

## "Lessons in Faith" Hebrews 11:1-6

Christians whose faith is great recognize Jesus Christ as the all-authoritative and all-sufficient Lord that He really is and depend on Him accordingly.

### The Importance of Faith

- "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (Gen 15:6; Rom. 4:3)

Many consider this verse to be the most important in the entire Bible. Here the doctrine of justification by faith is set forth for the first time.

### The Meaning of "Faith"

- Hebrew = *aman*
  - Literally = it is so
  - Concept = strength; sureness; reliability; dependability
  - To have faith or believe = to consider dependable (because of perceived strength, sureness, or "so-ness")
- Key OT usages of "*aman*"
  - Believe – Genesis 15:6
  - Faith – Habakkuk 2:4
  - Truth – Exodus 18:21
  - Nurse – Ruth 4:16
  - Doorposts – 2 Kings 18:16
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- Key NT usages
  - Greek = *pisteuo / pistos*
  - Believe – John 3:16
  - Entrust – Galatians 2:7

- Faith – Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

- Assurance
- Conviction
  
- Concept = strength; sureness; reliability; dependability

## Can Faith Be Evaluated?

### ➤ **Weak/Little Faith**

- Moses & Aaron: Numbers 20:11-12  
Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod... But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”
- Paul’s Warning: 1 Timothy 1:18-19  
...you may fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.
- Jesus’ Rebuke of Disciples: You of Little Faith  
Matthew 6:30;8:26;14:31;16:8;Luke 12:28  
*Oligo-pistoi*: “Little-Faithers”

### ➤ **Great Faith**

- The Roman Centurion: Matt 8:5-13

Matthew 8:5-7

And when He had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, entreating Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering great pain." And He said to him, "I will come and heal him."

Matthew 8:8

But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Matthew 8:9

For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

Matthew 8:10

Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel."

Matthew 8:11-13

And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very hour.

What Makes Great Faith?

Recognition of and Dependence upon: The Authority of Jesus Christ

...when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes. Matt 7:28-29

For I, too, am a man under authority... Matt 8:9

...all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples... Matt 28:18-19

Lessons in Faith

Christians whose faith is great recognize Jesus Christ as the all authoritative Lord that He really is and depend on Him accordingly.

➤ The Canaanite Woman: Matt 15:21-28

Matthew 15:21

And Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Matthew 15:22

And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region, and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David, my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."

Matthew 1:1 "...the son of David..."

Matthew 15:23

But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came to Him and kept asking Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting out after us."

Matthew 15:24-25

But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

Matthew 15:26-27

And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Matthew 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

What Makes Great Faith?

Recognition of and Dependence upon: The Sufficiency of Jesus Christ

Lessons in Faith

Christians whose faith is great recognize Jesus Christ as the all sufficient Lord that He really is and depend on Him accordingly.

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Luke 17:5

"Great Faith"

- Great Authority of the Son of David
- Great Sufficiency of the Son of David