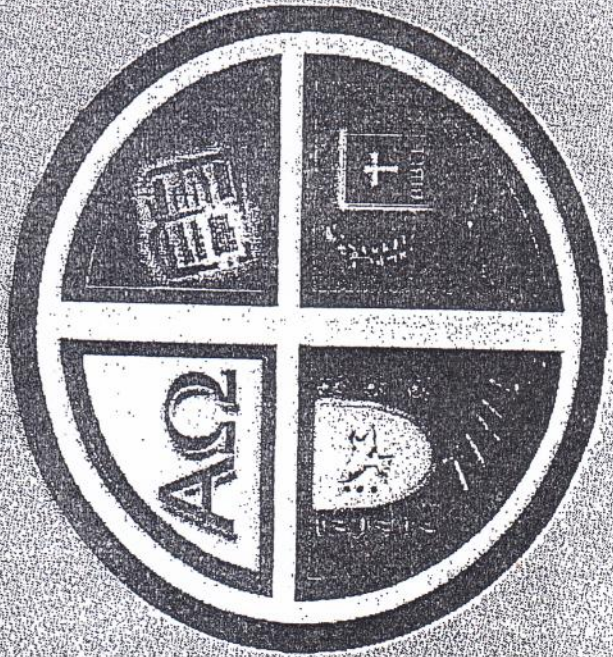


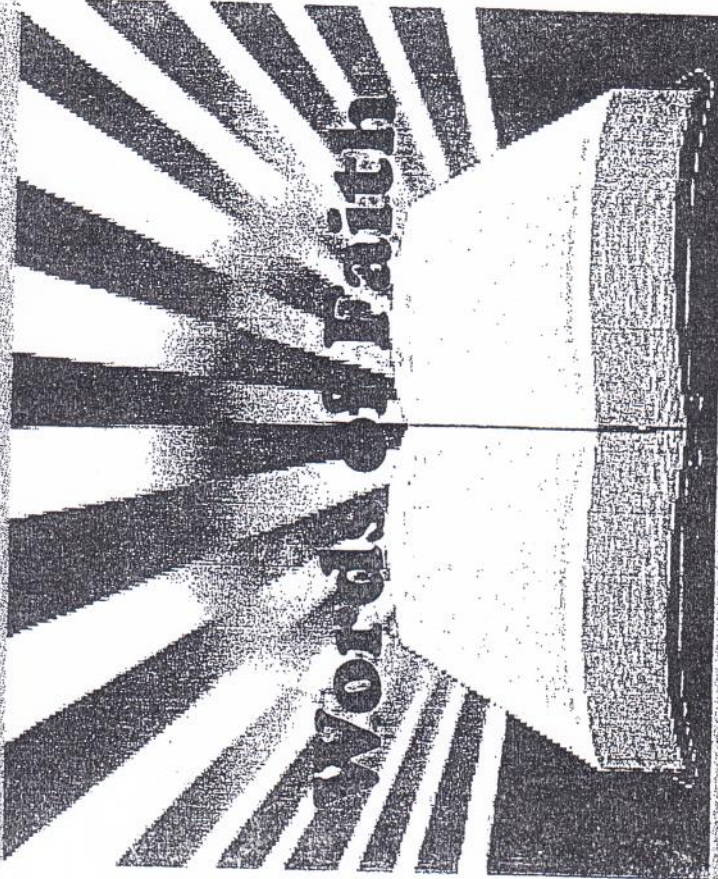
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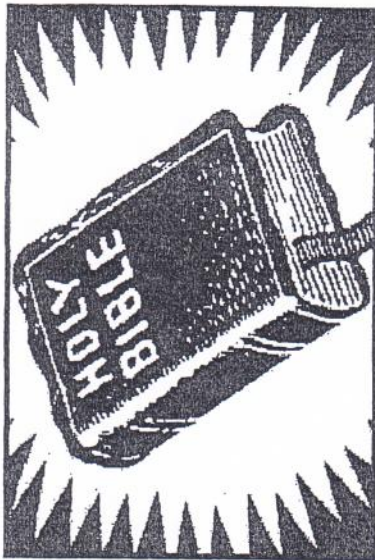
# Faith Re-Examined



Nyron Medina



*Faith  
Re-Examined*



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## Introduction

**W**e are re-examining the meaning of the word "Faith." John Calvin said the following about Faith. "[It is] a knowledge of God's will towards us, perceived from his Word." John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1:549. "[It is] a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence towards us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ; both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit." *Ibid*, 1:551.

This is just one example of great men upon whom the Spirit moved, giving to us a true and correct idea as to what is Faith. However, the Bible gives us the best definition of Faith, and this shows us that most religions have apostatized from the real Biblical position. Faith is one Faith from Abel to the end of the world. It is the title-deed that gives understanding of unseen spiritual things, it is spiritual knowledge, the revealed truths of the Holy Spirit. It is the gospel, the doctrine of Christ, the Spirit of Truth unfolding the Character of Christ as light to the human reasoning. In this booklet we re-examine the evidences for what we hold Faith to be, so that we may see that it is an important component to understand the Gospel of Christ and how the science of salvation works. May all who study this booklet be blessed with living faith in Jesus' holy name. Amen.



## FAITH RE-EXAMINED

1. We are told that the just lives by Faith. Hebrews 10:38; Romans 1:17.
2. We are told that without Faith is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6.
3. We are also told that the latter day saints of God will have the Faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12.
4. The Faith we are speaking about is **one type** of Faith. Ephesians 4:5.
5. This **one type** of Faith is a Faith that was what it is before the great Flood, after the Flood, in the time of Christ and the apostles, and even today in the **last days**.
  - a. **Abel** had that Faith. Hebrews 11:4.
  - b. **Noah** had that Faith. Hebrews 11:7.
  - c. **Abraham** had that **same** Faith. Hebrews 11:8.
  - d. **Moses** had that Faith. Hebrews 11:24-26.
  - e. **Rahab** had that **same** Faith. Hebrews 11:31.
  - f. From **Gideon** to **David** had that **same** Faith. Hebrews 11:32.
  - g. **All the prophets** had that **same** Faith.

Hebrews 11:32-38.

- h. **Stephen** had that **same** Faith. Acts 6:8.
- i. **Paul** had the **same** Faith. Galatians 2:20.
- j. So also did **John**, the last living apostle, have the **same** Faith. 1 John 5:4.
- k. The very **last Christians** will have the **same** Faith. Revelation 13:10.
6. Thus we see not **different types of Faith** or **different aspects of Faith**; the one Faith that was held by **Abel** at the very beginning of sin, was the same Faith that all God's people throughout the centuries held, and will hold in the very **last days**. This is the same Faith that the just shall live by. Hebrews 10:38.
7. However, some people tell us that Faith is the following meanings.
  - a. They say that Faith is **believing**.
  - b. They say that Faith is **trust** or **trusting**.
  - c. They say that Faith is **believing** and **trusting**.
  - d. They say that Faith is **believing in God**. (This means believing and the object that is believed in together).
  - e. They say that Faith is **trusting in God**. (This means trusting, and the object that is trusted in together).
  - f. Some may say that Faith is **confidence**.
8. The object of our study is to investigate those claims. Our thesis in this study is the



b. Let us look at what the word **trust** means.

“**trust** ... confidence in the truth of any-thing; confident expectation; a resting on the integrity, friendship etc., of another ... to place trust in; to believe, to expect confidently; to hope; to give credit to ...” **Ibid**, p. 1067.

c. Let us look at what the word **confidence** means.

“**confidence** ... firm trust or belief; faith; trust in secrecy; self reliance; firmness; boldness ...” **Ibid**, p. 201.

10. In a summary of what we have seen from the dictionary meanings of **believe**, **trust** and **confidence**, they all refer, first of all, to **operations** of the human mind.

- a. They describe a certain **mental attitude** of human beings.
- b. They describe a certain **mental state** of human beings.

11. We shall now experiment with those erroneous concepts of Faith, to see if they can fit certain Scriptures that has Faith without being senseless. We will try the following concepts.

following.

a. Faith is the **revealed word of God** or **spiritual truth**.

b. Faith is **not believing**, for this is merely a **mental attitude** of accepting something as true.

c. Faith is **not trusting**, for this is **mental state of confidence** and **reliance**.

d. Faith is not the **mental act of believing** and the **mental state of trusting** together.

e. Faith is not a mental attitude of **believing** or accepting something as true; plus the **direction** of that attitude to **God**. It is not the direction of that attitude to **God** that makes the **believing** Faith.

f. Faith is not a **mental state of confidence** and **reliance** plus the **direction** of that mental state to **God**. It is not the direction of that **mental state** to **God** that makes trusting Faith.

g. Faith is not the **mental state of confidence**.

9. We need to look at the dictionary meaning of these words some people mistakenly call Faith.

a. Let us look at what the word **believe** means.

“**believe** ... to regard as true: to accept as true what is said ...” **The Wordsworth**



- a. Believing b. Trusting c. Believing and Trusting, d. Believing in God e. Trusting in God f. Confidence.
12. To **Romans 10:17**; is it sensible to say that **Believing** or **Trusting** comes by hearing? No, we all can believe and trust **before** we hear the word of God.
13. To **Revelation 14:12**; it is not sensible to say that we have the **believing** of Jesus or the **trusting** of Jesus or even the **believing and trusting** of Jesus, or the **believing in God** of Jesus. Jesus has His believing or trusting and His believing and trusting in God, but it is we that must believe. (see Galatians 2:16).
14. To **Romans 3:3**; is it reasonable to say that the **Faith** of God is God's believing, trusting, believing and trusting, or God's believing in God or trusting in God, or the confidence of God? By no means, because in the text, it is not God's **self assurance** or **credulity** that is being questioned.
15. To **Galatians 2:16**, is it intelligible to say that we are justified out of or through the **believing** of Jesus Christ, or the **trusting** of Jesus Christ, or the **believing and trusting** of Jesus Christ, or the **believing in God** of Jesus Christ, or the **trusting in God** of Jesus Christ or the **confidence of Jesus Christ**? No way! For even though Jesus believed, trusted, had
- confidence in God or believed in God, these does not make man righteous.
16. However, the facts of these things are what true Christians do.
- a. True Christians do **believe** in God. John 14:1.
  - b. True Christians do **trust** in God. Proverbs 3:5.
  - c. True Christians do have **confidence** in God. 1 John 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 3:4.
17. However, as actions of the mind, we must remember the following about humans.
- a. Human beings can **believe** as a **human ability**. 1 Corinthians 11:18.
  - b. Human beings can **trust** as a **human ability**. Isaiah 31:1; Isaiah 36:5,6.
  - c. Human beings can exercise **confidence** as a **human ability**. Judges 9:26,27; Psalms 118:8,9.
18. These **human abilities** are **not faith**. Even **demons** have the **ability** to **believe**, but this is not faith. James 2:19.
19. The following Scriptures tell us that the Bible has the concept of "revealed truths" as a Bible doctrine. Isaiah 22:14; Isaiah 56:1; Daniel 2:28,29; Amos 3:7; Matthew 11:27; Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; Galatians



1:11,12; Ephesians 3:4,5, Philipians 3:15.

20. The Bible makes a difference between believing, trusting and confidence, and a concept of Faith.

- a. We must **believe** but Faith does the justifying. Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:22; Romans 3:3.
- b. **Trust** comes only after we hear the gospel of Truth also called the Faith of the Gospel. (Ephesians 1:13; Philipians 1:27).
- c. Only after **revealed truths** can we trust. Proverbs 22:17-22.
- d. Faith gives **confidence**, thus confidence cannot be Faith itself. Ephesians 3:12.

21. Let us now look at the word "Faith" in the **First Witness** or Old Testament.

- a. The Hebrews word for **Faith** is "**emunah**", and it is the word used in Habakkuk 2:4.
- b. But the word **emunah** means "Truth".  
"**emunah**. A noun meaning truth, faithfulness." Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, **The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament**, p. 68.
- c. The following Scriptures contains the word "**emunah**" translated "**truth**". Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalms 33:4; Psalms 119:30;

Proverbs 12:17; Isaiah 59:4; Jeremiah 5:1,3; Jeremiah 7:28; Jeremiah 9:3.

22. The fact that the word **emunah** for **truth** also means **Faith** is ratified by Paul's reference to Habakkuk 2:4 as the just living by "**Faith**". Three times he calls **emunah Faith**. Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.

a. This therefore means that **Emunah** which is "Truth" is also "Faith".

23. The Hebrew word for **believe** is "Aman" and it does not in the least way mean **Faith**.

"**aman**" A verb meaning to be firm, to build up, to support, to nurture, or to establish." **Ibid**, p. 69.

24. Observe the Scriptures in which **Aman** as **believe** is used. Genesis 15:6; Exodus 4:5; Exodus 14:31.

a. Thus while the former Scriptures show **believing** as it relates to God, believing is just a human mental ability as is seen in the following texts. 1 Samuel 27:12; Genesis 45:26.

25. Observe the word **Trust** in Hebrew. Here are two different words.

"**batah**: A verb indicating to trust, to be



confident." *Ibid*, p. 128.

"**Mibtah**: A masculine noun referring to trust, confidence." *Ibid*, p. 564.

26. This **trust** or **confidence** can be in **God** as well as **man** because it is not divine endowments, but **natural human mental abilities**.
- a. **Batah**, trust/confidence in God. Isaiah 26:4; Isaiah 36:7.
  - b. **Batah**, trust/confidence in man. Isaiah 31:1; Isaiah 36:5,6,9.
  - c. **Mibtah**, trust/confidence in God. Proverbs 22:19; Psalms 71:5.
  - d. **Mibtah**, trust/confidence in creation. Job 8:14.
27. We shall now study what the Bible tells us about a definition of Faith.
- a. The Bible defines Faith in Hebrews 11:1.
  - b. The word translated "substance" is "hupostasis". Of this word, we are told.  
"The Greek word translated "substance" had a technical meaning in the business world of the first century. It referred to one's property or effects .... It was also used to refer to "the whole body of documents bearing on the ownership of a person's property, deposited in the archives, and forming the evidence of ownership." ... Thus they

[Moulton and Milligan] translate "Faith is the titledeed of things hoped for." ... To substantiate this usage, there is in "Living Yesterdays," a delightful brochure by H.R. Minn, the story of a woman named Dionysia. She is described as "a woman of set jaw and grim determination." It seems that she had lost a case in a local court over a piece of land to which she laid claim. Not satisfied with the decision of a lower court in Alexandria. She sent her slave to that city, with the legal documents safely encased in a stone box. On the way, the slave lost his life in a fire which destroyed the inn where he had put up for the night. For 2000 years the sands of the desert covered the ruins of the inn, the charred bones of the slave, and the stone box. Archaeologists have recently uncovered these remains. In the box they found the legal documents. They read the note which this woman had sent to the judge in Alexandria, "In order that my lord the judge may know that my appeal is just, I attach my *hupostasis*." That which was attached to this note, she designated by the Greek word translated "substance" in Heb. 11:1. The attached document was translated and found to be the titledeed to the piece of land which she claimed as her own possession, the evidence of her ownership." Kenneth S. Wuest, **Bypaths in the Greek New Testament**, pp. 18-19.



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28. This clearly shows us that the word "substance" is the Greek word **hypostasis** and it means **title-deed**. This clearly shows us that Faith is the **revealed truth** of the **title-deed**, the **evidence** of things we do not see. Hebrews 11:1.
29. The consistency of interpreting Faith to be the **revealed Truths** of God (a Biblical teaching) is seen in the explanation Paul gives us of what Faith is in same chapter.
- Faith gives understanding. Believing, trusting, and confidence does not give it. Hebrews 11:3.
  - Faith warns of things not seen as yet, thus it is revealed truths, since believing and trusting does not warn anyone. Hebrews 11:7.
  - The Faith of Abraham made him look of a heavenly city built by God, only revealed truths could cause such an expectancy and not believing, trusting and or confidence. Hebrews 11:9-10.
  - The Faith or **revealed Truths** that Sarah had caused her to deem God trustworthy to His promises. That is not a product of believing, trusting or from having confidence. Hebrews 11:11.
  - The Faith Abraham had was the **revealed truths** about the resurrection of Christ. Hebrews 11:17-19.
  - The Faith that Moses had that caused

- him to suffer affliction with Israel was the revealed truths about future rewards. Hebrews 11:24-26.
- Moses Faith was the revealed truths about God. Hebrews 11:27,28.
  - The Faith they all had was called "**the Faith**", this is not the believing, the trusting or the confidence. Hebrews 11:39.
30. That Faith is the revealed Truths is seen in the Bible calling it "**the Faith**" as a **body of teachings**.
- James** calls it "the Faith". James 2:1.
  - Paul** calls it "**the Faith**" in many Scriptures. 1 Timothy 1:19; 1 Timothy 3:13; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Timothy 6:10,12,21.
  - Peter** calls it "the Faith". 1 Peter 5:9.
  - Jude** calls it "the Faith". Jude 1:3.
  - John** calls it "the Faith". Revelation 13:10.
31. That Faith is the **revealed Truths** of God is seen in that it is described as the "words of faith." 1 Timothy 4:6.
32. Paul even explains that the word "**word**" in the First Witness (O.T.) was used to mean "**words of Faith**". This is not believing, trusting and or confidence, it is the "words of the revealed truths which we preach." (Deuteronomy 30:12-14; Romans 10:6-8).
33. This is why the "Gospel of the Christ" is called



the "faith of the Gospel". Philipians 1:27.

34. Faith as "evidence" of spiritual things is seen in (Proverbs 22:17-21; Hebrews 11:1)
35. In the Greek words this is the difference between **Faith** and **Believing** and even **Faithful**.
  - a. **Pistis**→Faith (noun). Hebrews 11:1.
  - b. **Pisteuo**→Believe (verb). John 1:12.
  - c. **Pistos**→Faithful (adjective). 1 John 1:9.

36. The word "Trust" in the Greek has its own words. They are.

- a. **Elpizo**→Trust. Philipians 2:19; 2 Corinthians 13:6 (Hope).
- b. **Peitho**→Trust. Hebrews 2:13; 2 Corinthians 1:9 (Confidence).

37. Even the word **confidence** has its Greek word. It is **Parresia**. 1 John 2:28; 1 John 3:21; 1 John 5:14; Hebrews 10:35.

38. Concerning **Faith** as the **Faith of Jesus Christ** Mrs. White said.

"In describing the remnant people of God, John says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 14:12). This is the law and the gospel." Ellen

G. White, **Selected Messages Book Two**, p. 385.

39. It is the **faith of Jesus Christ** that justifies us, so this is justified by **Faith**. This means that it is the Gospel of Christ (revealed truths of Christ) that justifies us. Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:22.

40. Again, Mrs. White tells us what "Faith" is. She says:

"The faith that is unto salvation is not a casual faith, it is not the mere consent of the intellect, it is **belief** rooted in the heart ..." Ellen G. White, **Selected Messages Book One**, p. 391. (Emphasis supplied).

41. What is the dictionary meaning of "belief"? We are told.

"**Belief**, persuasion of the truth of anything; faith; the opinion or doctrine believed." **The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary**, p. 87.

a. The point here is that **belief** is the **doctrines believed** rooted in the mind of the person. This tells us that Faith is the **doctrines of Faith** believed. 1 Timothy 4:6.

42. Martin Luther described Faith in his best way



as:

"To the first I answer thus, that faith is nothing else but the truth of the heart; that is to say, a true and right opinion of the heart as touching God." Martin Luther, **A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians**, p. 231.

43. Philip Melancthon, Luther's helper gives a true concept of Faith in this particular statement.

"Thus this faith is not simply a knowledge and thought that men by themselves produce: it is a light and joy which the Son of God produces through the gospel and the Holy Spirit." Philip Melancthon, **Melancthon on Christian Doctrine, Locicommunes** 1555, p. 157.

44. John Calvin also curiously admits what Faith is. He says:

" Faith consists in the knowledge of God and of Christ." John Calvin, **Institutes 111,ii,5**.

45. The Major true concept of Faith held by the **1888** message tells us the following.

"Now, what did the centurion expect would do the work? *"The word ONLY."* Upon what did he depend for the healing of his servant?— Upon *"the word ONLY."* And the Lord Jesus

says that *that is faith.*" A.T. Jones and E.J. Waggoner, **Lessons on Faith**, p. 16.

"Faith comes by the word of God. Justification by faith, then, is justification that comes by the word of God. Righteousness by faith is righteousness that comes by the word of God." **Ibid**, p. 24.

46. The world's top scholar tells us what **pistis**, the word translated Faith in the Bible, means. He says:

"These were always unpropitious periods in the Christian Church, when Christian histories of dogmatics and theology separated gnosis [knowledge] and *pistis*. *Pistis* rightly understood is gnosis; rightly understood the act of faith is also an act of knowledge. Faith means knowledge." Karl Barth, **Dogmatics in Outline**, p. 23.

"Faith is knowledge; it is related to God's Logos, and it is therefore a thoroughly logical matter. The truth of Jesus Christ is also in the simplest sense a truth of facts." **Ibid**, p. 25.

47. Another scholar sees this true concept of Faith. He also says.

"Yet faith is a *kind* of knowledge .... the writer [of Hebrews] is calling faith (*pistis*) ... a kind of spiritual perception ..." Geddes MacGregor,



**Gnosis**, p. 82.

"Faith in God, which consists in the knowledge of God, is a unique kind of knowledge." **Ibid**, p. 122.

48. Finally, we are given a small insight into how Faith came to mean **believing**. Origen, a so-called Church father who wrote between 225 ACB-235 ACB tells Christians the following:

"... I say, we (the Christian clergy), who are so well advised of these things, do professedly teach men to believe without examination." Quoted in, T.W. Doane, **Bible Myths**, p. 275.

"... they [apostatizing Christians] cared neither to receive nor give any reason for their faith, and that it was a usual saying with them: "Do not examine, but believe only, and thy faith will save thee;" and Julian affirms that, "the sum of all their wisdom was comprised in the single precept, 'believe.'"" T.W. Doane in, **Ibid**, p. 275.

"They are forever repeating: 'Do not examine. Only believe, and thy faith will make thee blessed. Wisdom is a bad thing in life; foolishness is to be preferred.'" Celsus (3rd. Century), quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 272.

Fin.