

How Is Faith Established In A Man?

I was asked the question: How is faith established in a man? For an answer let's go to the scriptures, beginning in: ***Ro 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."***

Faith, as used here and many other places in scripture, is from the Greek word pistis (pronounced; pis'-tis) and means: *persuasion, i.e., credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.*

Another scriptural definition of faith is: ***Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*** Thus, we see; faith is believing in something which you have evidence of its existence. Thus, it is the substance of which you have knowledge, not some empty wish it were so. Being born-again, you know something has happened in your life, therefore, you have substance and evidence of the new birth. Wherefore, Christian faith is to believe in Christ and what God has told us in the scriptures, which are a testimony of Christ.

To have faith; we must first be born again, since the dead cannot believe. With the new birth, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which enlivens our spiritual understanding, through which we come to knowledge of the truth, which truth is salvation is of Christ, as seen in: ***Joh 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."***

Having the true knowledge of Christ, we now begin to believe, because we have witnessed his life-giving power, in the resurrection of our dead souls to a lively state. As we grow in knowledge, so we grow in faith, as we see in:

- ***1Pe 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"***
- ***2Pe 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

Faith is also a gift of God to his people, seen in: ***Eph 2:8-9; 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."*** Both; the grace by which you were saved, and the faith to believe in that saving grace, are the gift of God to the born-again child of God.

Wherefore, we understand; having received the gift of God in the new birth; we should grow in the knowledge of the truth, and as we grow, in the knowledge of the truth, our faith will increase. The greater our knowledge of God's word of truth, the greater the base, and basis, of our faith.

I can hear some naysayers saying: but some people never hear the gospel. This is true in that some may never hear a gospel preacher proclaim the gospel of Christ Jesus. But if we limit the power of God to save, to the preaching of the gospel, then people in places upon the earth where the gospel is not being preached would be lost. Thankfully, God's power to save is not limited by the imagination of man. The bible teaches that Christ has saved "***and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;***" Now join to this truth this scripture: ***Re 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"*** This scripture testifies

that the gospel will come to everyone who is born-again, if there is no earthly minister; God will send an angel.

Everyone, who is born again, immediately has some knowledge of Christ. However, I remind the reader of two things:

- The natural man does not understand spiritual things, the things of God, as seen in: **1Co 2:9-16**; 9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we (the born-again children of God) have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 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. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." God's word is very plain and easily understood by his people.
- The gospel is preached throughout all the earth, through the things that God has created, as seen in: **Ps 19:1** "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." And in: **Ps 97:6** "The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory." Both heaven and earth preach the word of truth as seen in this text. We understand that the natural man does not see it, nor does he understand it. But the spiritual man, those born again by the grace of God, do understand that the earth, and heavens, have been created by the word, and power, of God, and see, through creation, the glory of God displayed.

I trust that this answers the question: How Is Faith Established In A Man? The answer being: It is implanted by the Holy Spirit presence which resides in the born-again person, and faith grows as we grow in the knowledge of the truth of God, and of Christ, and of their word contained in the King James translation of the bible.

The whole bible gives testimony of these precious truths, of which we have only touched the surface in this small message. Glory and praise to God and Christ, our Saviour. Hallelujah! Amen!