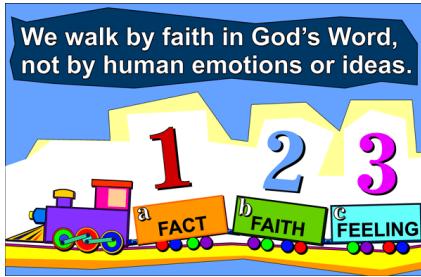


STUDY ON FAITH, FACTS AND FEELING.



<http://www.gospelgifs.com/index.htm>

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In class, I have been teaching that our confidence should first be in our faith, then the facts then our feelings. Faith is the foundation or our relationship with God, it is not based on what we consider to be fact. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ indicated that in one of his books that we should first depend on Facts, then faith and feeling should be last. The one thing we agree on without any discussion is that feeling is the last of the three. I understand what he means and welcome the difference in views. This is what prompted me to do a more in-depth study on the topic. I believe our Christian life is to be led by faith before facts, and feelings will be a by-product of the two. I will try to support my opinion through scripture.

I believe that it is facts that feed our faith. We do not know or understand all the facts therefore we must have faith in that which we do not know.

The problem with seeking the facts before we believe or have faith is that what we think are the facts can be misleading. For example; all of us have seen some great illusionist perform. We have seen them saw people in two, replace a woman with a tiger inside a locked box. To our sense of sight what we saw was fact, to our mind we categorize it as a trick.

In our court systems a person who is called to be a witness is only allowed to witness to what he or she has heard, seen, felt, smelt or knows. What they say, under the penalty of perjury is considered fact. Remember the famous line of Joe Friday of Dragnet fame, "the facts mam, just the facts."

Christians believe God created heaven and earth, it was not created out of a big bang. He created Adam and Eve; we did not evolve from apes. All these beliefs require faith because the facts cannot be proven to our senses.

Facts, as we see them, do not always support what our faith should be. For example, God told the children of Israel that He would give them the land, He promised them. It did not happen right away so faith was required to believe that it would happen. When the children spied on the land they saw that it was a good land and it did flow with milk and honey as God said, but facts said that the city was well fortified and some of the people were giants. This was a fact because they saw them. They then placed facts ahead of faith. They felt that they were as grasshoppers (*Numbers 13:33*) in comparison to the people in the land which resulted in their feelings directing their actions. Here feelings were placed ahead of faith and facts.

Something becomes a fact to us when we experience it with our own senses. We may accept something as fact based on another's experience, but that is another act of faith in that person's understanding of THEIR experience. We do the same with books or other sources of information, accepting what they say as fact based on our faith in that source.

So, we cannot escape faith. It is what we have our faith in that matters. As believers we have faith in the word of God. Many of us came to that point of faith without every reading much of the Bible and surely without really understanding all of it. We may have first heard about God and Jesus from a preacher, parent, friend, radio or television. We then made a decision by exercising faith in what THEY said. For many of us, we recognized that little voice speaking to us and acted on that. The point is that at that time we had very few facts.

Facts can decrease or increase our faith, but it is faith that sustains us. If our faith is to grow we must continue to exercise it and applying the facts we experience. We must have faith in our source of information, the Word of God.

The facts only help confirm my faith and build it. Every time I hear of another archeological find that supports what the Bible says my faith grows stronger. Every time I follow what the Bible says and obey God's commands and God responds as the Word says he would, my faith increases.

It even takes faith to believe in the facts. Have you ever heard anyone say, "I see it but I don't believe it?"

The measure of our faith must always be more than the measure of the facts we have.

The following is a series of definitions. To me true facts are those things I myself have experienced with one or more of my senses, anything else requires faith to believe in.

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Academic definitions

faith

faith (fâth) noun

1. Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, an idea, or a thing.
2. Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence. See synonyms at [belief](#), [trust](#).
3. Loyalty to a person or thing; allegiance: *keeping faith with one's supporters*.
4. Often **Faith**. *Theology*. The theological virtue defined as secure belief in God and a trusting acceptance of God's will.

Synonyms: *belief, credence, credit, faith*. The central meaning shared by these nouns is "mental acceptance of the truth, actuality, or validity of something": See also synonyms at [opinion](#).

be-lief (bî-lêf¹) *noun*

1. The mental act, condition, or habit of placing trust or confidence in another.
2. Mental acceptance of and conviction in the truth, actuality, or validity of something.
3. Something believed or accepted as true, especially a particular tenet or a body of tenets accepted by a group of persons

be-lieve (bî-lêv¹) *verb*

be-lieved, be-liev-ing, be-lieves *verb, transitive*

1. To accept as true or real: *Do you believe the news stories?*
2. To credit with veracity: *I believe you.*
3. To expect or suppose; think: *I believe they will arrive shortly.*

verb, intransitive

1. To have firm faith, especially religious faith.
2. To have faith, confidence, or trust: *I believe in your ability to solve the problem.*

trust (*trust*) *noun*

Noun

1. Firm reliance; confident belief; faith.
2. One in which confidence is placed.
3. Custody; care.
6. Reliance on something in the future; hope.

fact (*fakt*) *noun*

1. Information presented as objectively real.
2. A real occurrence; an event: *had to prove the facts of the accident.*
3. a. Something having real, demonstrable existence: *Genetic engineering is now a fact.* b. The quality of being real or actual: *a blur of fact and fancy.*
4. A thing that has been done, especially a crime: *an accessory before the fact.*
5. *Law.* The aspect of a case at law comprising events determined by evidence: *The jury made a finding of fact.*

BIBLICAL DEFINITION

Faith

Heb 11:1

1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Here are some statements supported by scripture.

We are not to live our lives solely on the facts as we think we know them. We who are Christ's must live by faith, faith in God and the work that Jesus did for us.

Rom 1:17 *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (KJV)*

We are justified by faith not by our knowledge.

Rom 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that **a man is justified by faith** without the deeds of the law. (KJV)*

Heb 10:38 ***Now the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. (KJV)*

Heb 11:6 ***But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

True faith must be as a result of something. Our faith is matured through the word of God and through our exercising of it. God's word is fact, but it takes faith to believe that it is.

Rom 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (KJV)*

The following were faithful and are considered hallmark characters of faith. Their actions were not based on any known facts. It was their belief in the Word of God and their faith in His word and promises.

Abel

Heb 11:4-9 4 ***By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.***

Enoch

Heb 11:5 ***By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death;** and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Noah

Heb 11:7 ***By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark** to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

Abraham

Heb 11:8 ***By faith Abraham,** when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he **went out, not knowing** whither he went. 9**By faith he sojourned in the land of promise,** as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:(KJV)*

Heb 11:28-31 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Rahab

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. KJV

There is a danger in only believing what your senses tell you to. We may miss out on many blessings that are produced by faith. Those mocker at the cross missed out.

Mark 15:32 32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him. (KJV)

For those who need to see the facts before they believe, Christ gives them reasons to believe that he is who he says he is.

John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. (KJV)

John 9:35-39 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. 39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. (KJV)

John 10:37-38 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. (KJV)

Here is an example of not believing until convinced by the sense of touch and of sight.

John 20:24-25 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. (KJV)

Here Jesus puts the two (faith and facts) in perspective.

John 20:29 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (KJV)

Here is an example of either seeing the facts and ignoring them or seeing the facts and misapplying them to the point of worshipping the creation instead of the creator.

Rom 1:19-21 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

21 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.* (NIV)

These three boys had faith that God could deliver them but they did not know that in fact He would.

Dan 3:17-18 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV)

This thief demonstrated faith in Jesus based on very little, if any, fact.

Luke 23:42-43 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 3 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (NIV)

Here is a case where Jesus was asking the people to believe before they would see. In all of His healing, faith was the main ingredient before the healing took place.

John 11:40-42 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."(NIV)

Here are two more examples of faith before fact.

Mark 11:22-23 22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. (NIV)

Acts 27:25 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. (NIV)

I think I am beginning to become a little redundant. If anyone has any questions or needs more information on this topic, then please contact me.

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