



Faith: Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.”

Real faith comes from the Spirit of God- it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. No one can have it—or even be a true Christian—without God’ Spirit.

“Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith involves “evidence” of things “not seen”. The marginal rendering of “substance” is “assurance.”” Faith involves an ASSURANCE “of things hoped for.” But, if something is hoped for, that something has not yet been received. Therefore, where faith is involved, there is an ASSURANCE that it will be received.

Substance- that of which a thing consists, physical matter or material. Substance person’s shield and sword: truth. The substance person is so very different from the form person. Substance people do not like to exploit others and strive to communicate straightforwardly. These individuals want fairness and enjoy seeing others fulfill their own self-determined potential. Power, positive influence and meaning.

Characteristics of faith:

1. Faith is grace, a supernatural gift of God
2. Faith is certainty, assurance, confidence, trustworthy
3. Faith seeks understanding, wisdom
4. Faith is the beginning of eternal life. We deepen our relationship with God.
5. Faith is necessary for salvation
6. Grace enables faith

Faith involves evidence in the following way. Real faith, in any promise made by God, is actually the evidence. It is the belief that is the evidence. If God promises to do something, it is impossible for Him to lie (Heb, 6:18). Your evidence that He will perform it is the very unwavering faith that you hold. If you have true Christian faith, you do not need to search for the evidence—you already possess it!

Hebrew 6:1

Faith is also a doctrine. the principles of the doctrine of Christ. . .of faith toward God. Faith is always exercised toward God, but it is Christ who makes this possible.

Faith is something Christ teaches—this is why the Bible calls it “the doctrine of Christ.” Physical feelings merely come from the human senses and have nothing whatsoever to do with what God promises—or faith. Faith is spiritual, not physical. It is a confident assurance, which comes from the Spirit of God in the mind of a converted human being.

So many today lack the strength—the POWER—to believe that God will perform the promises contained in His Word. He seems far away, vague and ethereal to billions of human beings caught up in a materialistic world. The vast majority do not have time for God there seems to be no room for prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation. All these things draw us closer to God.

What is Real Faith? By David C. Pack

I Cor. 12:1, 7-9

John 14:12

Gal. 2:16

1. **We believed in Jesus Christ—this is something we do.**
2. **It is the faith of Christ—Christ’s actual faith in us—that justifies us (makes us righteous).**

Faith starts with human belief, but must quickly move to the real faith of Christ, which enters a person at the moment of baptism and conversion with the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit.

Temporary human faith Matt. 9:22

Through faith, becomes a shield to all who trust in exactly what the Bible says. To doubt His word, or to alter it in any way, is to call God a LIAR! When God makes a promise, He keeps it. Human beings may break their promises, but God does not. If He tells you that He will do something for you, if you meet certain conditions, He will perform His promise, you have faith as an assurance that He will. Faith is relaxed. It is calm. It is sure. Where most people might have great doubt, the person led by faith is confident that God is guiding the final outcome of matters.

Always Seek God’s Will- no promise of god can be claimed unless you have learned what the promise is. God promises some things and does not promise others. Therefore, the only way to know whether He has made a particular promise or not is to continually study His Word.

Christ Taught Law Keeping Mark 7:7-8; Matt. 7:21; Acts 2:38

The Fight of faith I Tim. 6:12; Jude 3; Rev. 14:12

Living by Faith Hab. 2:4; Heb 11; Heb 12:1; Hebrews 10:38; Rom. 1:17; II Cor. 5:7

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Hope- Expect with confidence and cherish a desire with anticipation. Await some occurrences. Expect with a high degree of certainty. Assurance that expectations will be fulfilled. Through our faith, we find hope through life's difficult circumstances. In John 14:1, Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God." Our faith means we are never alone. God is always there. Faith is the result of current belief systems as shaped by experience, whereas hope is the product of desiring a future state of affairs. And while the two are intimately connected, is the best expression of the relationship between faith and hope. One cannot have hope without faith.

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Hope is a precursor to faith. While faith is believing and trusting in something that you cannot see, hope is imagining that there is something there to even believe and trust in. It is the belief in what could be. Hope redefines what is probable and opens the paths to the impossible.

Research indicates that hope can help us manage stress and anxiety and cope with adversity. It contributes to our well-being and happiness and motivates positive action. Hopeful people believe they can influence their goals, that their efforts can have a positive impact.

The Christian hope is hope in God in Jesus Christ. It is the confident affirmation that God is faithful, that He will complete what He has begun. It is also, therefore, that confident expectation which waits patiently and ardently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

Hope- to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true.

The power of hope- is the belief that our future can be better than our past, and that we have a role to play in making that future a reality. This positive expectation of the future is grounded in three simple elements: Goals, pathways, and will power.

1. **Goals** can be both short-term or long-term. Goals must be desired enough to motivate action. The nature of the goals we set drive the way we think about both pathways and willpower.
2. **Pathways** thinking refers to the ability to identify strategies or plans on how to achieve our goals. The hopeful person is able to identify multiple pathways to the goal and can effectively identify alternative pathways or solutions to potential barriers.
3. **Willpower** thinking refers to the mental energy we deploy toward our goal pursuits. The hopeful person has the agency to self-regulate their thoughts, behaviors, and emotions when selecting and pursuing their desired goals. It is important to recognize that hope is a way of thinking and not an emotion. Because hope is a way of thinking about our future, it can be taught and learned.

Love- an intense feeling of deep affections. A great interest and pleasure in something. A deep affection arising out of kinship or deep ties. A set of emotions and behaviors characterized by intimacy.

The four loves in the Bible are:

1. **Storge**-empathy bond. Storge might also be called affection or familial love. This word isn't actually used in the Bible, but the concept is there. Storge is based on familiarity. A person will love their family regardless of whether they are people the person would be drawn to

otherwise; family members often have nothing in common except familiarity and blood. Storge is a comfortable affection that can be taken for granted, but it can also be very powerful.

2. **Philia**- friend bond. Philia is friendship love. This word is used in the Bible. To the Ancients, Friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves. Whereas lovers are both preoccupied with each other, friends are both preoccupied with the same things. Friends, of course care about one another, but it is similar interests that attract them to one another. Philia is the opposite of phobia literally meaning that those experiencing philia are drawn to one another.

Philia is often overlooked in modern culture, but it is exhorted in the Bible. In Romans 12:1-, Paul urges the believers to be devoted to one another in brotherly philia. Philia can be strongly associated with agape as well. In John 15:13, Jesus said that there is no greater agape than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

3. **Eros**-romantic love. Eros also isn't a word that appears in the Bible, though it plays a major role in a lot of Old Testament problems. Eros encompasses sexual and romantic love and is the root word of the English "erotic." Lovers are often completely preoccupied with one another, filled with eros. Eros is often associated with sexual desire and lust, but it can also be a good thing in a marriage relationship when accompanied by and bolstering with other kinds of love.
4. **Agape**-unconditional "God" love. In Christianity, **agape** is unconditional love, "the highest form of love, charity" and "the love of God for man and of man for God". This is in contrast to philia, brotherly love, or philautia (self-love), as it embraces a universal, unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstance. It is the love inside us that we give rely to others-regardless of our relationship to them. Christians are indeed expected to care for all in the name of Christ. Christianity took this a step further. Biblical writers used God as the standard for true agape. Agape love in the Bible is love that comes from God. God's love isn't sentimental; It's part of His character. God love from an outpouring of who He is. As I John 4:8 states, "God is love, meaning He is the source of agape love. We are to love God and others with agape love. Agape is a choice, a deliberate striving for another's highest good, and is demonstrated through action. God set the standard for agape love in sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.