



## **Purpose of This Study: To explore how the Bible Describe “faith.”**

In the New Testament “faith” is used primarily means to “trust” or have “confidence” in God."

Let's approach this study of faith by considering what Samuel Mills describes as the **Levels of Faith**.

### **1. Measure of Faith**

- We begin with measure of faith because without it none of the succeeding steps of faith would be possible. A measure of faith is given by God to all men.
- It is a faith that has not grown but is sufficient for belief in God and salvation.
- In Romans 12:3 it is referred to as "The Measure of Faith."
- The Measure of Faith is a gift from God.

### **2. Growing Faith**

- A growing faith steadily progresses from the measure of faith to a great strong faith.
- A growing faith is pleasing to God:

2 Thessalonians 1:3

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly..."

### **3. Great Faith**

- This level of faith could be described as an unrelenting totally persuaded type of faith, that does not give up until the request is granted.

Example: The Roman Centurion who had asked Jesus to heal his sick child, and whose faith was so great that he said,

#### **Matt 8:8-10**

"Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed." "When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found **such great faith**, not even in Israel!"

#### **Example: Matt 15:21-28**

And there was the woman from Canaan, a Gentile, (not a Jew). The Gentiles, as a rule, had very little, if any, faith in God.

This woman requested Jesus to heal her severely demon-possessed daughter. When Jesus refused, saying that He had only been sent to the Jews, she persisted, and demonstrated a level of faith so great that it brought the following response from Jesus:

"...O woman, **great is your faith!** Let it be to you as you desire..."

Great faith will always move God to answer our prayers and intervene in our lives.

#### **4. Unwavering Faith**

- Unbendable - (opposite of wavering) - To believe God without question.

Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

"He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (Rom 4:20-21).

#### **5. Strong Faith**

##### **Example of Abraham: Romans 4:20-21**

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

#### **6. Active Faith**

James 2:14-15

Doer of the Word

- Active faith takes action as soon as the Word of God is understood. It is actively doing and living in faith as if the things requested of God although not yet seen, are a reality.

#### **7. Genuine Faith**

2 Tim 1:5

- It is a genuine and sincere faith that flows from a true heart, with the desire to do what is right.

"...when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."

#### **8. Faith Without Root**

Luke 8:3

- Jesus spoke of having faith without root.
- It is the type of faith that springs up quickly, and beautifully, but because it has no depth, fails just as quickly when temptation and trials come along.
- For the most part, this is because the soil has not been adequately prepared by digging and searching for knowledge, guidance, and truth, in God's Word.

"...the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13).

## 9. Little Faith

Matthew 6:30

"if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" (Matt 6:30)

This fearful faith. Displaying a lack of total trust. Jesus gave a tender rebuke for anxiety and fear. (see Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary)

Jesus and the Disciples

But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." (Matt 8:26).

## 10. Weak Faith

Romans 14:1-3

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

Romans 4:19

"And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb,"

- Examples from the Bible of weakness in faith were of those who considered it a sin to eat meat.
- In our day, a person who is weak in faith might continually argue over areas of the Bible he/she does not correctly understand but has formed a personal opinion.
- A person of little faith will find limited opportunities to benefit from the Gospel, and very little of the peace and joy that should accompany the Christian life.

Those who are strong in faith are told to accept the weak:

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves," (Rom 15:1).

**Lord – help me to grow my faith!**

