

How Great is Your FAITH?

Faith is defined in the dictionary as a belief or trust in somebody or something, or a devotion and loyalty to somebody or something.

Strong's Concordance defines faith (pistis G4102/peitho G3982) as persuasion, credence, moral conviction, reliance upon Yahusha HaMashiach (Jesus Christ), and convince.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, *Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, *If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

Hebrews 11:1-3 **1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **2** For by it the elders obtained a good report. **3** Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which appear.

Throughout the Bible we read about many of the great patriarchs and the true faith, trust, and reliance that they exhibited towards Yahuah (God). In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we see evidence of their faith through many of their testimonies. **Hebrews 11:4-5** **4** By faith **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **5** By faith **Enoch** was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. **Hebrews 11:7-12** **7** By faith **Noah**, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. **8** By faith **Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. **9** By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **10** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. **11** Through faith also **Sara** herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child

when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. **Hebrews 11:17-31** **17** By faith **Abraham**, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, **18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: **19** Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. **20** By faith **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. **21** By faith **Jacob**, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff. **22** By faith **Joseph**, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. **23** By faith **Moses**, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. **24** By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; **25** Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **26** Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. **27** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. **28** Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. **29** By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. **31** By faith the harlot **Rahab** perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

So, as you can see, faith can be as small as a mustard seed, but it makes a HUGE difference in our lives! It is like the saying teachers try to instill in their students ..."Attitude is a small thing that makes a big difference!"

However, we also see throughout the Bible that faith alone is not all Yahuah (God) desires.

James 2:14-26 **14** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give

them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?
17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

John 12:34-50 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? 35 Then Jesus said unto them, *Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.* 36 *While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.* These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. 37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. 42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. 44 Jesus cried and said, *He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.* 45 *And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.* 46 *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.* 47 *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.* 48 *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.* 49 *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.* 50 *And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me,*

so I speak.

Subsequently, we can see that faith without works is dead. What is the "work" He is talking about? We must show ourselves righteous by following all of Yahuah's (God's) commandments. According to Strong's, righteous/righteousness (tsadaq H6663) means to be right, cleanse, clear self, justify.

John 14:15 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

IJohn2:4 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **IJohn 3:22-24** 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

IJohn 5:1-3 1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

The commandments of Yahuah (God) are found in **Exodus 20:1-17**.

1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: 11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which

the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.

It is vital that we understand that Yahuah's (God's) commandments are not done away with. That they are still very much in play today and must be followed. We see evidence of this in the Scriptures as well.

Matthew 5:17-19 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 22:35-40 35 Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* 38 *This is the first and great commandment.* 39 *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* 40 *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Unfortunately, some people teach and believe that only two commandments are valid or still in play today. You can see in the above scriptures that Yahusha (Jesus) was asked a question about which commandment was the most important of the ten. Yahusha (Jesus) answered their question by telling them that all ten of the commandments hang on those two commandments; but, none of the ten commandments have been done away with!

To conclude, our eternal salvation depends on these two essential factors without a doubt:

Number 1: Keep/Obey the commandments of Yahuah (God) and

Number 2: Have the testimony of Yahusha (Jesus).

Psalms 25:10 All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

It reminds me of the old hymn "*Faith is built on nothing less than Jesus'*

*blood **and** righteousnous."* It is imperative that we have the faith that Yahusha's (Jesus') blood was an atonement for our sins **and** that we stay upright and in right standing with Yahuah (God) by abiding His commands and keeping His covenant.

Keep Yahuah's light shining in your life as you walk His straight and narrow path.

Shalom

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