

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 5
The Essential Doctrine of Faith
Scripture Text: Hebrews 11:5–6, Hebrews 10:38
02/10/2019

**Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the
whole staircase.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hebrews 11:5–6 (NKJV) 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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.

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV) 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

As we continue in or series on the most essentials care must be taken that we do not classify everything as essential. It’s like setting priorities, if everything becomes a priority then nothing is really a priority.

Like so many words in our English language there is not always a word for word translation. We discussed the different Greek words translated into the English word love. Our word, “faith” can have multiple meanings within our own language.

When we say “what faith are you?” we are referring to the person religion or denomination they consider themselves a part of. Which translated into what system of religious beliefs they identify with.

Another consideration that is a part of the Christian faith is the word “faithful” a derivative of the word faith.

Faithful – 1. steadfast in affection or allegiance, 2. true to the facts, to a standard, or to an original

We all have faith in something and exercise it every day. Like starting our car, sitting in a chair, the food we buy, the restaurants we eat at. Having faith is not the issue it is what we have faith in, what is the object of our faith.

Why is this considered an essential doctrine? If we accept the first and most important doctrine being that “God is God.” If we accept the second most important doctrine to be two-way agape “love”, then if we want to show our love for God by pleasing Him then we must have faith.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, ...

Just as there is a whole chapter defining what love is as part of the doctrine of love found in *1 Corinthians 13*, there is a whole chapter defining what faith is like in *Hebrews 11*.

In that chapter we have examples of every definition posted in MW about faith. The doctrine of faith we will be discussing today is the “faith” pertaining to the synonym “belief” and its derivatives. (believe, believing, trust).

There are Four main areas where we must exercise our faith”

1. Faith in God
2. Faith in the word of God
3. Faith in Jesus
4. Faith in the Holy Spirit

FAITH IN GOD

FAITH (MW)

2a (1): belief and trust in and loyalty to God

Hebrews 11:8 (NKJV) 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

2b (1): firm belief in something for which there is no proof

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV) 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

3. complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (NKJV) 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

4. strong belief in God based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:32-38 (NKJV) 35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD

Faith in God was initially taught through visual means seeing the creation all around the earth. (*Romans 1:20–23*) It was received visually. Next it was taught and received in an auditory method. Sometimes directly from God most of the time through His prophets

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV) 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Since Jesus came to earth, He has and is speaking to us by His Son.

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV) 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, ...

This is done through the recorded scriptures called the Word of God who is Jesus.

Revelation 19:13 (NKJV) 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

And through the scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ...

I have had questions about this passage. First let me say that I believe it. But I think it applies to the OT writings as Scripture. The NT was not written at the time of this writing, (around 64-65 AD) nor accepted as Holy Scripture. It is not to say that it never achieves that designation later. (dates of writing - Matt – 37 – 70 AD, Mark – 55-65 AD, Luke – 61-62 AD, John – 85-90 AD)

I do think that the NT equivalent to the statement about the scriptures in 2 Timothy is the validated in the NT “Gospels” manuscripts.

Galatians 1:8–9 (NKJV) 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

So, we must have faith in the scriptures of the OT and the Gospels of the NT.

Now I do believe in the Bible, but I do not believe that the Bible that we have, (NKJ, KJV, NIV, ESV and others are without any errors. In many circles to deny the inerrancy of the Bible is tantamount to heresy.

I do believe that the Bible including the OT and the NT are God inspired. I do not believe everything that many theologians, preacher and those tell me what the Bible is saying to be the inerrant Gospel truth.

The KJV in its original form contained

Included the 39 books of the Old Testament, an intertestamental section containing 14 books of the Apocrypha, and the 27 books of the New Testament.

The KJV of 1611 used the 25-letter English alphabet with no letter J. In 1629 the “J” was used. In 1666 the Apocrypha, which also contained several proverbs, was removed from the KJV Bible.

The KJV records 20 – 35 proverbs but Solomon himself wrote 3,000.

1 Kings 4:32 (NKJV) 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

I am not trying to discredit the Bible but to point out that we have to go beyond one translated source to achieve better clarity.

Those of you that have studied the history of the bible understand that the bible is a collection of translated ancient manuscripts. There were many different manuscripts and some were deemed more accurate than others creating the first point of possible inaccuracy.

Some of our English translations were built from languages other than the original, some using the Septuagint or the Latin vulgate they being translations themselves creating another possible point of inaccuracy. There were also changes made to conform to the religious power of the day for example the church of England wanted some specific language to be inserted. Another point of possible error. There may have been some linguistic challenges.

How do we deal with all these possibilities? I suggest we consult different translations reviewing parallel passages. This helps to give us a clearer understanding.

Even considering all the considerations I pointed out they do not discredit, diminish or prove the word of God to be unreliable. We just have to be willing with an open mind to study in order to rightly divide the word of truth.

Example:

1900 Translation

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV 1900) 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2001 Translation

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Today the word of God is available in many different forms auditory, visual and literature. Once again, man is without excuse.

Message Scriptures: **Hebrews 11:5–6, Hebrews 10:38, Hebrews 11:8, Hebrews 11:7, Hebrews 11:17–19, Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:32-38, Hebrews 1:1, Revelation 19:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Kings 4:32, 2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 10:17. 2 Timothy 4:1–8.**

END

Contrary to what many may believe, the King James Bible, the Authorized version (1611) was not the first translation of the bible. It was the third translation following “The Great Bible in (1535) and then “The Bishops’ Bible” in (1560).

The [books of the King James Version](#) include the 39 books of the [Old Testament](#), an intertestamental section containing 14 books of the [Apocrypha](#), and the 27 books of the [New Testament](#).

It was the first book printed on the Guttenberg press but not the first time it was printed.

It is well known that many changes were made from the original manuscripts. Fourteen by Archbishop Bancroft himself.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_James_Version

I believe that the word of God is true, but I have to consider that there may be a few discrepancies as a result of convenience changes, linguistic adaptations, and translations errors. That is why we must study.

The fact that there are so many different translations (see Below) should cause us to pause before becoming too dogmatic about any one translation.

Full Name	Abbrev	Translation Type	Reading Level	Published
<u>Word for Word</u>				
Interlinear Bible		W-F-W	12	
King James Version	KJV	W-F-W		1611
Revised Standard Version	RSV	W-F-W		1952
Amplified Bible	AMP	W-F-W		1965
New American Standard	NASB	W-F-W		1971
New King James Version	NKJV	W-F-W	7	1982
21 Century King James Version	KJ21	W-F-W	7	1994
English Standard Version	ESV	W-F-W	10	2001
Holman Christian Standard Bible	HCSB	W-F-W		2001
<u>Thought for Thought</u>				
Jerusalem Bible	JB	T-F-T		1966
New American Bible	NAB	T-F-T		1970
New International Version	NIV	T-F-T	7-8	1973
New Jerusalem Bible	NJB	T-F-T		1985
New Century Version	NCV	T-F-T		1987
New Revised Standard Version	NRSV	T-F-T		1990
Today's New International Version	TNIV	T-F-T		2005
<u>Paraphrase</u>				
The Living Bible	TLB	Para		1971
Contemporary English Version	CEV	Para	5.5	1995
New Living Translation	NLT	Para	6.5	1996
New International Reader's Version	NLRV	Para		1996
Good News Translation/Bible	GNT	Para		2001
The Message	MSG	Para	5	2002