

What and where do we place our faith?

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It is necessary to have faith for without it, we cannot please God. See Hebrews 11:6. It is equally important to base our faith on a solid foundation and to know what is true and reliable. Two words describe faith; true and certain. Relationships that are based on anything less will not be stable.

Jesus often spoke of truth and people responded with these words, "He speaks as one having authority and no one has ever spoken as this man. Look at Mark 1:22, Matthew 7:29, John 7:46. In Luke 4:32 it says that his words had power.

In John 14:1, Jesus told his disciples not to have a troubled heart for they believed in God; they needed to believe in Him also. "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again; and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Thomas told Jesus that they didn't know where He was going and how were they to know the way? Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me."

Philip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father. Jesus answered with these words, "Have I been such a long time with you and yet you have not known me? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and why would you ask to be shown the Father? Believeth thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me, he does the works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe me for the very works sake."

Jesus then went on to say that those who believe in Him and the works that He did, they will do the same works and greater works shall they do because He was going back to His Father. Those who had faith can ask anything of Him in His name and He will do it that the Father will be glorified through the Son.

Hebrews chapter 11 teaches us that the prophets of Old believed God and trusted in his word even when they didn't understand what the outcome would be. They believed that God created the universe and everything in it by commanding it into being. He formed it from nothing and brought things into being that didn't exist before He spoke.

Faith's seed is to believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Abel's offering to God was acceptable because of his desire to be obedient to God in offering a blood sacrifice whereas Cain's offering was rejected because his heart wasn't set to be obedient to God's commands.

Believing in one God is just the beginning of faith. That is not enough to get a person into the kingdom of God. The Bible says that even the demons believe in God and they tremble. James 2:20 says that faith without works is useless. James explained that Abraham showed his faith by being obedient to God's request to offer Isaac to him as a sacrifice. Abraham believed God and followed what he had been told to do and an angel

of God spoke to him not to harm the boy for God was testing him to see if he believed his promises. A ram was caught in a thicket and Abraham offered the ram as an offering to the Lord. Abraham was deemed righteous in the eyes of the Lord because of his faith and was called a "friend of God." James continues by saying that by works a man is justified and not by faith alone. He gave another example of Rahab, the harlot, who by faith hid the spies and then sent them home in a different direction to protect their lives. God rewarded her faith by allowing her to marry into the tribe of Judah and she is listed in the lineage of Jesus Christ, our Messiah. See Matthew 1:5. Just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.

God will not accept just an acknowledgement that He exists, but requires a personal relationship with his people in order to transform lives into his image. Without holiness, no man will see God. Hebrews 12:14.

Those who seek to know God will be rewarded with his holy presence in their lives.

Matthew 7:7 promise that to those who ask, it will be given, those who seek will find and those who knock, doors will open to them. If we as imperfect beings know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

The Bible is clear that there are two gates exist and we must choose which gate we will enter. It directs us to the straight and narrow gate which leads unto life rather than the broad gate that leads to destruction. The sad truth is that many will choose the gate that leads to death rather than walking through the narrow gate that leads to eternal life.

See Matthew 7:13, 14.

If you read the 11th chapter of Hebrews you will discover that these people died without receiving all that God promised to them. However, they didn't lose their vision of eternal life and held to the faith that what God promised, He would supply. There are rewards and blessings to come when the redeemed are gathered in the kingdom of God. This world is not our final home and the truth is that we cannot live here forever on this earth. We must set our affections on things above, not on this world below. In Colossians 3:1-2, Paul admonishes those who have risen with Christ, to seek these things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." He goes on to say that Christ is our life and He will appear and we will appear with him in glory.

When Abraham acted on the command of God, God didn't take his son, but instead gave him children as the stars of heaven and as the sands by the sea. We don't give up anything for the sake of Christ but He rewards us many times over in return. Mark 10:29 speaks about Jesus response to the rich man who refused to give what he had to the poor in order to gain heavenly rewards. Jesus said that whoever gives up riches for the kingdom of God will receive 100 fold back in this life and in time, eternal life. We must believe and live according to God's plan for us in order to receive his blessings.