

Practical Christianity

Ask In Faith

James 1.5-8

As we began our journey through James, the first book of the New Testament to be penned, We discovered,

- **Diverse Temptations**
 - Religious Confusion – False Churches and Preachers are everywhere.
 - The Famine of the Word of God
 - Persecution is Guaranteed
 - Spiritual Warfare is real
- **Source of Godly Wisdom** – Understanding and Responding to these diverse temptations
 - The Word of God
 - The Holy Spirits illumination

When we realize that we lack Godly Wisdom and we ask God for wisdom, seeking God's truth on the matters of life, we must come to God and ask of God in FAITH.

A. Understanding Biblical Faith

The World's definition of faith is very different than God's definition of faith according to His Word. Let us remember that God's Word is a source of unchanging, supernaturally preserved, truth for every child of God.

What is Faith?

Merriam-Websters.com defines faith as,

- Loyalty – As in loyalty to God
- Firm belief in something for which there is no proof
- Belief in traditional doctrines of a religion

Worldly faith is common defined by people as **“Believing in something you cannot see.”**

In the minds of common people, nonreligious and often religious, Faith is a matter of what you strongly believe. Faith is often thought of as synonymous with belief; faith is a very strongly held belief.

Often when people “get saved” they come into their salvation holding their worldly understanding of faith as if this worlds faith is the same thing as Godly Biblical Faith. But they are not the same.

When it comes to grammatical structure,

- **English language** – Belief is a verb and Faith is a verb.
- **Biblical Greek Language** – Belief is a verb and Faith in a noun

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Immediately we discover that between English and Greek there is a big difference between “belief” and “faith.” Greek is the language in which the New Testament was originally written.

Since the Word of God is the best commentary on the Word of God, we need to look in the Word of God to discover God’s definition of Faith.

Many Christians go to Hebrews 11.1 to declare a definition of faith in the Bible. But Hebrews 11.1 in another one of those verses greatly changed in modern versions of the Bible. In the King James Bible the verse reads,

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Rom 4.19

This verse of the Bible does not really look much like a definition, in modern versions of the Bible it does read like a definition. However, Hebrews 11, often called the Hall of Fame of Faith tells us what faith does. So if kept in its context Hebrews 11 is not giving a definition of faith. It is revealing the mighty things faith did in and through people.

God does give a definition of faith in the Word of God,

Romans 4:19–22 - *And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: ²⁰**He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief;** but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹**And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.** ²²**And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.***

From Father Abraham we discover his Faith was strong because,

- Abraham was Fully Persuaded
- What God had promised
- God would perform

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A. Understanding Biblical Faith

What is Biblical Faith?

- **Hearing a Word from God** – Abraham had heard a word from God
- **Strongly believing what God has said**
- **Acting on what God has said** – The Word of God will impact your mind and life.

One could say that Biblical faith is **“Taking God at His Word.”**

Notice here that the Word of God is pivotal in Biblical Faith. Without a Word from God there is no faith.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

B. Living By Faith

*James 1:5–6 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

If we are going to ask anything of God and expect an answer from God then we must ask in **“FAITH!”**

To ask in Faith as God defines Faith we must first have a Word from God.

When a New Christian starts seeking wisdom from God for their Christian Journey God points them first to **the Word of God**, this King James Bible. God also indwells them with the Holy Spirit who will illuminate the Word of God within them.

The Word of God also becomes their point of verification for the diverse temptations they are facing immediately upon their salvation. It will be the Word of God whereby they will have to verify whether the things they are being taught are true to God or not.

The perfectly preserved Word of God becomes very important to every Christian in their Christian Journey.

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A. Understanding Biblical Faith
B. Living By Faith

As you seek wisdom and answers from God, you must come to God in Faith, believing what God has said, believing the Word of God.

C. Living By The Word of God

*James 1:5–6 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, **nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.***

Eph 4.14

Notice the **“Nothing Wavering.”**

In the Word of God we discover,

*Ephesians 4:14–15 - That we henceforth be no more children, **tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;** ¹⁵**But speaking the truth in love,** may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

Notice that if Christians are not careful they can be **“tossed to and fro”** by **“Winds of Doctrine.”**

Where do these winds of doctrine come from? “. . . **by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**”

It will be other people who will deceive you. **Some of these people are,**

- **Deceived** - They really believe what they are teaching you, but they are deceived themselves.
- **Diabolical** – They are the devils agents lying to you and seeking to destroy you.

How does one know the truth from error?

*Ephesians 4:15 - But speaking **the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

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A. Understanding Biblical Faith
B. Living By Faith
C. Living By The Word of God

What is the Truth? Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

*John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.***

Here you have the true foundation of Biblical Faith, which is again the never changing, perfectly preserved Word of God.

The Word of God is the foundation of Biblical faith.

You can have worldly faith without a word from God, but if you will have the Faith God declares in the Word of God, the kind of faith that gets a response from God, then that faith begins with the Word of God.

Notice,

*James 1:8 - **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.***

If your mind, your understanding of things, is torn between this corrupt world and its misguided understanding of things, and the Truth of God which is the Word of God, then God says you will be unstable in all your ways.

You need Biblical Faith, which stands on the sure foundation of the Word of God.

The Resources God Gives to New Christians and every Christian,

1. **The Word of God** – Your Source of Truth. This never changing King James Bible.

2. **The Holy Spirit** – The teacher and illuminator of God’s Word. The Holy Spirit will **NEVER** contradict the Word of God.
3. **The Church** – That is a Bible holding, Word of God believing, Word of God teaching body of believers. No church is perfect but they are close to God when they stand on the Word of God.
4. **Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ** – All Christians are growing Christians. Be sure to gather with those who love and hold the true Word of God.

Faith is,

- Hearing a Word from God
- Believing what God has said
- Heeding what God has said.

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C. Living By The Word of God

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