

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

1. THE FIRST CHARACTERISTIC OF FAITH IS THE ORIGIN OF FAITH :

Four sources can be distinguished:

1. Faith is a gift of God

Ephesians 2:7-9 (KJV)

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. The means by which this gift comes is by conviction of the truth, which comes by the Holy Spirit

John 16:8-11 (KJV)

⁸ *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

⁹ *Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

3. There must be a human responsibility to receive God's gift

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

4. It is the word of God that gives the content of what one must believe

Acts 4:4 (KJV)

⁴ *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

2. THE SECOND CHARACTERISTIC OF FAITH IS THE HUMAN REQUIREMENT OF SALVATION, IT IS WHAT A MAN MUST DO TO BE SAVED

Colossians 1:21-23 (KJV)

²¹ *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: ²³ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

Colossians 1:21-23 (The Message)

²¹⁻²³ *You yourselves are a case study of what God does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted.*

There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

3. THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC OF FAITH IS THAT: THE OBJECT OF FAITH IS GOD AND HIS ENTIRE REVELATION

As believers, we believe God, His revelation, and His Word that has been revealed to us.

John 14:1 (KJV)

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

4. THE FORTH CHARACTERISTIC OF FAITH IS: THE CONTENT OF FAITH IS JESUS

Jesus is what one must believe.

There are three things that one must believe about Jesus Christ:

1. He died for our sins

John 3:15-16 (KJV)

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. He was buried

3. He rose on the third day

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5. THE FIFTH CHARACTERISTIC OF FAITH IS: THE THREE ELEMENTS OF FAITH

The fourth characteristic of faith is the three elements of faith

1. **The intellectual element:** There must be a knowledge, a positive recognition of the truth.
2. **The emotional element:** There must be a conviction of the importance of this truth
3. **The choice element:** One must will to choose or trust in that truth

Here is an illustrative fact about Jesus' promise

John 14:3-7 (KJV)

³ I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ⁷ If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

If you want to have life, you must know the way to life: Jesus is the way to life

If you want to know God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, then you must know Jesus

If you want to see God, then you must seek to know Jesus

The Father had given all things into Jesus' hands

John 3:35-36 (KJV)

³⁵ The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. ³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.