

Simply Believe!

Faith is simply a trust in someone or something. Everyone exercises some form of faith everyday of their life. When someone walks down a busy avenue, they are trusting that the automobile, a ton of metal, rubber and vinyl, is not going to veer off its intended course but pass safely by, or if one is driving that car that it will drive safely where it is steered—that is faith. When someone climbs a ladder they trust the rungs of the ladder will not break but hold their weight—that is faith. When someone turns on a faucet they trust that the water will not be polluted but will be safe to drink—that is faith.

Every day we exercise faith, and, for the most part, our faith is justified—the automobile passes safely by, the rungs of the ladder hold firm and the water from the faucet is free from harmful bacteria and parasites.

Without faith we could not lead a normal life. We would never venture outside because we would be fearful of passing automobiles, or we would be fearful of driving a car; we would never accept a drink of water in a restaurant or from a friendly neighbor because we would be fearful the water might be polluted. Without faith, our lives would become paralyzed; we all would become recluses, suspicious of everyone and everything around us—hermits from society.

But, if we find it normal to exercise faith in other people and other things, why can't we exercise faith in God? Someone will say, because I know others, I can see them; I cannot see God. Is that thought true? Is sight and knowledge a necessary ingredient for faith? Have you ever met the automobile engineer that designed that car? Was that a necessary ingredient for your faith that the car would not veer off its intended path? Have you met the engineer that designed the ladder you wish to climb? Was that a necessary ingredient for your faith?

Sight and knowledge are not necessary, if one wishes to exercise faith. Now sight and knowledge might subsequently reinforce and strengthen faith, but they are not a necessary ingredient for faith. Faith is the decision of the human heart to go ahead and trust in something unseen and/or someone unknown, because we are assured by others that such faith is well-placed and will be safely validated. Thus, for example, if we are told by someone (who knows the technician that tested the water from a faucet), "The water is safe to drink, do not worry," we decide to exercise our faith, believing the word of that person, and so drink the water, even though we, ourselves, did not see the report.

Well, the same is true of faith in God. He is unseen and unknown to us, yet someone who has seen Him has told us, **"I know Him; because I am from Him, and He sent Me."** These very words were spoken about God by none other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth two thousand years ago.

Jesus of Nazareth, who was sent by God to earth, told us, "You can trust in God, someone you have never seen or known because **I know Him** and I have seen Him. Do not worry; you can believe in Him. He loves you."

Now, not only did Jesus give us that assurance, He also gave us this assurance, **"Do not let your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me."** Jesus, who was

the Son of God, also told us, if you believe in God, **"Believe also in Me."** Why would He say such a thing? Because of three other things.

Jesus also said, **"I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father, but through Me."** First, Jesus was telling us He was the only way to God, and as such, you can trust Him; second, He was telling us He was truth, truthful in every way and, as such, you could trust what He said. And finally, He was telling us that He was life, and, as such, He was the One chosen by God to grant eternal life.

As such, He also said, **"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies!"** Because He knew God and because He always spoke the truth, He told us that by believing in Him (i.e. Jesus) one will live even if one physically dies. Why? Because He also said, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."**

Jesus, who was the way, the truth, and the life, told us that God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son, that is, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (the One who was eternally begotten of God His Father before all time) to be born on earth of the virgin Mary—for one purpose—to die and save mankind from an eternity in hell. He came and died on the cross for our sins because the penalty for all sin is eternal death. He died in our place upon that lonely hill so we would not have to pay the penalty for all those sins we committed. This was the purpose of His life—to die in our place.

And then, after His death, He descended into hell, so that we would not have to descend into hell; then He rose from the dead on the third day, since He was **the resurrection and the life**, and then ascended back to heaven, from whence He came, having first sent out His own disciples into all the world, those who saw Him and knew Him, to proclaim forgiveness of sin and everlasting life to all who would simply exercise faith in Him, trusting that their sins were forgiven by His sacrifice upon the cross.

What wonderful news! If you just exercise a little faith, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in His words, you will not perish but have everlasting life in heaven. This was the promise of the One who was **the way, the truth, and the life**, the One who never lied but always spoke the truth, the One who personally knew God His Father and the One who came to earth to tell us so. Do you believe?

We encourage you to exercise a little faith right now. In the quietness of your own heart tell the Lord Jesus (for He rose from the dead; He can hear you in heaven; He is alive!) that you believe in Him and that you believe in God. Tell Him you believe that His death upon the cross was for your awful sins, and that because of His sacrifice for you upon that cross, you are now asking Him to forgive you all your sins. Do this and you will never have to enter hell but will live with Him forever and ever in heaven! How can you know this is true? Because the One who never lied, who was the way, the truth, and the life, told us in the Bible that, **"... God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."** (John 3:16) Amen!

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(All the words of Jesus, in bold type, are taken from the Gospel of John)