

## The Nature Of Faith

How would you define faith? For some, it means blind acceptance without any evidence. For others, it is believing in something without good reasons to do so. However, the Bible says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (**Hebrews 11:1**).

It does make a difference in what we believe. The old cliché, “It does not matter what you believe, as long as you believe in something” is inconsistent with the Christian’s faith. It is not faith in of itself that is important. But in whom (the object) our faith is based (**John 8:24; Romans 10:9**). The Christian faith is trust or conviction in a Person (Jesus) (**Acts 2:36-47**).

Christianity appeals to history, and to the facts of history. Notice the historical references to time, places, people, and events (i.e., **Luke 2:1-5; 3:1-2**). Faith is not based on human philosophy, myths, or legends (**Colossians 2:8-10**). “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (**2 Peter 1:16-17**).

The primary idea of faith is trust. The fact is that faith comes from evidence, and that is provided for us by God Himself (i.e., **Job 38:2-4**). The evidence of God’s existence is in the universe (**Psalms 19:1-3; Romans 1:19-20**). It is the fool who says in his heart that there is no God (**Psalms 14:1**).

The evidence for God is also seen in us (**Psalms 139**). We are fearfully and wonderfully made (**Psalms 139:14**). It is the Lord who made us and formed us in the womb (**Isaiah 44:2; Psalms 22:9**). We are His workmanship, created for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). Will we who are formed by God say to God, “Why have you made me like this?” (**Romans 9:20**).

The evidence of signs and miracles are so that we might believe in His Son, Jesus (**John 5:36; 10:37-38; 14:10-11; 20:30-31**). As Nicodemus said, “No one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him” (**John 3:2**). The Sanhedrin (Jewish Council) had to acknowledge that the healing of a lame man was indeed a noble miracle (**Acts 4:14-16**). However, they would refuse to acknowledge Jesus (**Acts 4:18**).

What is the nature of our faith in Christ? Our faith in Christ is making a rational, intelligent decision based on the evidence before us. God expects us to use our minds (**Matthew 22:36-38; John 8:32**). There is no salvation in any other name (**Acts 4:12**). There is no other alternative (**Matthew 12:30; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**).

The Christian’s faith is objective and not subjective. It is in a person of history, Jesus of Nazareth. Even the unclean spirits acknowledge this (**Mark 1:23-24; James 2:19**). Our faith is in who He is, the Christ, the Son of God (i.e. **John 1:1, 12**). Unless we believe that Jesus is who He said He is, we will die in our sins (**John 8:24**). Our faith is in what He did for us (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**).

The Christian’s faith (conviction, trust) is based on evidence. Evidence such as eyewitness testimony (**Acts 10:39-41; 13:31; 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Peter 1:16-18**). Evidence such as fulfilled prophecy (**Acts 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23**). The Samaritan woman said, “When the Messiah comes” and Jesus responded, “I am He” (**John 4:25-26**). This is based on the improbability of over 300 prophecies just being mere coincidence.

This faith (trust) does lead to believing in things that are not seen. Such as God who is invisible (**John 1:18; 1 John 4:14**). Such as promises we hope to receive (resurrection, eternal life) (**Romans 8:24; Revelation 2:10**). Such as an eternal home in Heaven (**John 14:1-3**). Examine the evidence, believe, and obey while there is yet time (**2 Corinthians 6:2**)!

Something to think about!

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