



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

BIBLE STUDY: FAITH AND THE PROMISES OF GOD

A group of people once asked Jesus how they could do the work of God. Jesus replied, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). God desires belief and faith from us, for "without faith it is impossible to please him (God)" (Hebrews 11:6).

But often our "faith" is nothing more than wishful thinking—"I hope everything works out all right. I have 'faith' that it will." The biblical concept of faith far surpasses this superficial approach.

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WALKING BY FAITH

1. How does faith relate to the beginning of the Christian life? Ephesians 2:8,9

You received Christ by faith, how then should you live? Colossians 2:6

2. How would you define faith from...

Acts 27:25 _____

Romans 4:20,21 _____

Hebrews 11:1 _____

Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in His word is true,
and that God will act according to what He has said in His word....

Faith is *not* a matter of impressions, *nor* of probabilities, *nor* of appearances.

—George Muller*

* As quoted in *George Muller: Man of Faith* by Basil Miller (Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1972), pages 27-28.

3. What does faith make possible? Match the following.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ Hope, joy, peace | a. Matthew 21:22 |
| _____ Answered prayer | b. Romans 15:13 |
| _____ Power over Satan | c. Ephesians 3:12 |
| _____ Access to God | d. Ephesians 6:16 |

4. State the principle of 2 Corinthians 5:7 in your own words and give an example of how you can apply it.

5. What sin can exclude you from seeing God work? Matthew 13:58

*The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is unbelief.
Doubt only needs more facts.
Unbelief is disobedience and refuses to act in accordance
with what God has declared.*

Objects of Faith

6. What are some of the unworthy objects in which people may place their faith?

Psalm 33:16,17 _____

Psalm 146:3 _____

Proverbs 3:5 _____

Proverbs 28:26 _____

b. Why did you choose this? _____

The Promises of God

11. Think of a specific situation when someone promised you something.

a. How did you evaluate whether or not that person would keep his promise?

b. Did he keep it? _____

c. How does this affect your attitude toward his future promises? _____

12. God also makes certain promises to you. What does Scripture say about the words of God?

1 Kings 8:56 _____

Psalms 89:34 _____

Isaiah 55:11 _____

2 Peter 1:4 _____

13. Why do you think God's promises are trustworthy? _____

Promises to Claim

14. Fill in the following chart.

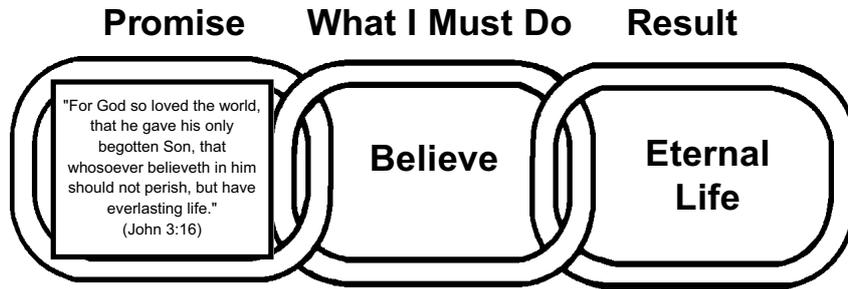
| Verse | Promise | Condition, if Any |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|
| John 15:7 | | |
| Lamentations 3:22,23 | | |
| Romans 8:28 | | |
| Galatians 6:7 | | |

15. Why do you feel God places conditions on some promises?

16. What is God's attitude about fulfilling His promises to you? 2 Corinthians 1:20

What should your attitude be in claiming God's promises? Hebrews 6:12

It is helpful and encouraging to note God's promises. You may want to keep a list of these promises, their conditions, and their results. God's promises often form a "chain" like the example below.



17. Discover how Jehoshaphat utilized the promises of God. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.

a. What was the first thing Jehoshaphat did? Verses 3, 6-12 _____

b. How did God answer him? Verse 15 _____

c. Was this a promise? _____

d. What was his next response? Verse 18 _____

e. What evidence is there that Jehoshaphat believed God's promise?

f. How did he encourage others? Verse 20 _____

g. What was the result? Verses 22,27 _____

18. What is one promise you have discovered in your Bible reading?

Specifically, how has this promise helped you? _____

Remember These Points:

- *Faith is based on the Word of God.*
- *People may entrust their lives to a number of objects which will ultimately fail. The only worthy object of faith is God.*
- *To me, the most significant example of faith from Hebrews 11 was:*

- *God is a faithful Promiser whose words never fail. God does what He says He will do because He is faithful to His Word. (1 Thess. 5:24)*
- *Christians should claim God's promises, for He desires to respond to our faith.*