

Why Faith?

Romans 10:17 (New American Standard Bible)

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

## **Introduction**

Imagine a world without faith in God. How would it be different from the world we live in now? If there's no faith in God, the society will become godless and lawless. People will behave according to their own selfish desires. As someone puts, each one will dance to their own DNA. Faith in God instills a healthy fear of God in people's heart. No faith in God means no fear of God, and no fear of God means the increase of self-love that eventually destroys the society. Good example? Consider the Soviet Union. After less than a century of practice of communism that destroyed Christianity in the land, it collapsed from within.

I watched a video clip some time ago in which a Harvard Business School professor interviewed a visiting Chinese scholar. He asked the Chinese scholar what the single difference is between America and China. Without hesitation, he replied, the Church. His answer was shocking. He pointed out the strength and the benefits the Church and God's people bring into the American society which is totally lacking in China which promotes atheism and persecutes the Church. Sadly though, we are becoming a godless society. In America today, people are leaving the Church at an alarming rate and churches are closing left and right across the denominations. In 2019, 3000 churches opened, yet 4,500 churches closed (Lifeway.com). We are at a critical juncture in terms of faith in America. Faith is a crucial component of a stable society.

## **Content**

What about the same faith factor in an individual's life? Does faith in God really matter in the individual's life? My answer is a resounding 'YES.' How is your life without God, without faith, and without Church? Can you live without God? Can you live without faith in God? My honest answer to those questions is: No, I definitely need God in my life. For my fourscores of life, I need faith in God. So, this morning, I invite you to join me as we think about the necessity of faith in the believer's life. Before I dig deeper, let me define what faith is, because it can mean many things. I begin with the Oxford Dictionary.

**Definition of faith:** 1. Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.  
2. Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof (Lexico.com). I am going with the second definition. Strong belief in God.

Let me further narrow it down: *faith is a belief in Jesus Christ and what He has done for sinners.* It is the belief that the sinless and righteous Son of God died on behalf of you and

me to save us from our sins. That is the faith I am talking about. You may call it “Christian” faith.

### **Necessity of Faith:**

Everyone must ask why we need faith in God. Why faith? My answer is this: Because, without faith, it is impossible to walk with God. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God. Without faith in God, no one can build any meaningful relationship with God. Another question: can I be a good Christian without faith? The answer is absolutely, NO. Not in a million years.

God declares in the Scriptures that faith is a necessary condition in our covenant relationship with Him. He is our God, and we are His children. And faith binds us together in this covenant. I am going to present to you three biblical cases wherein God declares that faith is a must: *salvation, practical benefits, and pleasing God*. Let me walk you through on these three.

First, faith is a must for **salvation**. Without faith, no matter how hard we try, and no matter how good we think we are, we will not get into Heaven. Faith is a necessary condition for our eternal life in Christ. You don’t have to be a millionaire to be saved, however, you must respond to God’s invitation to salvation with your faith. You don’t have to be a Miss America, but at Heaven’s gate, God will ask you to present your “Faith Pass.” Why is faith necessary for our salvation? Because it is a prerequisite for the forgiveness of our sins. Without faith in Christ, no forgiveness will be given to us. No forgiveness of sins means we carry our sins with us to God in whose presence no sin is allowed. That’s why we won’t be in Heaven without faith.

You see, God freely offers forgiveness in Jesus Christ to all, but you must take it with your faith. Through faith, you believe in what Jesus has done for you on the cross and that He was risen from the dead. When you confess with your lips in public that Christ is your Savior and Lord, and you are not ashamed of Him, then you are saved (Romans 10:9).

Here’s a quick summary of the Gospel message: God is holy, and we all are sinners. After our physical death (a.k.a. the first death), every sinner must stand before God and pay the wages of their sins through the second death (a.k.a. Hell). On our behalf, Christ the sinless paid the wages so that we may go free from the consequences of our sins and avoid the second death. God accepts us as His children and citizens of Heaven on Christ’s merit not on our own. If you believe that, your salvation is secure. Faith is a must for salvation.

Next, faith is a must to receive **practical benefits from God’s Word and prayers** (Hebrews 4:2, Matthew 21:22, James 1:5-6). Faith guarantees practical benefits in our walk with God. For instance, consider the Word of God for a moment. Psalmist says, “*The Law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces*” (Psalm 119:72). He talks about all the benefits from God’s Law that money can never buy. Those benefits have far more value and worth than money itself such as integrity, uprightness, godliness, joy, peace,

love, gentleness, kindness, self-control, and all. Without faith in God, however, you will get nothing from God's Word.

Let's say that Sunday after Sunday, you hear God's Word proclaimed at church. Let's also say that you read God's Word every day. You may even claim that you always get something good from God's Word. Now, let's do an experiment. Let's bring in someone who has no faith either in Christ or in God. We are going to ask the person to do the exact same things you do daily and weekly. So, for a month, she copies your religious activities. She daily spends the same amount of time in reading the Bible and worships weekly on Sunday morning as you do. Question is: at the end of the experiment, how much do you think she would get from God's Word? You may say, perhaps not much, or nothing. Even worse, she may think it is a total waste of time! Why? Because she doesn't unite her faith with God's Word. You do. The time spent in worship and in God's Word *alone* won't make a difference. Faith does.

Hebrews 4:2 confirms what I just said, the importance of faith in benefiting from God's Word: *For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also did; but **the word they heard did not benefit them**, because it was not united with faith in those who heard.* Did you hear? Any preaching heard with no faith united will benefit none, although the same sermon embraced with faith can be a life-changing message to the hearer. So, be sure to unite your faith with sermons so that it may benefit you to grow strong and bear fruits in your walk with God.

Another benefit through faith is the answered prayers. With faith, we will get any prayers answered and vice versa. Concerning the prayer and faith, Jesus says in Matthew 21:22: *“<sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive it all.”*

What a great promise! In reality, though, this is the promise we seldom claim. Why? Because we know that our faith is not that strong, so we chicken out and don't try a daring prayer. However, we also admit that there have been times when our faith was strong that our prayers were answered beyond our imaginations and expectations. *If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer*, Jesus says. It is His promise. Let us believe in it. Let us claim it. Let us experience and benefit from it. With faith.

Beware of one killer to answered prayers. That is *doubt*---the opposite of faith. Listen to James: <sup>5</sup> *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* <sup>6</sup> *But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.* <sup>7</sup> *For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,* <sup>8</sup> *being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways* (James 1:5-8). Here, we see how crucial our faith is in our prayer requests. *Ask in faith with no doubts*, James urges you and me. *If you doubt, he continues, you ought not to expect to receive anything form the Lord.* Doubting shuts the door to our answered prayers. You know now why faith is a must for the answered prayers. Faith is a must for practical benefits in our walk with God.

Finally, faith is necessary **to please God**. Listen to Hebrews 11:6: *6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.* Ponder the verse one more time: *without faith, it is impossible to please God, and whoever comes to God must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.*

Please note here that God is not talking about any faith in any god. In fact, if you believe in any other gods but the LORD, your faith is not a faith at all to Jehovah God. On the contrary, your faith in other gods is considered by the LORD Himself as 'idolatry.' That's the direct violation of the first of the Ten Commandments: *You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:3).*

Those who come to Jehovah their God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. When we believe that, God will be pleased with us. Don't you want to please God? You can do that with faith.

## **Conclusion**

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).* If you want to increase your faith for your salvation, practical benefits, and to please God, you know what to do. Keep hearing the Word of Christ. Keep storing up Christ's Word in your heart. Listen to sermons with faith. Spend time with the Word of God, the Bible. Accept it with your faith. You will be blessed, and your faith will grow. Amen.