

## THINKING IT THROUGH:

1. What is faith?
2. Who is the originator of our faith? Why?
3. What percentage of faith is necessary in order to receive answers to our prayers? Why?
4. What relationship does faith and doubt have in regard to God and Satan?
5. What is the evidence that we believe something?
6. What does it mean to “live by faith?”
7. When is faith necessary?
8. Do you have faith in God? Why? ?

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Faith is

**Day 1:** Read the narrative of Noah, Ge.6:8-22. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 2:** Read the narrative of Abraham, Ge.22:1-14. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 3:** Read the narrative of Gideon, Judg.7:1-22. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 4:** Read the narrative of David, 1Sa.17:1-51. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 5:** Read the narrative of a prophet, 1Ki.13:1-25. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 6:** Read the narrative of Naaman, 2 Ki.5:1-14. What did you learn about the faith?

**Day 7:** Read the narrative of the centurion, Mt.8:5-13. What did you learn about the faith?

### Memory verse:

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*  
Hebrews 11:1

## Lesson 6

# The Reality of Faith

### FAITH

Faith is a peculiar word. When I ask someone what faith he is, I am questioning him about his religious preference. Someone might encourage another person saying, “I have faith in you.” This statement reflects a confidence in that person’s character or ability. However, if I use the word “faith” from a Biblical perspective, what do I mean? The Bible defines faith as:

*Now faith is **the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*** (He.11:1 NKJV)

There are different aspects to faith. If I did not see or experience an event, I would need to believe another person’s account of that event. For example, medieval historians recorded events with dragons, and yet many people do not have faith that dragons ever existed. We need faith to believe in past things, to judge whether a theory or historical account is accurate. However, if two accounts exist, then the person must determine which account to believe. For example, scientists have theories about how the universe began. These theories require faith in order to believe them. Scientists use terms such as dark matter and dark energy to force the big bang theory into a working model, even though there is no proof that either of these things exist. Science cannot prove that a big bang occurred because no scientist was present to make the observations and collect the data. The three pillars of science state that something must be observable, repeatable, and irrefutable. Since recorded observation has less than ten thousand years of records and key events have not since been repeated, all man can offer is science fiction to explain what happened at the beginning of time. Scientific theories require faith to accept them. To have a majority of scientists agree on a theory does not establish truth. For example, the majority of scientists

**“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”** Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that **he may exalt you in due time.** (1Pe.5:5-6 NRSV)

Humility is the key to victory over sin. We must trust God and wait in faith for Him to do what He has promised. We must humble ourselves and wait on God:

*Who are **kept by the power of God through faith** for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* (1Pe.1:5 NKJV)

We will never attain holiness by our own effort. Holiness can be attained only by trusting in the Holy Spirit to transform our lives:

*We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through **the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.*** (2Th 2:13 NLT)

I remember my past and my failure to live a life pleasing to God, but I am confident in God and trust that He will do as He has promised:

**I am confident** of this, that **the one who began a good work** among you **will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.** (Php.1:6 NRSV)

The choice is yours. You can keep trying to live the Christian life by your own strength, or you can trust that God will empower you not to sin:

**He will also keep you firm to the end,** so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **God is faithful.** (1Co.8-9 TNIV)

God is faithful, and He will keep us from falling into sin. The question is do we believe and trust Him? We are saved by faith in Christ and by faith alone. However, true faith doesn’t merely believe something to be true but trusts that it is true and looks for its fulfillment in our lives.

*We remember before our God and Father **your work produced by faith**, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1Th.1:3 TNIV)

We need to live by faith. When God speaks to us, whether it be a command of Scripture or a task He whispers in our hearts, we must obey.

## A SAVING FAITH

Faith has a greater purpose than merely allowing us to go to heaven; our faith in God frees us from the power of sin. Faith is necessary if we have a need that makes us rely on someone beside ourselves:

*We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we **already have something**, we don't need to hope for it. But if we **look forward to something we don't yet have**, we must wait patiently and confidently.)* (Ro.8:24-25 NLT)

For example, Abraham had faith and trusted God that he would have a son even though it was physically impossible for Sarah to conceive:

*Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb. Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. **He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.*** (Ro.4:19-21 NLT)

Abraham had enough spiritual sense to take God at His Word and overlook what common sense told him was impossible—he trusted God. Many Christians do not trust that God will do what He has promised. Hence, they strive to maintain a certain standard of holiness by their own efforts. By their efforts, they negate God's promise:

***You who are trying** to be justified by law have **been alienated from Christ**; you have **fallen away from grace**. But **by faith** we eagerly await through **the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.*** (Ga.5:4-5 NIV)

God has made many promises, and we must trust and wait for Him to accomplish them in our lives. The only time a person must wait is when he cannot do something by himself. We must come to this point. God waits until we humble ourselves and trust in Him to do as He has promised:

held the belief that the world was flat prior to Columbus' voyage. This example proves that the acceptance by a majority does not establish the truth of a theory. On the other hand, the Jewish and Christian Scriptures offer another perspective of how the universe began. God created everything; therefore, He observed everything. Genesis 1 is the Creator's eyewitness account of the beginning:

***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** (Ge.1:1 NKJV)

Only God was present at the beginning. Since man was created as an intelligent being at the end of creation, his account of creation in Genesis 2 is far more limited but more specific to the facts that pertain to mankind. In conclusion, what a person believes about the beginning of the universe requires faith from both the evolutionist and Christian perspective. Even more importantly, what we believe to be truth determines our worldview.

## OUR FAITH AFFECTS OUR PRESENT

Faith also affects the present because it influences what we do. Faith helps us reconcile what we see with what we don't understand. If I see, touch, smell, hear, or taste something, I do not need faith. For example, people who believe in evolution also tend to believe that life exists on other planets. They surmise that if life evolved here on earth, then it is only logical that it has evolved elsewhere in our solar system. Even though there is no empirical evidence for this belief, millions of dollars are spent each year trying to prove the existence of life on other planets. These scientists place their faith in what is unseen. In a similar way, Christians believe that Jesus is alive. Today we cannot touch the nail prints in Jesus' hands and feet, yet every year millions of dollars are spent to convince others that Jesus exists. Christians place their faith in what is unseen: that Jesus is alive. What we believe affects our life in the present. What we believe about Jesus affects what we do with Jesus' teachings. The importance of our decision concerning faith in Jesus is illustrated by the two criminals crucified on either side of Him. Each criminal had to decide how to respond to Jesus as he was dying beside Him. One criminal rejected Jesus:

*One of the criminals who were hanged there was **hurling abuse** at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"* (Lk.23:39 NASB)

This criminal continued in his rebellion toward God, mocking the very One Who could save his soul from hell. The other criminal, realizing his damnable state, reached out in faith to Jesus:

*But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* (Lk.23:40-41 NKJV)

Both criminals experienced the same event, yet one rejected Jesus while the other one accepted Him. Even though we cannot see Jesus, we must decide what to believe about Him:

*I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.* (2Co.6:2 NIV)

When considering Jesus, the world is ready to call Him a great teacher. However, Christians refer to Jesus as God and apply His teachings to their lives. Either way, our faith affects our actions. Therefore, what we believe today determines where we are willing to invest millions of dollars tomorrow. Whether we are promoting aliens or Christ, both scientists and Christians are placing their faith in the unseen.

## OUR FAITH AFFECTS OUR FUTURE

Faith also affects our actions toward the future. Today, cancer is a major cause of death. Everyone knows someone who has died or is dying from some form of cancer. Each year, people spend millions of dollars in research, believing a cure can be found. The hope of a cure for tomorrow gives people the strength to live through the pain of today. For Christians, we place that same faith in eradicating the moral cancer of our society—sin. We believe that Christ is the cure for drug addiction, pornography, obesity, broken marriages, etc... Once we make Jesus Lord of our lives, we need faith for tomorrow that Christ will give us the strength to overcome sin. Our faith enables us to believe that all of God's promises in Christ are promises for us today:

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.* (2Co.1:20 NIV)

Christians believe in God's promise to transform their lives. The Bible is clear that faith is more than a set of beliefs about events of the past; it is a way of life that looks toward the future:

Since we received Christ's Spirit by believing what we heard, we must continue to live in Him by listening and responding to what the Spirit says through the Word. Obedience is more than following the do's and do not's of the Scripture. Obedience is listening for God to personally tell us His will for each day of our lives:

*So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish **all the good things your faith prompts you to do.*** (2Th.1:11 NLT)

Faith discerns the voice of God even when no audible sound is heard. It is the voice that the great evangelists heard; it is the voice that the great prophets heard; and it is the voice that beckons you to do what the Lord has planned for you today. Do you hear His voice? Noah did, and He built an ark. His faith directed his actions:

*By faith Noah, **being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear**, prepared an ark for the saving of his household* (He.11:7 NKJV)

Abraham heard God, and he left Haran. Moses heard God, and he went to Pharaoh and said, "Let my people go!" Gideon heard God, and he routed a vast army with three hundred men. David heard God, and he ran to meet the giant and killed him with one stone. Elijah heard God, and he told King Ahab that it would not rain. It did not rain for three and one half years:

*Elijah was a human being **like us**, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.* (Ja.5:17-18 NRSV)

These men did not have an extra set of ears but were men like us: people of faith, willing to step out when their hearts heard the voice of God. Maybe God is telling you to say something to someone:

*And since **we have the same spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," **we also believe and therefore speak.*** (2Co.4:13 NKJV; 1Pe.4:11)

What have you heard God tell you to do lately? Did you step out in obedience to His voice, or did you deny that God was speaking to you? There are only two choices that every Christian has before him: to obey God's voice or to deny that God ever spoke. When we read the Word of God, we need to step out in faith and in the confidence of His leading:

opens our minds to understand the Scriptures and reveals how we are to apply them to our lives. First, we listen; then, we must respond:

*But **don't just listen to God's word.** You must **do what it says.** Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.* (Ja.1:22 NLT)

We need to discern the will of God in every situation by listening to His voice. The New Testament commands each of us to do many things, but as one person, I can only do one thing at a time. There are times when I know of three people with needs, but which am I to help? I can't help all three at the same time, and yet we read:

*Anyone, then, **who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*** (Ja.4:17 NIV)

If I help one of the three people, the previous Scripture says that I will be guilty of sin because I did not help the other two. If I am visiting the sick, I cannot feed the hungry. If I am feeding the hungry, I am not inviting strangers into my home. A Christian can only do one thing at one time; hence, it is important to know which one thing God wants us to do at any given moment. God seeks a personal relationship, through which we respond to the Spirit's leading:

*He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—**not of the letter but of the Spirit;** for the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life.*** (2Co.3:6 TNIV)

The Christian life is more than just keeping commands; it is about talking with God about our day. Once God reveals His will, He expects us to obey. Obedience to God's specific will requires faith:

*So then, **just as you received Christ** Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him,** rooted and built up in him, **strengthened in the faith** as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* (Co.2:6-7 NIV)

We must continue in Christ just as we have received Him—by faith. We received Him through hearing, believing, and responding:

*Peter said to them, "**Repent, and each of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins;** and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** For the **promise is for you** and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."* (Ac.2:38-39 NASB)

By responding to what we heard, we received the Holy Spirit:

*In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so **that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*** (Ga.3:14 NASB)

**We live by faith, not by sight.**

(2Co.5:7 TNIV)

As we watch humanity continue in its wickedness and destruction, our faith believes that Christ can change lives. Knowing God's promise, to transform our lives, gives us hope when life seems hopeless:

*For in hope we were saved. Now **hope that is seen is not hope.** For **who hopes for what is seen?** But if **we hope for what we do not see,** we wait for it with patience.* (Ro.8:24-25 NRSV)

Faith that Jesus has come to help us overcome sin enables us to draw from His strength and say "no" to temptation. No matter how wicked people are, God has promised to help them overcome sin:

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. **He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand.** When you are tempted, **he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*** (1Co.10:13 NLT)

Our faith alters the way we live. No matter what temptation comes our way, we trust that God will help us to avoid it or grant us the inner strength to withstand it. For if we believe something to be true, we will live in the confidence of that truth. Our situation and experience may not have changed as of yet, but we will act and live, trusting that He will change us. My belief in God's ability to change my present situation will empower me to live above my past experience:

*Now may **the God of peace make you holy in every way,** and may your **whole spirit and soul and body** be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. **God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.*** (1Th.5:23-24 NLT)

What we believe about tomorrow will affect our actions today. Our unfaltering trust in God's ability to give us the strength to overcome sin enables us to say "no" to sin today:

***He will keep you strong to the end** so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. **God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says,** and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.* (1Co.1:8-9 NLT)

I know that I do not have the power in and of myself, but my faith is in Christ. He lives in me and empowers me to make the right decisions:

*I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.* (Eph.3:16-17 TNIV)

I trust that today I will not commit those sins of my past because Christ promised me the strength to stand. For example, if I traveled to your hometown and you offered to meet me at the airport and provide lodging, I would not make other arrangements because I trusted your faithfulness. I would travel without concern about these details. All my actions were in faith that you would do as you had promised. Christ is faithful and promises to empower us to overcome sin; we must live our lives trusting in His faithfulness. Hence, I know I will say “no” to temptation because God promises to provide me with the strength to walk in victory. I believe and trust Him, and therefore, I receive:

*For **every child of God defeats this evil world**, and **we achieve this victory through our faith**. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*

(1Jn.5:4-5 NLT)

Our faith is not a stagnant set of beliefs that we hold as being true; rather, our faith is dynamic. What we believe will affect our actions today as well as tomorrow:

*Jesus answered, “I am the **way**, the **truth** and the **life**. **No-one comes to the Father except through me**.*

(Jn.14:6 NKJV)

We have faith that Jesus spoke the truth in **the past**, that He is the way to live for **today**, and that He will transform our lives for **tomorrow**. Therefore, let us understand faith and experience all that Christ has accomplished for us through His death and resurrection.

## THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH

Faith in God does not, nor ever could, originate from man. Mankind’s very nature lives in denial of the existence of the true God. Saul (later called Paul after conversion) did not believe that Christ was the Messiah and persecuted the church until:

*The grace of our Lord **was poured out on me** abundantly, along with the faith and hope that are in Christ Jesus.*

(1Ti.1:14 TNIV)

The Bible states that both grace and faith were given to Paul (Saul before conversion), which means that faith does not originate from man:

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and **this is not your own doing**; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.*

(Eph.2:8-9 NRSV)

Demons actually lived at one time in the presence of God but refused to obey Him. Now, they spend every moment plotting against both Him and His people:

*You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe—and tremble!***

(Ja.2:19 NKJV)

Faith in God without an appropriate response of obedience does not save:

*So you see, **faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds**, it is dead and useless.*

(Ja.2:17 NLT)

Our faith must go beyond mere belief-ism. If there is no appropriate response to what we claim to believe, then we really do not believe:

*In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and **he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him**.*

(He.5:9 NLT)

A saving faith in Christ is proven to be real when our faith moves us to respond in obedience to what God commands. Therefore, true faith, as opposed to demonic faith, is not just based on knowledge but is always accompanied by an appropriate response.

## LIVING BY FAITH

Many Christians make the New Testaments a rule book that is focused on the commands of God, making it a religion with a set of rites, rituals, and regulations. It is true: we must obey the New Testament:

*“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, **Lord!**’ **when you don’t do what I say?**”*

(Lk.6:46 NLT; Lk.8:20)

Is God only seeking a mechanical obedience with a life of submission: do this and don’t do that? God sent Jesus to die on the cross in order to re-establish a relationship with man. We are not saved solely to keep the commands of the New Testament; we are saved to have a relationship with God. God reveals His will, and man responds to it:

*This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put **My laws in their mind** and **write them on their hearts**.*

(He.8:10 NRSV)

The Christian life is not about commands but about listening to God as He speaks to our hearts. It is about a relationship. The Holy Spirit

leave my house and I saw a lion go behind my garage, I would warn you not to go to your car. If you would acknowledge what I said but continue to walk out my front door, your action would be incongruent with your statement that you believed me. Lacking an appropriate response discredits your claim of faith. However, if you would take the baseball bat from the closet and proceed outside to your car, your response would be somewhat appropriate and affirm your statement of faith. When you read the Scripture, do you respond appropriately or are you unaffected by what you read? You might say that you believe God, but how can people tell that you believe?

*Now to Him who is able to establish you **according to my gospel...** and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, **leading to obedience of faith**.* (Ro.16:25-26 NASB)

Paul's message was not just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but he always taught the necessity of having an appropriate response of obedience to the teachings of Jesus. Our claim to believe that Jesus is the Way necessitates that we live His way:

*Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among **all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith**.* (Ro.1:5 NIV)

The Gentiles believed that everything Jesus said was true, and from that belief came the obedience to follow His teachings. We cannot separate believing in God from obedience to God. Paul writes:

*I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me **in leading the Gentiles to obey God** by what I have said and done.* (Ro.15:18 NIV)

All three of the previous texts came from the same book, Romans, and prove the direct association between belief and obedience. We can say that someone believes in Christ, or we can say that someone is obedient to the faith:

*The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and **a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith**.* (Ac.6:7 NRSV)

The priests became obedient to the faith because they believed the Gospel to be truth. Faith that is not accompanied by obedience is a demonic faith; for Satan and his demons believe in God as well.

God does not give us faith because we are worthy; faith is a gift from God. He gives us faith because through our unworthiness, He receives the glory for our salvation:

*Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. **Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith**?* (Ja.2:5 NLT)

We did not choose to believe in God; He chose us to believe. We lived in rebellion to God; consequently, Christ had to be the originator of our faith:

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, **the author and perfecter of our faith**.* (He.12:2 NIV)

Our faith only comes through Jesus:

*Yes, **the faith which comes through Him** has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.* (Ac.3:16 NKJV)

Jesus is the originator of our faith. All Christians start by receiving a measure of faith to accept Who Christ is:

*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, **in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you**.* (Ro.12:3 NIV)

You have one measure; I might have less. However, receiving a smaller measure of faith does not give me an excuse to doubt! The differing measures of faith are not a ratio of faith to doubt, but rather greater amounts of faith are given by God to a person in order to attempt the difficult tasks that God has given him. Great faith reflects the ability to trust God to do impossible things. Jesus said:

*For truly I say to you, **if you have faith the size of a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible to you**.* (Mt.17:20 NASB)

No matter how small the original portion of faith Christ gave you, it must not remain stagnant; it needs to grow:

*We must always give **thanks to God for you**, brothers and sisters, as is right, because **your faith is growing abundantly**, and the love of everyone of you for one another **is increasing**.* (2Th.1:3 NRSV)

Our faith is supposed to grow from the day it is first given. When I was a young Christian, I lived by the motto: "Faith is like a muscle; the more we use it, the stronger it becomes." The process of growing in faith coincides with our willingness to trust God; hence, growing in faith is not always easy:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that **the testing of your faith develops perseverance**. Perseverance must finish its work **so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.** (Ja.1:2-4 NIV)

Our faith grows when we encounter temptations and trials. Through hardship we learn to rely on God's strength, and we grow into maturity. Growing in faith is similar to weight lifting. A weight lifter only gains muscle when he puts his muscles under great strain. When one weight becomes easy, he adds more weight, for only by increasing the weight will his muscles grow. In the same way, our faith grows when we are forced to rely on God. Without temptation or trials, we default to our own self-reliance, but when temptation and trials stretch us beyond our means, we call on God and are forced to trust Him to help us in our time of need. Therefore, our faith starts with Christ, Who is its Author, but it continues to grow with the trials of life.

## FAITH AS OPPOSED TO DOUBT

Faith is simply believing. The question is never how much faith do we have, but rather, do we have faith. Jesus said:

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and **does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.** (Mk.11:22-24 NKJV)

Many times this passage is interpreted to not mean a physical mountain but, rather, spiritual problems in our lives. This teaching sows the seeds of doubt that are preventing us from moving both the physical and the spiritual mountains in our lives. Doubt cancels faith:

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **But he must ask in faith without any doubting,** for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **For that man ought not to expect** that he will receive anything from the Lord. (Ja.1:5-8 NASB)

Faith is not something we can measure; we either have faith or we don't. We either believe that the mountain will move, or we doubt it. We cannot be 95% sure that God will answer a prayer, for 5% doubt nullifies the 95% faith. Faith and doubt are opposites. If faith says, "It will rain," doubt says, "We will continue to have drought." If faith says

"Victory," then doubt concedes defeat. If we define faith, we would probably quote:

Now faith **is being sure** of what we hope for **and certain** of what we do not see. (He.11:1 TNIV)

If we define doubt, we could probably create the quote:

"Now **doubt** is being sure of what we **fear** for and certain of what we do not see." (NOT Scripture)

Doubt is merely being certain that God cannot or will not do as He promised. If we doubt God, we believe Satan; if we believe God, we doubt Satan's lies. We must stop fooling ourselves; who are we going to believe? Are we going to believe God, Who cannot lie?

A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which **God, who does not lie,** promised before the beginning of time, (Ti.1:2 NIV)

Or, are we going to believe the devil, who is the father of lies?

**You are of your father the devil,** and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, **he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

(Jn.8:44 NASB)

Therefore, the question is not how much faith do we have; but rather, do we have faith to trust that God will do as He promised.

## A TRUE FAITH

The Gospel message states that all people can receive God's gift of eternal life through faith, by believing that Christ died for their sins:

They answered, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.**" (Ac.16:31 NRSV)

If we believe that we are saved, then we will share this good news with others. Because of our faith that Jesus saved us, the appropriate response is to tell others what has happened to us:

**If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.** (Ro.10:9-10 NIV)

To merely concede that God exists and that a man named Jesus died on a cross two thousand years ago is not faith unless this brings you to a point of an appropriate response. For example, if you were about to