

**XII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAY
LESSON TWELVE
... ABOUT FAITH TOWARDS GOD**

INTRODUCTION

"Faith towards God" is the second of the seven FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, Hebrews 6:1,2.

The purpose of this lesson is to understand and experience biblical "faith toward God". Realizing the Word says, "The just shall live by faith", and that "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

FAITH TOWARD GOD

What do the following Scriptures have to say about "faith toward God".

Hebrews 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:7

I Thessalonians 1:3

James 2:27,26

Acts 6:7

Hebrews 11:8

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that "faith toward God" makes the promises of God sure and real in the heart of the one who through obedience to the Faith walks in Faith.

How does "faith toward God" differ from natural faith? From mental assent?

Genesis 15:6

Genesis 18:14

Romans 4:17-21

2 Corinthians 5:7

Answer: "Faith toward God" is founded/established in God, with whom nothing is impossible. Natural faith consist of an opinion held in good faith without the necessary reference to its proof. Mental assent is agreement without the faith to walk the agreement.

THE SOURCE OF FAITH

What do the following Scriptures have to say about the source of faith?

Ephesians 2:8

Galatians 2:20 Romans 10:17

Conclusions: Faith is a gift of God's grace and comes to one by way of the Word of God.

WHO HAS FAITH?

What do the following Scriptures have to say about who has faith?

Romans 12:3

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 10:17

John 1:12,13

2 Thessalonians 3:2

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the ones having faith are those in whom the Word of God has done its perfect work of salvation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

According to the following Scriptures what do we learn about the importance of "faith toward God".

Ephesians 2:8

1 Peter 1:5

Hebrews 11:6

Romans 14:23

Romans 1:16,17

Galatians 3:14

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the importance of "faith toward God" (1) is seen in the fact that eternal salvation as well as the security of the Believer has its basis in "faith"; (2) active, conscious faith is the only way to please God, for that which is not "faith toward God" is sin; (3) salvation/deliverance is to those whose faith is toward God, or in God; (4) the Holy Spirit comes through "faith toward God".

BUILDING UP "FAITH TOWARDS GOD"

According to the following Scriptures what do we learn about building up "Faith toward God."

Romans 10:17

Romans 1:17

Deuteronomy 28:1

Jude 20

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that "faith toward God" is built-up, strengthened (1) by hearing/ receiving the Word by faith, that is to say, by listening carefully to what God is saying in His Word and then doing it (2) by praying in the Spirit/tongues.

FAITH THAT WORKS

Martin Luther said, "We are not saved by faith plus works, but by faith that works!" According to Hebrews 11:13, there are four principles of how faith works.

What are they?

HINDRANCES TO FAITH

- Walking in the flesh (Galatians 5:22,23).
- Neglect of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 6:7,8).
- Neglect of the promises (Hebrews 2:1).
- Disobedience to the faith revealed (James 2:17).

RESPONSE TO TRUTH

1. What does it mean to be "obedient to the faith"?

Are you?

2. In your own life, how can you tell when you are "walking in the Spirit" instead of "walking in the flesh"?

3. Do you EVER neglect the Word? Why is it extremely important to stay in the Word?

Romans 1:17, "... the just shall live by faith."