

A LIVING FAITH

Key verse: 2 Cor 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Faith is the attitude whereby a man abandons all reliance in his own efforts to obtain salvation, be they deeds of piety, of ethical goodness or anything else. It is the attitude of complete trust in Yahshua, of reliance on him alone for all that salvation means. We begin in faith and we must continue by faith.

In the Old Testament

The word faith occurs only twice in the old Testament but the idea is expressed many times by use of the words trust, believe and hope.

- a) Psalms 37:3
- b) Pro 28:26
- c) Jer 17:5

What other scriptures can you recall that calls for man to trust in Yahweh?

In the New Testament

- a) John. 5:24
- b) The man who really believes Yahweh will, of course, act on that belief. In other words, a genuine belief that what Yahweh has revealed is true will issue in a true faith.
- c) Believe in means to "believe into" It denotes a faith which, so to speak, takes a man out of himself, and puts him into Messiah.
- d) John 15:4 It denotes not simply a belief that carries an intellectual assent, but one wherein the believer cleaves to his Saviour with all his heart. The man who believes in this sense abides in Messiah and Messiah in him.
- e) Faith is not accepting certain things as true, but trusting a Person, and that Person Yahshua.
- f) When a man comes to believe he commits himself decisively to Messiah. The present tense has the idea of continuity. Faith is not a passing phase. It is a continuing attitude.
- g) Rom 1:16 This power becomes available to a man only when he believes. There is no substitute for faith.

What about works?

- a) James 2:17-26
- b) James has in mind an intellectual assent to certain truths, an assent which is not backed up by a life lived in accordance with those truths.
- c) What James objects to is the claim that faith is there when there is no fruit to attest it.

Think on these things: -

Faith means abandoning all trust in one's own resources. Faith means casting oneself unreservedly on the mercy of Yahweh. Faith means laying hold on the promises of Yahweh in Messiah, relying entirely on the finished work of Messiah for salvation, and on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of Yahweh for daily strength. Faith implies complete reliance on Yahweh and full obedience to Yahweh.