

**GROWING IN GRACE**  
*"The Movement of Spiritual Growth"*  
**2 Peter 3:18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **Romans 8:15-17**

a) "**heirs**" - a person who inherits or has a right to all rights and privileges.

2. **Ephesians 1:3**

a) "**who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**"

3. Part of the inheritance we received as the new nature that God put within us, **gives us the ability to relate to God and grow in His Grace and Knowledge.**

4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** All that God is ever going to do for us in terms of our new life, **He has already done.**

a) **ALWAYS REMEMBER** - Everything in our Christian life, including our **GROWTH**, comes by **GRACE**, through the **POWER** of the indwelling Holy Spirit who we access through **PRAYER**.

5. **FAITH** is the **ACTION** of **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**.

6. **FAITH** is crucial to the **PROCESS** of knowing and experiencing **GOD**.

a) Without **FAITH** **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is impossible.

b) **Hebrews 11:6**

7. The question we need to ask is, "**What exactly is FAITH as the Bible defines it?**"

**I. THE NATURE OF FAITH**

- **Hebrews 11** is the great "**FAITH CHAPTER**" where faith is both defined and Illustrated in **POWERFUL STATEMENTS**.
- **HERE'S A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF BIBLE STUDY**  
a) "**Every Bible text has a context that cannot be ignored, lest someone use that text as a pretext for teaching error.**"

**A. FAITH IS CONFIDENT TRUST**

1. **Hebrews 10:32-39**

2. This is the theme of Hebrews 10 where the readers are warned not to turn back from Christ but draw near to Him and press on.

a) Vs 38

b) Vs 39

3. **Hebrews 11:1**

a) Here's what the writer is saying.

1) ***"If you are going to avoid caving to your trial and letting your faith in God slip so that you become useless, you need to exercise the FAITH GOD GAVE YOU and STAND STRONG."***

4. The issue in Hebrews 10-11 is not about the loss of **SALVATION**.

5. The point is that **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** and **FAITH** are woven together.

6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** A life of **FAITHFULNESS** to **GOD** demands that we **LOVE** by **FAITH**, just as we are saved by **FAITH**.

7. **Hebrews 11:1**

a) **FAITH CONNECTS US** with that which our senses cannot detect.

b) **FAITH IS A FIRM CONVICTION** about something we cannot see, hear, taste, or touch, but which is nevertheless very good.

1) **2 Corinthians 4:18**

2) **Hebrews 11:3**

8. **FAITH** brings the **INVISIBLE REALM** into **SPIRITUAL VIEW**.

9. **SAVING FAITH** is the **CONVICTION** that **GOD** is **TELLING THE TRUTH**, when He says we are sinners without hope apart from Christ.

10. **AND** in the **CASE** of **SANCTIFYING FAITH** for the **PURPOSE** of **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**, it is **ACTING** like **GOD** is **TELLING THE TRUTH**.

a) It is believing **ENOUGH TO OBEY** even in spite of how we **FEEL**.

11. **Hebrews 11:1**

a) **NOTICE THE STRONG WORDS**

1) **"Assurance"**

2) **"conviction"**

b) **FAITH IS NOT** hoping against hope that something is going to **HAPPEN**.

12. **Romans 4:18-20**

## B. FAITH IS BEYOND OUR SENSES

1. *2 Corinthians 5:7*

2. *Romans 8:24-25*

3. The reason many Christians don't grow and don't see more of Jesus living His life through us, is because our **FAITH only extends to our 5 SENSES.**

4. WOW!!! *Hebrews 11:6*

a) When we don't believe God, we **CALL HIM A LIAR.**

5. **WOW** what a **VERSE** - "Our **FAITH BEGINS** where our **senses END**".

6. **FAITH** will take you beyond the **LIMITS** of your **SENSES** so that you come to the conclusion that, "*If God said it, it is TRUE.*"

## II. HOW FAITH WORKS

- *Ephesians 3:14-21* (14, 16-17a)

### A. MAKE JESUS WELCOME

1. Vs 17a

a) "*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*"

1) "**dwell**" - means to make yourself @ home.

(Make yourself comfortable) (Have the run of the house)

2. If we are to grow as Christians, Christ needs to be @ home in our Hearts.

### B. GIVING JESUS FULL ACCESS

1. *Ephesians 2:10*

a) "*workmanship*" - *poiema* - poem (Masterpiece)

2. When we give the Holy Spirit of God total control, the results will be staggering/spectacular.

3. When we give Jesus the **KEYS TO OUR HEARTS**, the **FRUIT** of the Spirit will be realized in our lives.

4. *Ephesians 3:17-19*

a) "that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

5. WOW!!! *Roman's 13:14*

### III. THE APPRAISAL OF FAITH

- *2 Peter 3:18*

#### A. MEASURING FAITH

1. *James 2:14*

a) This is not "faith" that gets us into heaven.

1) But faith as to how we live here on earth.

2. *James 2:15-17*

3. So, if someone comes to us and they are hungry and we sit them down and have a Bible Study with them; sharing all the promises of God, and we pray and send them on their way - - we wasted our time.

4. True faith will produce WORKS, because **TRUE FAITH IS ACTION.**

5. **THE WAY YOU MEASURE FAITH is to look at what it PRODUCES.**

#### B. GOD IS FAITHFUL

1. *James 2:21-23*

2. This was no doubt one of the greatest acts of faith ever!!

3. *Genesis 22:21*

4. God also tries our faith, so we can experience Him through the TRIAL and **PROVING HIM FAITHFUL.**

5. *Philippians 4:19*