

Simple Faith Brings Great Results

Hebrews 11:6 tells us: You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely look for him.

What is faith or belief? Heb 11:1 - It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead. / is being certain of what we do not see. **Faith** is the connecting power into the spiritual realm, which links us with God and makes Him become a tangible reality to the sense perceptions of a person. **Faith** is the basic ingredient to begin a relationship with God.

Faith is a noun. It is something we HAVE...The Christian Has Faith in God. The scientific atheist has faith in science. If an atheist uses the scientific method to discover a medicine and then takes that medicine, he is exercising faith that the medicine will cure him, not poison him even though he has not proof or evidence.

Trust is a verb. Trust is something we DO... and is the result of Relationship I trust my wife. 'Trust' is a deep sense of assurance, based on strong but not always logically-conclusive evidence often over a period of time.

Trust is faith in action! It is the manifestation of our faith in our thoughts and actions. While faith says "He can...", trust says "He is... and I will think and act accordingly!"

Why have faith or belief? because it is an absolute basic foundational necessity for having a relationship with God. Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship with the true God. Christianity is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Religion says you find god by doing good deeds and sacrifices and Christianity says God finds you and gives His life freely for you. Religion says you have to clean yourself before approaching god, Christianity says, come as you are with all your sin and filthiness and the blood of Jesus will cleanse you from all that is unclean.

Matt 8:1-4 Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the hillside. *2 Look! A leper is approaching. He kneels before him, worshipping. "Sir," the leper pleads, "if you want to, you can heal me."* *3 Jesus touches the man. "I want to," he says. "Be healed." And instantly the leprosy disappears.* *4 Then Jesus says to him, "Don't stop to talk to anyone;[a] go right over to the priest to be examined; and take with you the offering required by Moses' law for lepers who are healed—a public testimony of your cure."*

What an incredible story! What incredible faith! Lepers were not accepted in society. They were outcasts. They were deemed unclean.

One leper had the courage to come to Jesus. Did not look at his leprosy, did not allow his rejection to keep him away from his miracle. Did not give up on life just because he was an outcast. This Leper had faith to believe that if he could get to Jesus something could happen. This leper had to cut through the jeering and the cruel remarks and the rude comments and the name calling to get to Jesus.

Simple faith brings great results.

I wonder how desperate are we to meet with Jesus? How desperate are we for a miracle from Jesus? Are we willing to cut through the jeering and the shame and the embarrassment to come to Jesus. Obviously this leper would have heard much about Jesus and yet he was determined that nothing was going to stop him from getting to Jesus.

I wonder how tenacious we are to get to Jesus today?

Scripture tell us that faith without any action is useless (James 1:26). If the leper having heard about Jesus did not take any action of getting to Jesus he would have continued being a leper and would have never had his miracle.

There are many today who know about Jesus and talk a good talk about Jesus but the question is, do they know Him? We all know about our Queen , who she is and the great things she does but until we actually meet her in person we can never say that we know her.

How do we get to know a person? by spending time with them. You cannot know Jesus if you are not willing to get to know him and spend time with him. God is a god of relationships. That's why he created man to have fellowship and enjoy relationship with him.

The leper's faith in Jesus prompted him to take action. Our faith in Jesus must prompt us to do something. When we say we are Christians then we must show the world through our actions what living for Christ is all about.

Be glad to call yourself a Christian because faith in Jesus is a living experience. As Christians we have the opportunity to put our faith into action everyday and so should we. We should never by pass any opportunity that comes our way to show and share our faith in Jesus. Jesus is the real thing. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through Jesus. Eternal life has been promised through Jesus.

When you have faith in Jesus when you believe and trust Jesus you have a changed nature. i.e. your natural sinful instincts are gone and a new nature has come.

When you say you have faith in Jesus you are saying that you have had an inward transformation that causes an outward expression of right standing with God. 2 Cor 5:17 say *that if any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away behold all things become new.*

Going to church does not make you a Christian, taking water baptism does not make you a Christian, taking holy communion does not do it either, only genuine faith and trust in Jesus brings about a transformation in your life.

So here's my question? **What faith actions are you going to put into practise this week?** How are you going to show your family and friends that faith is alive in you?

As an act of faith how many are you going to invite to come to church?

Jesus said this in Matt 17:20 *if you had faith as small as a mustard seed you can look at your mountain standing in front of you and command it to move.* Just a little faith will bring great results.

How does faith come? *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ"* (Rom 10:17). Our faith is built up as we have the gospel continually preached to us. Would you like to get to know this Jesus? Would you like to put your faith in Jesus?

Rom 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory for God." Sin means that we have missed the mark (the perfect standard) that God has set for us. The penalty for sin is death. Rom 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* This verse says that death is the wage for our sin. It is what we earn. We deserve to die and live separated from God forever.

The message doesn't end there! Christ died for us. Rom 5:8 says, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ [Jesus] died for us."* Jesus died in our place. Three days later, Jesus rose from death, proving that sin had been conquered. The great news is that You can be saved through faith in Christ. Eph 2:8-9 says, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* You can depend on Jesus to forgive you and give eternal life, rather than eternal death.