

Faith

- Opening Scripture: Hebrews 11:6
 - faith is required to please God
 - we will need it all throughout our Christian walk
 - “the just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17)
- What is faith?
 - dictionary definition: confidence/trust in a person/thing; belief not based on proof; belief in anything; a system of religious belief
 - Greek definition: persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself-- assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity
- James 2:17-26
 - faith is more than just believing (the devils believe)
 - Abraham’s faith in God produced action from him; through his faith, he was able to obey God
 - also, Rahab demonstrated her faith by receiving the messengers
 - their faith prompted their actions
 - there is a part we play through works of obedience
 - if we believe God, we will obey Him
- Faith is a “persuasion”
 - it is backed by an assurance from God and is thus inspired by Him
 - faith produces results, but if there are no results, then something is wrong
 - we must examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5, Psalms 26:2)
 - some reasons why a prayer may not be answered:
 - 1) I am asking amiss (not knowing how to ask/pray)
 - 2) it is a trial of my faith
 - 3) I have not gone far enough in seeking God (for spiritual things)
 - 4) there is something wrong in my life (God won’t hear me- Psalms 66:18)
- Conclusion
 - faith is a God-given assurance
 - there is a reason why a person won’t have faith and thus won’t see results from God
 - it doesn’t take a lot of faith to see the results of it (Matthew 17:19-20)
 - faith is inspired by God and He only inspires under certain conditions
 - we must maintain our lives so that we are able to “continue in the faith” (Acts 14:22)