

Making Faith Personal

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Faith IS:

Assurance - of things hoped for; Guarantee - of things divinely promised; Title Deed - of things written down; Confirmation

AND

Evidence - of things not seen; Conviction - of their reality; Comprehends - as fact the non-physical

Faith IS NOT:

- The cultivation of an optimistic outlook on life with a kind of spirituality attached to it.
- A holy hoping for the best.
- Faith is NOT a call to believe in things when common sense tells you not to!
- A mindless stab in the dark.
- A crossing of the fingers and hoping for the best.
- A leap into apparent nothingness

Why?

- Why What? Why Believe? Why Bother with Faith? Why The Fuss?
- Purpose driven creation, "tension/neutrality"
- Hebrews 11:16 "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

Why?

1. Please Him.

"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2

"Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." Romans 8:8-9

Why?

1. Draw near to Him.

"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3 (Jesus to the Father)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20

Me Believing

Who do I REALLY trust, what do I REALLY believe, in what do I REALLY hope for?

Jim Jones - May 13, 1931- November 18, 1978

The Object of MY Faith

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." Colossians 1:13-20

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

Abraham Believing

"In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." Romans 4:18 - 22