. (Jer. 17:7-8, Jer. 9:24)

"This is what the LORD says:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,
²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,"
declares the LORD." Jer. 9:23-24

What does 'Faith in God' mean?

Having faith in God means that God is able to do whatever he said he would do. Faith in God means that we believe what God says and we take actions in accordance to our belief.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Heb. 11:1

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“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.” Heb. 4:18-24

What we learn from these verses is that **there has to be a Word from the Lord, before we can have faith in God who gave those words.** The Word from the Lord (the Promise) gives us Hope which is the foundation for our faith. **Faith is not “wishful thinking” or “self-fulfilled prophecy” or “positive thinking”, where we fabricate our own wishes, desires and fantasies from our hearts and minds and claim to have faith for it.** For true faith to exist in our heart, there has to be a true Word from the Lord that has been given to us.

Sometimes, the things that we claim to have faith for are contrary to the clearly written word. A Christian who claims to have faith that he/she can marry an unbeliever and believe for her/his conversion is clearly contradicting the word of God that says:

“Be ye not **unequally** yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” 2 Cor. 6:14

What is the difference between ‘Hope’ and ‘Faith’

‘Hope’ says **God will do** what he said he would do.

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‘Faith’ says it is **as good as DONE**. Faith adds certainty and assurance to our hope. (Heb. 11:1)

What is the role ‘Faith’ has in our Christian life?

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6)

We cannot please God with a weak faith. It does not mean God does not love us all equally, but God is not pleased with all his children equally. He is more pleased with those who fully put their trust in Him.

2. Without faith we cannot conquer the world we live in.

“Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

3. Faith is our Shield that guards us from the enemy’s arrows.

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” Eph. 6:16

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” 1 Pet. 5:8-9

Without faith we cannot withstand the wiles, accusations, deceptions, and temptations of the devil.

4. We can only stand firm in our Christian life by faith (2 Cor. 1:24)

5. The believer lives by Faith.

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The verse that says: “**The just shall live by faith.**” Is first written in Habakkuk 2:4 in the Old Testament, but is repeated three times in the New Testament. That shows us how important “Living by Faith” is. (Heb. 10: 38, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11)

6. Whatever we do we have to do ‘by faith’.

“But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*” Rom. 14:23

7. Faith is the hand with which we receive from God.

“Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” Matthew 9:22

“According to your faith let it be to you.” Matthew 9:29

8. Without faith our prayer is in vain. (James 1:6-8, Mark 11:24)

Different kinds of faith

1. Faith that does not save.

Just believing the existence of God does not save anyone.

“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” James 2:19

2. Faith that leads to salvation.

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“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Rom 10:9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,” Eph. 2:8

This faith that we were saved by is a gift from God like a seed planted in our heart. This seed has to be watered and cultivated in order to grow strong.

3. Little faith

“Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?” Matthew 6:30

“But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” Matthew 8:26

“But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?” Mark 4:40

4. Great faith

“Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.” Matthew 15:28

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“The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ’ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”
10 When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” Matthew 8:8-10

In the Bible we read that Jesus marveled two times, the first is when he marveled at the great faith, he saw in the centurion above. The second is when he marveled at the unbelief of people.

“And He marveled because of their unbelief.” Mark 6:6

The question to us is, shall our great faith make him marvel or our unbelief?

5. Sincere Faith (without hypocrisy).

“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith.” 1Tim. 1:5

This refers not to the greatness of our faith but to the purity of our faith. It is better to have pure little faith than great hypocritical and insincere faith. However, a believer that has both great and pure faith pleases God immensely.

What helps faith be pure is when it is combines with the Love of God.

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor un-circumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Gal. 5:6

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Where does Faith come from?

Faith comes **ONLY** from the Word of God.

“So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
Romans 10:17

That was how we got the faith that got us saved. We heard the Word of God (the Gospel) and were convicted by the Holy Spirit and got born again.

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” 1 Pet. 1:23

John the Baptist boldly proclaimed about Jesus by saying: **“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”** (John 1:29).

However, after he was thrown into prison, he doubted that Jesus was really the Messiah. His faith faltered. He sent two of his disciples and asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or not. Jesus did not answer yes or no, but knowing that his faith has weakened, told John’s two disciples, to **“Go and *tell* John the things which you hear and see: *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ‘ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*”** Matthew 11:2-4

Jesus sent John, “The Word of God” because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Actually, Jesus was telling John that the fulfillment of Luke 4:18, where it was prophesied what the Messiah would be doing is being fulfilled right before the eyes of the two disciples whom John sent to Jesus.

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

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to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” Luke 4:18

How does our faith grow?

1. When we become doers of the word instead of hearers only.
(James 1:22)

Body builders do not build their bodies by reading about body building or listening to body building lessons. They have to actually lift those heavy weights and do the required exercises. Likewise, we cannot build our faith by just reading the Word of God or listening to the Word of God. We have to integrate the Word of God into our daily life. We have to practice it and live by it.

2. By feeding on the Word of God.

Just like our physical body needs food to grow, our faith also needs to be fed the Word of God in order to grow. (1 Pet. 2:1-2, 1 Cor. 3:1-2)

Just like our faith was born in our hearts by the Word of God, it also needs the Word of God to mature and grow. (Rom 10:17)

3. By keeping a good conscience.

Having a good conscience is a safe guard for our faith. If we are not careful, we can have a great faith without keeping a ‘good conscience’.

“Hold on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.” 1 Timothy 1:19

Good conscience means a conscience that is clear and does not accuse us of any wrong doing before man or God.

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The Apostle Paul said, “**So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.**” Acts 24:16

If we don’t have a clear conscience, we cannot worship or serve the Living God. We have to have our conscience washed by the pure and blameless Blood of Christ.

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,^[a] so that we may serve the living God!” Heb. 9:14

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[a] sin.” 1 John 1:7

How is Faith displayed?

True Faith will only be evident by our works. Faith is practical. **If faith cannot be demonstrated, it cannot be true faith.** There is such a thing as “Said Faith”. It also sounds like “Sad Faith”, because it is really ‘Sad’ when someone ‘Says’ with their mouth, that they ‘Have Faith’, but cannot produce the fruit of that faith.

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:14-17

For example, if someone claims to have faith in God’s protection according to Psalms 121:3 “**He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;**”, but spends the whole night awake and worried, that would not be true faith. He is just saying he has faith.

The Enemies of Faith

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1. Fear

Fear and Faith are like light and darkness. One cannot be where the other is. Someone said, “Fear knocked on the door, when Faith answered, nobody was there.” Just like darkness vanished when the light is turned on, fear cannot stand before faith. There is a wholesome fear that we should cherish in our hearts, like the fear of the Lord, or cautionary fear that keeps us from taking foolish, haughty or unwise actions.

Talking about this kind of wholesome fear that we do need, the Word of God says, “Do not be arrogant, but be afraid.” Rom. 11:20

The fear that is the enemy of faith is the kind of fear that paralyses us from doing God’s will.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim. 1:7

“The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.” Prov. 29:25

Just as faith comes by hearing the Word of God, likewise, Fear comes by hearing the words of the Devil.

In Mark 5:21-43 (Read the whole passage), we read about the story of Jairus, ruler of the synagogue, whose little daughter was at the point of death. Jairus came to Jesus asking him to heal his daughter. While Jesus was going to Jairus house, some people came to Jairus and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” (Verse. 35) This kind of bad news strikes fear in our heart. The very next verse says,

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“As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “**Do not be afraid; only believe.**”

Jesus, knowing the fear inducing report Jairus just heard, he immediately countered it with his faith inducing Word.

Similarly, when the Devil whispers fear inducing words in our ears, we should immediately counter it with the Word of God.

The reason we should not be afraid is because God is with us.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Psalms 23:4

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” Gen. 1:15

2. Doubt

Doubt causes us to be double minded. Doubt eats away our faith. But we have to ‘**Feed our Faith and starve our doubts to death.**’

Doubt makes our faith weak and ineffective.

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-8

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When Jesus was walking on the water, Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” (Mat14:28)

Then Jesus said “Come”. That Word ‘Come’ from the Lord’s mouth generated enough faith in Peter’s heart where he started walking on the water towards Jesus. But when he saw and heard the wind and the waves, he became afraid and started to sink. Fear always makes us to sink, while Faith makes us to ride the waves and the storms of life.

As Peter was sinking, he cried out saying, “Lord, save me!” “And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” Mat. 14:30-31

3. Unbelief

Unbelief is trusting in our five senses and our own understanding, instead of the Word of God.

Talking about Thomas, John 20:25 says, “The other disciples therefore said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ So, he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

Later on, when Jesus was revealed to the disciples again, Jesus said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.” John 20:29

Unbelief stops God from working on our behalf.

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“Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” Mat 13:58

Unbelief also robs us of our spiritual inheritance.

“And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Heb. 3:18-19

The Word of God testifies for Abraham by saying, “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God” Rom. 4:20

Hope says, God will fulfill his promise.

Faith says, I consider God’s promise as already fulfilled.

Doubt says, is he really going to do it?

Unbelief says, how could he do it? It is impossible.

4. Sin

We cannot exercise our faith while our heart is filled with un-confessed sin. Also, God does not hear our prayers when sin dwells in our heart.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart,
The Lord will not hear.” Psalms 66:18

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.

² But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2

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Sin paralyses us from fighting the good fight of faith.

“When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourself from every wicked thing.” Deuteronomy 23:9

“The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. ¹² That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.” Joshua 7:10-12

If Sin has derailed our faith walk, the simple and only thing to do is to confess our sins, ask God’s forgiveness and re-establish our fellowship with God. (1 John 1:7-9)

5. Ignorance.

Ignorance or lack of knowledge misleads and de-rails our faith.

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

‘Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.’ Hosea 4:6

What is referred to as ‘knowledge’ here is not the knowledge that we acquire by going to school, but the knowledge that comes from God’s Word. It refers to knowing God.

The Word of God says that, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Prov. 1:7

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Usually, peoples' faith is misled because they do not know or clearly understand what the Word of God says.

“Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God’.” Matthew 22:29

The Word of God also says:

“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6

“Be still, and know that I *am* God” Psalms 46:10

“The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out *great exploits*.” *Daniel 11:32*

“Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant.**” 1 Cor. 12:1

May God help us to be men and women of

Great Faith

Without FAITH ‘it is impossible to please God’

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Lesson 4 – FAITH - Quiz

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____
Student Name: _____
Address: _____

1. Hebrew chapter 11 is called the chapter of Faith. How does verse 1 define Faith and how do you understand it?
2. Describe the importance of Faith in a Christian's life.
3. What does the Apostle Paul mean when he said "Sincere Faith" in 1 Timothy 1:5 and 2 Timothy 1:5
4. From the different kinds of Faith listed in this lesson which one do you think you are in? How do you plan to go beyond?
5. What does it mean when it says, "Faith without works is dead"?
6. What do we have to do for our faith to grow?
7. After you list the enemies of faith, describe which one of these is your #1 problem? What do you plan to do to overcome this problem?