

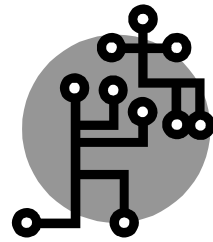
## FAITH

The Bible tells us that *faith is being sure of what is hoped for, and certain of what we do not see.* From this same source, many examples and other descriptions of faith are seen in the lives of the righteous; for righteousness comes through our faith in believing, trusting, and accepting Jesus as our savior.



To have faith is to believe without tangible or concrete evidence. Tangible evidence is not necessarily physical evidence but rather evidence *beyond reasonable doubt.* Therefore faith must be established on more than evidence but must include a measure of acceptance, belief, and trust that our hope is indeed the truth.

When you were younger, I would throw you up and catch you; sometimes you would tighten and be afraid while other times you would be exuberant embracing the excitement of going airborne. Your exuberance, or lack of fear, was predicated on faith that I would catch you. At first, you might be afraid and even cry; but after several throws, fear had given way to faith. I would stop at nothing to ensure your safe landing.



Being a believer requires faith – again, by faith the believer is made righteous. Though faith will be tested and may even wane at times, the believer should continue to grow in faith having experienced the riches of God's faith through time and events. As the child's faith becomes increasingly stronger with continuing reassurance (that he will not be dropped), so too should the believer's faith continue to grow as he witnesses the outcome.

The scripture tells us that *faith comes through hearing, and hearing from the word of God.* To grow is to be a student in the Bible and in Bible-based education. By a solid diet of Bible study and application, the believer becomes free from doubt and the *distractions that can so easily entangle and distract.* By diet, I mean that the believer must not be only a *reader of the Bible but a doer as well* – this made possible through the Holy Spirit who enables the believer to *understand the things of the Spirit of God.*

For the believer, what should be certain is that God remains faithful: though we may at times lapse in faith or falter, God remains steadfast and faithful. In a world where there are no absolute certainties, to include the understanding of truth, faith is necessary to ensure that what cannot be achieved or claimed in this world is certain in the world to come. Be good, be faithful.

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