

## Fisher's Foundations **FAITH**

### Lesson 4

#### THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLASS:

Is to present to the disciple of Jesus Christ a cogent approach of how to, and what it means to express biblical faith toward God, the object of our faith.

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

**“In order for you to have faith, you must know what God said and is saying. Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word—faith is response to God Himself through Christ—not to miracles, not to signs!” —Adrian Rogers**

**“Faith is not so much receiving from God the things that you want, as it is getting from God the things He gives. He names it, then you claim it.” —Adrian Rogers**

**“Faith is not just ‘believing; biblical faith is always relating yourself to a person. If I commit myself to a chair, it is not the strength of my commitment that holds me up, but the strength of the chair I’m committed to.” —Corrie Ten Boom**

#### **INTRO:**

Faith is first a belief; more than a positive mental attitude. A person who has faith believes something without actually seeing it. He has total confidence in God and trusts that His promises will come to pass.

#### **I. PUT FEET TO YOUR FAITH**

Faith requires action in obedience to God's Word. When God commands a person to do something, he may not always understand why. In fact, logically it may not make any sense at all. But God asks him to step out by faith, trusting and obeying Him, because God's way is perfect. **“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).**

Q&A 1. In your own words what is faith?

Q&A 2. Faith requires something in obedience to God's Word. Please explain what this is.

Q&A 3. Give us an example of something from your own life, that you accept "by faith" without yet seeing evidence of it.

## II. FAITH IS IMPERATIVE

- A. Why faith is so important. Faith is the inner knowledge that God's Word has been applied to my life and calls for a response. Faith is the foundation of the entire Christian experience. **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"** (Hebrews 11:6). Webster's dictionary says that diligence is a hard working earnestness—it's being motivated for a reward. Yet we don't earn salvation or God's favor.
- B. God must first reveal Himself to man in His Word. Nothing can be known or received of God unless man first believes in God's existence and second, that God has given revelation of Himself in the Bible. He is our Rewarder. **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'"** (Romans 1:16,17). Man's great need, doesn't move the hand of God. Crocodile tears or pain don't either. God does hurt with us in our pain and troubles, but Bible faith is the only thing that moves the hand of God. Not faith in faith, but faith in a Person – in Jesus Christ. And a mustard seed amount is enough to start with. As my car runs by gasoline, so my Christian walk runs by faith, from tank to tank, from faith to faith and from victory to victory! Some people run on empty (on fumes), but I want to run on a full tank, wide-open for our Lord!

Q&A 4. Before you can know the Lord, what two things do you need to believe?

## III. FAITH HAS ONE SOURCE

- A. God Himself, through His Word and Spirit, is the only source of faith.

1. Like all other good gifts we receive, faith comes from God. **"John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven'"** (John 3:27; also see James 1:17; Ephesians 2:8).

2. Faith is not the result of our own striving or ability. God gives us the ability to exercise faith through the Holy Spirit. **"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"** (John 1:12,13).

B. Through the Scriptures and prayer, God transmits faith to all who receive Him. The Word of God is the source of your faith and His faith is available to everyone. **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Romans 10:17).

Q&A 5. Explain how you would go about obtaining faith.

#### IV. WHO HAS FAITH

A. All believers have been given a measure of faith by God. In Romans 12, Paul is clearly addressing Christians. Therefore "each one" refers to every believer. **"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith"** (Romans 12:3).

**Exercising your faith is kind of like exercising your muscles. Your faith can be developed and built up through constant use and proper application of God's Word. Heresy often enters into play between hearing God's word and doing God's Word. Just like it is with your muscles, they can be lean, strong and efficient or weak, flabby or atrophied. Faith is not a force and it is not the source of God's power. The Object of your faith is the key factor!**

B. Unbelievers do not have saving faith. It is true that all men have the capacity to give intellectual assent to Scripture, but this is not the same as saving faith. **"and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith"** (2 Thessalonians 3:2).

Q&A 6. Who has faith and who doesn't have faith? Explain why.

**“Faith is not a force, words are not containers of the force of faith as some teach. Biblical faith—is a channel of living trust between the Creator and His creation. The Bible doesn’t say that God used faith—He is the object of faith.” —Hank Hanagraph**

**“God heals. Having faith in God is what brings healing, not faith in faith.”  
—Chuck Smith**

## V. FAITH MUST HAVE OBEDIENCE TO GLORIFY JESUS

Faith is an attitude of believing and agreeing with God, but it is more than that, it is a supernatural gift. And it is clear that the source of this gift is God Himself who generously makes this faith available to all born again Christians through His Word. But according to His Word, faith also involves more than a vegetatively-passive, or inactive condition of the mind. Faith requires you being pro-active with Bible beliefs. Faith requires quick obedience.

- A. The Word of God is usually communicated in terms of actions. Commands were central to the preaching of Jesus Christ and His Apostles: **"Rise and walk", "Receive thy sight", "Zaccheus...come down."** Having faith involves hearing God's Word by the Spirit and then doing it.
- B. The words "unbelief" and "disobey" in the original Greek are used interchangeably, suggesting that if one really believes God's Word, then he will naturally and automatically obey it. Not believing what God says is actually disobedience, and disobedience is sin.
- C. **"And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief"** (Hebrews 3:18, 19).
- D. "Obedience of faith" was the natural response of all first century Christians in the model church. It is the will of God for you to act obediently in faith, to help multiply in your local church, as well! **"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith"** (Acts 6:7 NIV; also see Romans 1:5; 16:26).

Q&A 7. Give at least two examples from Scripture where actions were needed in obedience to faith.

Faith for miracles has a lot to do with your submission to direct and delegated spiritual authority, (which we will also deal with a little later). It's interesting that Jesus Christ marveled only two times in the whole Bible and both times had to do with people's faith level. One time was with the centurion who understood his own chain of command and likened it to spiritual rank and authority in God's Kingdom. He was asking Jesus to merely **"say the word, and my servant will be healed."** Jesus said this man had great faith (read Luke 7:2-10; Matthew 8:5-13). Another time was with the unbelief he found in His own hometown of Nazareth, (read Mark 6:56; Matthew 13:54-58). Like back then, many today, due to their familiarity with Jesus, (from a background of "Churchyanity") encounter problems believing God for a harvest and miracles. Don't let your religious background to set your vertical expectation level low.

## **VI. FAITH LEADS TO GOOD WORKS**

Martin Luther once said, "We are not saved by faith plus works, but by faith that works!" The principle of how faith works is seen in Hebrews 11:13, **"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."** God gives you four principles of how faith can work through your life today:

- 1. See the Bible promise as you meditate on it**
- 2. Be persuaded of the promise God lovingly gave**
- 3. Embrace the promise as your own with expectancy**
- 4. Verbally voice the promise in prayer asking God to act**