

Exploring Christianity Study 5

What Is Faith?

Introduction

We discovered in the previous studies that all mankind are sinners, because they fall short of God's perfect standard. As a result of his sinful state, man is under God's just condemnation and anger. In this sinful state, no person can enter Heaven. We learned that repentance is a change of heart toward God, which leads to a change in direction. A person will be encouraged to true repentance by considering what Jesus Christ has done in His suffering for your sins. Have you prayed for God's help before starting this study?

Section 1 — Faith Illustrated by Abel. Read Genesis 4:1-5.

1a What did Cain bring to God (v3)?

Cain brought of the _____ of the _____.

1b What did Abel bring to God (v4)? Abel brought one of his _____.

1c What did Abel do with the animal (v4)? He _____ it.

1d Which brother was accepted? _____ was accepted.

1e Why was Abel accepted by God?

Abel was accepted, because he brought a _____ offering by _____ (Hebrews 11:4).

1f Why was Cain rejected?

Cain was rejected because he brought the wrong sacrifice (his work), and he lacked _____.
(see Titus 3:5).

1g What could Cain have done if he had wanted? He could have brought a _____ for an offering also by _____ his fruit with Abel.

Section 2 — Faith Illustrated Further by Noah. Read Genesis 6:11-14; 17 and Hebrews 11:7.

2a What was the situation on the earth at this time (v11)? The earth was filled with _____ and violence.

2b What did God decide to do (v13)? God decided to _____ the earth.

2c About what did God warn Noah (see Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6:13 & 17)?

God warned Noah about the coming _____ upon the whole earth which would _____ all life.

2d By faith (trust), Noah built an _____ to save his family (Genesis 6:13 & 22).

2e Optional question — may be left until later:

In what way did Noah condemn the world of his time (Hebrews 11:7)?

Answer: _____

Consider Noah's situation. He was on dry land, probably a long way from any body of water, and God told him to build a boat. There was no obvious need for it, because there was no water to float it on! But Noah acted in

faith. He trusted God's promise about what God was going to do in judging the world. Noah would have definitely received much mocking from the faithless crowd, who would no doubt have gathered to watch this strange sight. Yet he continued the ship building work, convinced that God would keep His promise. He warned everyone else about the coming disaster. They could have prepared for it if they had wished, or even found space on Noah's boat (see 2 Peter 2:5).

Section 3 — Faith Illustrated Further by Abraham. Read Genesis 18:9-14 and Romans 4:18-21.

- 3a** What did God promise Abraham? God promised him a _____ .
- 3b** How old were Abraham & Sarah at this time (Genesis 18:11)? They were _____ .
- 3c** What was Abraham's attitude to this promise (Romans 4:20-21)? His attitude was one of _____ .
- 3d** Was his faith rewarded (see Genesis 21-1-3). Yes or no (circle your answer)?
- 3e** How was Abraham saved (see Romans 4:3-5 & Genesis 15:5-6)?
Abraham was saved by _____ in God's promises.
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Section 4 — Faith Illustrated Further by David. Read Psalm 32:1-2 and Romans 4:1-8.

- 4a** Why is this man blessed (i.e. happy)? Because his sin is _____ (Psalm 32:1).
- 4b** Did David himself experience this blessedness (Romans 4:6)? What do you think? Yes or no?
- 4c** What will God impute to certain people without their doing works (Romans 4:6)?
He will impute _____ to them without their doing works.
- 4d** What will God not impute to the same people? He will not impute their _____ to them (Romans 4:8).
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Section 5 — True Biblical Faith Is An Absolute Necessity.

Some people feel that faith is an optional extra, but this is not true. Consider Hebrews 11:6.
What can you not do without faith? You cannot _____ God without faith.
Faith is vital to pleasing God. Do you wish to please God? You cannot please God without true Bible type faith.
Therefore true faith is the starting point for any life that really pleases God.

Section 6 — True Bible Faith and Jesus Christ.

- 6a** Turn to John 3:1-7. What did Jesus tell the religious leader that he needed in order to see or enter the kingdom of God? It was to be "_____ again". This requirement applies to all people. Just as we all have been born physically into the world, so must we be born spiritually to enter the Kingdom of God.
How can this "new birth" take place in a person's life?
The answer is provided for us in John chapter 1:10-13.
- 6b** Who did not recognise Jesus Christ as the creator (v10)? The _____ did not know him.
- 6c** In particular, who rejected Jesus Christ (v11)? His _____ did not receive Him.
- 6d** What happens to those who receive Jesus Christ (v12)?
They become _____ of _____.

6e According to the end of v12, what is receiving the same as?

Receiving is the same as _____ .

6f What does becoming a child of God require (v13)?

To become a child a God requires a _____ .

Section 7 — What happens to the person who repents and truly believes on Jesus Christ?

All references are from John's Gospel.

8a 3:15 He shall not _____

8b 3:18 He is not _____

8c 3:36 He has _____

8d 5:24 He has passed from _____ to _____

8e 8:24 He will not _____ in his sins.

8f 10:9 He is _____

8g 10:26-28 He will never _____ nor be _____ out of the hand of Jesus Christ.

Section 8 — Multiple choice questions, please circle the correct answer:

8a It is impossible to please God without (Hebrews 11:6) -

- Good Works
- Faith
- Trying very hard.

8b Faith is (James 2:19)-

- Accepting the facts that God states.
 - A warm feeling inside that everything is ok.
 - A whole-hearted trust in God's promises.
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8c The following people should have faith (Hebrews 11:6) -

- Some special people
- Everybody
- Those who feel like it
- Those who are religious.

8d Without being born again, a person cannot (John 3:3) -

- Enjoy life
- See the kingdom of God.
- Get along with other people.

8e A person is born again by (John 1:12)-

- Being christened
- Receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour
- Deciding to live a better life.

8f The new birth happens to a person because (John 1:13)-

- Someone else wanted it to happen,
- The person was brought up in a Christian home,
- God does it in response to that person's faith.

Section 9 — Thought to consider.

Having considered what real Biblical faith is, ask yourself-do I just believe the facts, or have I got true (Bible type) saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Ask yourself-has there been a particular time (moment) in time when I definitely put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour; and from that time on I knew that I was saved?

If you cannot point to such a definite occasion, then it is likely that you are not saved.