

Practicing Theology **Ye of Little Faith**

Overview

Myth - believing in God is blind faith. Faith is not blind. Faith is actually based on information, specifically the Word of God.

As people we live in fear, weakness, poverty of spirit. Faith is the answer. Faith creates a confidence, not in ourselves, but in the object of our faith - God.

Faith in operation believes God's Word in such a way, to such a degree, that it causes us to act. That's why James chapter 2 talks about faith being real, or alive, only as it is demonstrated and expressed in acts of life.

Scripture

Hebrews 11; Romans 10:17; James 2:14:26

Examination

Faith comes by hearing

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. It is not some blind belief totally separated from our reasoning capabilities or our intellect. Certainly, faith goes beyond our comprehensive abilities because God goes beyond our comprehensive abilities. But faith never contradicts reasoning or rational thinking.

1. What are some promises and/or statements in the Bible that should strengthen your faith?
2. What are some historical events in the Bible that should strengthen our faith?
3. What are some moments or events in your own life that should strengthen your faith?

Faith Creates a Confident Life in Christ

- Faith even the size of a mustard seed can see great things. Luke 17:6
- Our confidence is in the object of our faith and He cannot fail. He is the ONLY sovereign and does whatever He pleases. Joshua 21:45; Job 23:13, 42:2; Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 46:9-10
- "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Faith Acts

James, in chapter 2 of his epistle, makes it clear that faith has to have works.

- Abraham and others were considered righteous for what they did
- Having faith in something causes us to act. The only reason we do not act is because we don't fully believe.

Practical Application

- Have you ever acted surprised when something happens that you believed God wanted you to pray for?
- Discuss with someone else what the things 'hoped for' in Hebrews 11:1 really are - hint: it's not talking simply about things we want
- Think of a time when you were afraid or hesitant to do something God was asking you to do. Did you do it? How did it turn out? What did you learn from it?