

Faith – Part 2 – between station one and two, (to the right or the left of the bare tree)

Hebrews 11:1 says: Now, faith is being sure of what we hope for,

And certain of what we do not see. (NIV)

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith, one is impotent to please God.

Now, the faith spoken of here is not just that “God exists”. Even His enemies know this, and hate Him. No, this is faith that God will keep His promises; that God is true to His covenant; that God can and will do what He says He will do. The question becomes, “do we have the patience, the **faithfulness**, to wait and trust that He will perform?”

Biblical faith will always begin with belief, that mental assent to what one is seeing or hearing. But, immediately following the belief **must** come the commensurate action or response, ideally a confession, followed by a life long journey of obedience, walking with God. When God acts or initiates something, man’s first and only acceptable response is humility. From humility comes fear of God and this leads then to faith and faithfulness. A very important example to reference, before we continue, is Genesis 15:4-6. This comes up again in Romans 4; Galatians 3:6; and James 2:23.

The Hebrew word most often translated as faith is Awman, which means: to build up or support; to foster; to render firm or faithful; to trust or believe. At the heart of this very important concept is confident certainty, firmness and assurance based on the evidences and the trustworthiness of God. This is contrasted with modern concepts of faith as something possible, hopefully true, but not certain; wishful. This sort of faith, generated from the mind of man, really is blind faith. From the root word Awman comes Amen, which means truly, verily; and expresses an affirmation in **response** to something said.

The Greek word is Pistis which means persuasion, credence, a conviction of truth, assurance, belief, faith or fidelity. This comes from the root word Peitho which means to convince, to pacify, to conciliate; also, to assent to, rely on, be confident in, trust, agree, yield and obey.

The **door** through which one must pass to enter the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven, is not death but, rather, **faith**.

The **key** by which one unlocks and opens the door of faith is **humility**.

The **volition** to put the key of humility into the lock and turn it is called **the fear of God**.

Faith, humility, and fear of God, are actually all spiritual **gifts** from God, extensions of His sovereign **grace**. These gifts are initiated by God and their purpose is to initiate a healed, healthy relationship with us. More on this later.