

Questions / Answers

1. What is faith?
Being sure of what we hope for and certain of things we cannot see.
2. What must we believe to please God?
That God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.
3. How can we have faith?
By prayer and reading God's word.
4. Whose help do we need to have faith?
We need God's help.
5. Why do we not need to worry?
God is always there caring for us. He wants us to be in His Kingdom. He answers prayers and gives us strength to cope with problems.
6. What happened when Saul lacked faith? What happened when David had faith?
Saul disobeyed God and offered a sacrifice. David killed a giant.
7. How is gold purified? How are we tested and made pure?
Gold is purified by fire. We are tested by our problems and trials.
8. How should we show our faith in our life?
By obeying God and working in love for Him.
9. How did Abraham and Rahab show their faith?
Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son. Rahab hid the spies.
10. How can the people mentioned in Hebrews 11 help our faith?
They are like a crowd of people encouraging us by their example.

Memory verses

Hebrews 11:1 Hebrews 11:6 Hebrews 12:2 Ephesians 2:8

Discussion

Talk about how you can have faith. Discuss things each of you have prayed for and how God has answered your prayers. How has He helped you in problems and trials.

Writing

Choose 3 people from Hebrews 11 and write about how they showed their faith in God.

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 20 Faith and obedience



READING Hebrews chapter 11— chapter 12 verse 2

LESSON

What is faith? The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11 verse 1, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

There is a saying, "Seeing is believing" or, "I'll believe it when I see it." We all believe in the things we can see everyday. But it is a lot more difficult to believe in the things we cannot see. Hope is expecting something good to happen. Faith is the certainty that it will happen. We need faith to believe in God and His salvation.

Hebrews 11 verse 6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

This is a very important verse. It says that it is impossible to please God if we don't have faith in Him and in His promise of salvation. It is easy to believe in the things we can see. Yet all these things will change and wear out or die. God is the eternal all powerful God from everlasting to everlasting. He is much more real than the things we can see! God cannot lie so all His promises will be fulfilled.

So how can we have faith? To believe in God and His promises we must know about them. To learn about God and His promises we need to pray for His help and read His word, the Bible. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. We need to listen to the word of God—to read it and think about it. The things we listen to affect what we do. If we only listen to worldly things we will not have faith. The word of God is like a seed planted in our hearts that produces faith which grows in us. We need to feed our faith with God's word.

We can be certain that God will keep His promises. We must fully trust in Him and respond to His word from our heart. Faith causes us to know in our heart as we can see with our eyes. We must walk by faith not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7.

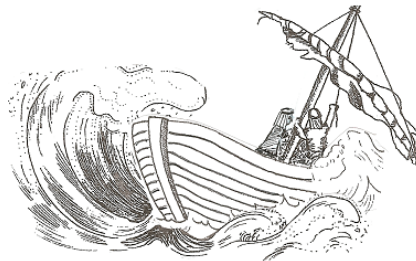
Without faith it is impossible to please God. Our relationship with God depends on our faith. Faith is a lifetime's work. To have faith we need God's help. Ephesians 2:8 tells us, "It is by God's grace you have been saved, through faith—it is not the result of your own efforts, it is the gift of God." We must have faith in God's grace, but even our faith comes from God and is His gift. We cannot have faith by ourselves without help from God.

Faith brings God into our life. We must love and obey Him and not please ourselves. Faith means relying on something. Faith in God means relying on Him, believing that He is greater than us and loves us greatly. God is always reliable. He knows what we need and He wants to meet those needs. God wants us to be in His Kingdom. He will guide us in our life on our journey to His Kingdom.

God is always there for us. He will always answer our prayers. But we must seek His will as we pray. We think we know what we need and we ask God to answer our prayers in the way WE think best. But we cannot tell God to do what WE want. God's purpose for us is to bring us to His Kingdom, so His answer to our prayers may not be what we expect. Sometimes God's answer is No—but He will give us the strength to cope with our problems.

Fear and worry show a lack of faith. Jesus told us not to worry (read Matthew 6:25—26). We must have faith in God and believe that He will care for us in all our trials and difficulties. God has promised that all things work together for good for those who love Him. Romans 8:28. Trials in our life that seem hard to bear are used by God to build up our obedience and faith. God is in control. He knows what is best for us. We need to leave our worries and cares in His hands. Our faith in God brings us peace. We can 'let go and let God.'

When the disciples were in the boat with Jesus and there was a storm on the lake. The boat was sinking and the disciples woke Jesus to help them. Jesus spoke and the sea was calm. Jesus asked the disciples, "Why were you afraid? Where is your faith?" God and Jesus are always there for us. We do not need to be afraid. We just need to have faith. With Christ in the boat we can laugh at the storm!



If we don't believe God we are treating Him like a liar. God is everywhere and sees all things. He is hurt if we behave as if He doesn't exist. He is hurt if we don't believe what He has promised. Lack of faith leads to lack of obedience. Without faith in God's promises we will never really do what He says. In God's eyes disobedience is rebellion. It dishonours God.

When King Saul disobeyed God and offered the sacrifice, it was because he did not have faith. It was very difficult for him. The Philistines were about to attack and his men were running away in fright. But Saul should have had faith that God can save with only a few. Because Saul did not have faith he disobeyed God. How much greater was David's faith. By his faith in God he was able to kill Goliath the giant!

Living faith always has corresponding actions. We always talk and do what we really believe. Real faith is more precious than gold. 1 Peter 1:7. Gold has to be purified by fire. We have to be tested by the difficulties and problems of our life. We have to react to the problems of life in obedience to God.

James tells us in chapter 2 verses 20—26 that faith without works is dead. He gives the example of Abraham offering up his only son, Isaac, because he had faith that God could raise him to life again. Rahab also, had faith in the God of Israel and she hid the two spies. She was saved because of her faith. We must show our faith in God by living a life of obedience, working in love for Him. Habakkuk 2 verse 4 tells us that the just shall live by his faith. Faith is a way of life.

Hebrews 11 verses 33—37 tells of some of the things that God's faithful people endured. God saved some of them, but others died because of their faith. They will be rewarded when Jesus returns. God has also promised that we, too, will receive the reward in His Kingdom if we live in faith. Verses 39-40.

Hebrews 11 tells us about the faith of God's people through the ages. These great people of faith did not just believe, they acted. They all did things for God because of their faith in Him. Chapter 12 verses 1 and 2 tells us that they are like a great crowd of people showing us by their example how we should live our lives by faith in God. "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end."