

Worksheet 2

Biblical Faith



It is impossible to think of biblical faith without considering Abraham, whose whole life evidenced an attitude of trustfulness.

Throughout the scriptures, Abraham is always considered 'the pioneer of faith', and God is often called the 'God of Abraham'.

This underlines the centrality of faith in the relationship between God and humanity.

The four basic elements of *pistis* are clearly present in Abraham's life; he heard God; he trusted God; he confessed God's promise; and he acted on the promise.

- Take time to read through **Genesis (chapters) 12-22** and note the different way that Abraham

Heard God's word:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Believed God:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Confessed his faith in God:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Acted in faith:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

FAITH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The Gospels record that Jesus' ministry was a series of challenges to faith. What was his challenge in the following Scriptures?

Mark 1:15

.....
.....
.....

Mark 1:17

.....
.....
.....

Mathew 9:28

.....
.....
.....

Mathew 15:29

.....
.....
.....

Luke 18:14

.....
.....
.....

Mathew 8:26

.....
.....
.....

- What was your most recent challenge to faith?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- How do you now think that you should act?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Mark 9:23 suggests that faith is an assertion of possibilities in the face of impossibilities.



Jesus' mission was based on the conviction that what God expected was impossible through human effort, but possible when faith linked them to God and his way of doing things.

John's Gospel

John 20:30-31 shows that the purpose of the whole book is that the readers might 'believe'.

- What do we learn about faith in these verses?

1:12

.....
.....

2:11

.....
.....

2:22

.....
.....

3:16

.....
.....

4:50

.....
.....

8:30

.....
.....

10:38

.....
.....

12:11

.....
.....

14:1

.....
.....

Acts

In Acts, the Christian community is first identified as “those who believe”; and, throughout Acts, the exercise of faith is shown to be the essential accompaniment to repentance – it is always faith ‘in the Lord’ or in ‘the word’ which was preached about him.

The idea of faith is so central to the early church that the expression ‘the faith’ is sometimes used in Acts to denote the Christian message.

- Read the following Scriptures in the book of Acts and note what the Bible means when it refers to ‘the faith’?

Acts 6:37

.....
.....

Acts 13:8

.....
.....

Acts 14:22

.....
.....

Paul's letters

Paul's letters contain several complementary ideas about faith. His teaching is base on the faithfulness of God- on the fact that God is full of faith and completely trustworthy in all his dealing with people.

- What is you most recent experience of God's faithfulness?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- Read the following Scriptures and note how they present faith as the human response to the preaching of the gospel.

Romans 10:17

.....
.....

1 Corinthians 1:21

.....
.....

Ephesians 1:13

.....
.....

- How should this affect the content and purpose of our preaching and witnessing?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The main message of **Romans (chapters) 1-8** is that justification can be achieved only through faith. Righteousness is a gift which we can do nothing to earn, but which must be received. This receiving is the faith action. For Paul, faith is the opposite of self- achievement: to believe in Christ is to stop believing (in the sense of clinging) to oneself.

In his ‘in Christ’ passages, however, Paul teaches that faith is not simply the accepting of a justifying act of God, it is also the establishment of new relationship with Christ.

- What do this Scriptures teach about faith?

Romans 1:17

.....

.....

1Thessalonians 1:3

.....

.....

Galatians 2:20

.....
.....

1Thessalonians 3:10

.....
.....

2Corinthians 10:15-16

.....
.....

Romans 4:20-21

.....
.....

James

The concept of faith in **James 2:14-26** is particularly important.

- What are the ‘works’ referred to in this Scripture?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Both James and Paul quote **Genesis 15:6** - yet while **James 2:21-23** suggested that Abraham was justified by works, **Romans 4:2-4** states that he was justified by faith.

These are not opposed, for James and Paul are both looking at the same thing – at Abraham’s response to God’s word. One stresses faith’s believing element, while the other emphasises its growth into action.



Revelation

The last book in the bible present that Jesus as 'faithful witness', as 'Faithful and True', and shows that his words are always thoroughly trustworthy. Churches are urged to be faithful and are described as faithful. Faith is closely linked with love, endurance, and Jesus.

- Why is faith so important in the 'last days' of the book of revelation?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....