

Lifting Up The STANDARD



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

Dead Faith

“Faith without works is dead?” (James 2:20)

What Is Dead Faith?

The word “*faith*” occurs 247 times in 231 verses in the Word of God. It is found only twice in all of the Old Testament, where we read concerning, “*children in whom is **no faith***” (Deuteronomy 32:20), and “*the just shall live by **his faith***” (Habakkuk 2:4).



The First Reference To Faith In the New Testament Was Spoken By Christ.

In Matthew 6:30 He said, “O ye of little *faith*.” The Greek word translated faith here is *oligopistos*. It is translated “*little faith*” five times as listed below.



Matthew 6:30,

“O ye of little *faith*?”

Matthew 8:26,

“O ye of little *faith*?”

Matthew 14:31,

“O thou of little *faith*.”

Matthew 16:8,

“O ye of little *faith*.”

Luke 12:28,

“O ye of little *faith*?”

NEVER DOUBT IN THE STORM
WHAT GOD PROMISED
IN THE SUNSHINE

In the five references above, the word faith has to do with trust.

Jesus Said They Were Going To “The Other Side”

In Matthew 14:31, Jesus sharply rebuked His disciples for not trusting Him during a storm. In verse twenty-two, we read, “*Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side.*”

In verse thirty four, in spite of the storm, we find them on the other side. When Jesus said they were going to the other side, they were going to “*the other side.*” They were rebuked for having “*little faith*” (**trust**) because they didn’t trust Christ during the storm.

242 Verses About What We Believe

The remaining 242 references concerning “*faith*” in the Word of God refer to what we believe, or what we say we believe. In our age of apostasy, we have many different types of fundamentalists who are all claiming to believe the truth; however, someone is right and someone is wrong, concerning the issues we are facing. In Second Corinthians 13:5, we are commanded to “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.*”

What Are Works of Faith?

The word “*works*” occurs 236 times in 224 verses in the Bible. The word works refers to an activity that requires an effort. An effort is to make a determined attempt to do something, and having a firm decision not to change.

Works Includes *Believing* Something Before Doing Something

In John 6:28, we read, the multitudes that followed Christ asked Him, “*What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?*” Christ answered them saying, “*This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*” Their question was “*what shall we do?*” Christ’s answer directed them to what they needed to *believe*.

“Your Work of Faith”

In First Thessalonians 1:3, Paul wrote the Thessalonians telling them that he was remembering their “*work of faith.*” The word “*faith*” here is referring to what they believed. Paul was mindful of the work involved in maintaining his faith. We can almost hear the relief in his spirit when Paul said, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*” (Second Timothy 4:7).

Keeping The Faith (what We Believe) Requires Work

Acts 14:22,

- “*Exhorting them to continue in the faith.*”

First Corinthians 16:13,

- “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*”

Colossians 1:23,

- “*Continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away.*”

Philippians 1:27,

- “*Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith.*”

Who Hindered You?

In Galatians 3:11, Paul said, “*The just shall live by faith.*” (what he believes). He then rebuked them saying, “*Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*” (Galatians 5:7).

James Deals With Having A Dead Belief

As previously mentioned, the five verses quoted on page one, where the Greek word *oligopistos* is translated “*faith*” are the only places in all of the Word of God where faith means trust. The other 242 times the word *faith* occurs in the Word of God, it is referring to what we believe.

Faith And Believe Are The Same Greek Word

The word “believe,” in Hebrews 10:39, is the same Greek word translated “faith” 242 times in the New Testament.

Hebrews 10:39,

*“But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that **believe** to the saving of the soul.”*

What We Believe

James 2:17,

“Even so faith, (what we believe) if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

James 2:17,

“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, (to believe something) and I have works: shew me thy faith (belief) without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith (belief) by my works.”

James 2:20,

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith (what we believe) without works is dead?”

James 2:26,

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith (what we believe) without works is dead also.”

Will Christ Find Faith (Belief) When He Returns?

Luke 8:18,

“When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith?” (Will He find us believing what we once believed?)

I have been a Christian for over sixty years. During that time, I have seen our leaders in our fundamental movement change from what they once believed. When I was first saved, even those who were in what we call the evangelical movement believed that repentance is necessary for salvation. A large percentage of what we call fundamentalism no longer believes that.

In the early sixties, separation was the watchword of fundamentalism. Separation is no longer believed to be important in our movement. Sound doctrine has been replaced with a “smooth things” only type preaching. Dress standards that were promoted in the sixties are believed by very few fundamentalists. Music standards that were once believed are no longer considered to be important.

Jesus asked the question, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith? (Christians believing what we once believed).”

Not Denied “My Faith”

Jesus commended the pastor at Pergamos saying, he had “not denied my faith.” That is, he had not denied what Jesus believes. Many who run under the banner of fundamentalism no longer believe what Jesus believes.

“Your Faith”

The phrase “your faith” occurs thirty-four times in the Word of God. The first time it was used by Christ, in Matthew 9:29, where He said, “According to your faith (belief) be it unto you.”

The final time “*faith*” occurs is found in Jude 1:20, where Jude warned us concerning our days of apostasy that we must be “*building up yourselves on your most holy faith.*” Jude mentioned *faith* in another place ,where he said, “*It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith (what we believe). which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 1:3). In our age of apostasy, those who will “*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,*” are now branded, even by those in the fundamental movement, as being mean spirited and causing division.

“The Trial of Your Faith”

First Peter 1:7,

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Let us not be taken off guard concerning the fact that what we believe will be put on trial. What we believe, is “*much more precious than of gold that perisheth,*” Let us determine that when we stand before the Lord what we believe “*though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*”

Departing From What We Believe

First Timothy 4:1,

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, (what they believe) giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

We will get discouraged unless we understand that this prophecy will be a fact in the last days. Jesus said when He returned, it would be like the days of Noah.

Matthew 24:38-39,

“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

God Will Have A Remnant

As previously mentioned, Jesus asked the question “*When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith?*”(Christians believing what they once believed).” The answer is yes, He will have a remnant.

Isaiah 1:9,

“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

Romans 11:5,

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant.”

Points



To Ponder

Discernment is **not** the God-given ability to determine **WHO** is right, but **WHAT** is right. Having discerned what is right our choices then determine if we love our friends more than we love the Lord.