

# Christian Community Church of God

Bible Study

November 3, 2010

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## FAITH

Hebrews 11:1

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

- The subject of "faith" has been discussed in many and varied circles each attracting concepts befitting its own ideology.
- Paul's comprehensive reference to faith in Hebrews 11 reflects the Christian embrace of the subject.
- Some words used to describe "faith" are "trust, hope, confidence, belief, foremost." Among them is "belief" and "trust."
- When faith is used interchangeably as "belief" it can speak more specifically to the embrace of a particular religious doctrine.
  - e.g. The Bahia's faith or the Buddhist faith
  - This actually speaks to belief in a particular teaching.
- As confidence, hope and trust, "faith" is that which involves the concept of future events and results where nothing is resting on logical proof or material existence.
- Faith then is a persuasion towards the establishment of truth. The Apostle continued his discourse in the chapter by making reference to the truth discovered by those who lived by faith.
- Dr. William Burkett says, as it relates to faith, "That it is a confident and firm expectation of the good things which God has promised, giving the good things hoped for, a real substance in our minds and souls."

- The reality of faith to the believer comes firstly in one's pursuit to prove to himself God is real before he can communicate that truth to others.
- It is faith which permits us to treat the invisible both as evidence and reality and causes our minds to embrace them as truth seen by our natural eyes.
- Faith must not be viewed or treated as a mythical concept as is the common practice among those mainly of the charismatic persuasion. For the believer, it is a way of life. It is by it that the elders obtain a good report.
- It is not an emotional practice which is turned on at required moments. It is the method through which spiritual lives are lived. So then, the discipline of worship is developed through faith where trust is produced in the continued hopefulness of the redeemed towards his Redeemer.
- The adherence to faith in the Christian life and walk is not to project to be better than others of differing beliefs. Christians, however, seeks to be distinguished by their faith because of the object of that faith.
- It is our steadfast belief in God which causes others to question the sense of our faith that we believe in a God we cannot see; yet we remain steadfast in such belief. In faith, we trust God enough to rely on Him.
- In faith we trust God enough to take Him at His Word. Faith is not an experiment, it is a fact. It believes in the reality of God. It believes in the ability of God and it hopes in the truth of God.
- One author says that, "Before the Christian can have faith, he must understand in whom and in what he has this faith, without understanding he continues there cannot be true faith, and that understanding is produced through the Scriptures, traditions and the personal experience/ testimonies of the believer."

- **Romans 10:13-17**

13. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
14. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
15. And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
16. But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?
17. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **Romans 5:1-8**

1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
5. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
6. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
8. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- **2 Corinthians 5:1-7**

1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.
4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.
5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.
6. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:
7. (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)