

THE FAITH OF GOD

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Abstract: *the article explores the theological theme of “The Faith of God” and provides an analysis of New Testament Scripture verses—The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans, chapter 10 (Romans 10:8-17). The research is based on the analysis of individual chapters of the Holy Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible). The primary conclusion of this examination is that every person's faith in Jesus Christ is the result of “hearing the word of God.” This research was conducted using the biblical method of “proof by the Scriptures.”*

Keywords: *Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible); faith; salvation.*

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Special Abbreviations

f., ff. — following verse, following verses.

Quotes

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible)*.

Introduction

The purpose of this work is to explore the theological theme of “The Faith of God.” Additionally, the article provides an analysis of verses from the New Testament Scriptures—Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 10 (**Rom. 10:8-17**). The research is based on commentary on individual chapters of the Holy Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (*Nelson's NKJV Study Bible*). The conclusion of the analysis is that every person's faith in Jesus Christ is the result of “hearing the word of God.” This study was conducted using the biblical method and is based on compelling arguments from the Bible verses—“proof by the Scriptures...” (**Acts 18:28f**) [**13**].

The presented work is thematically related to previously conducted studies [1-11, 14-16].

God knows His children—those who believe in Jesus Christ and always follow His will. He knows them perfectly and constantly cares for them, as convincingly demonstrated in studies [2-3].

God's forgiveness is available to all people, so every believer in Jesus Christ must accept God's forgiveness and forgive others, just as Christ forgave us, which is proven by the content of the works [4-5].

To believe in Jesus Christ, one must obey the Lord in everything, as shown in study [6].

God always has a reward for those who serve Him—a promise of salvation and eternal life, as proven in studies [7-8].

God's children are obedient to the voice of the Lord—the Holy Spirit (the word of God), as demonstrated in studies [10-11].

For a person's salvation, faith and baptism according to that faith—a “water covenant” with the Lord—are essential, as proven in studies [9, 14-15].

It is essential to abide in Jesus Christ—to abide in faith in the teachings of His Apostles—the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as evidenced by the content of work [16].

The present study differs from article [1] in that it examines a different manuscript—the New King James Version of the Bible (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible, Second Edition). In addition, the article and bibliography are edited exclusively for an English-speaking audience.

NKJV STUDY BIBLE

From the Holy Scriptures (the Bible), we know that the Lord desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The Apostle Paul writes in the First Epistle to Timothy.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth...” (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

But for this salvation, people need faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (see [1]).

Let's define the terms “**Faith**” and “**Salvation**”.

“Faith—(Gr. *pistis*, Lat. *fides*, ‘trust,’ ‘belief’) In Christianity, belief, trust, and obedience to God as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the means of salvation (Eph. 2:8) or eternal life (John 6:40). Faith affects all dimensions of one’s existence: intellect, emotions, and will.” [12, 100].

“Salvation—(Lat. *salvatio*, from *salvare*, ‘to save’) God’s activities in bringing humans into a right relationship with God and with one another through Jesus Christ. They are saved from the consequences of their sin and given eternal life. Biblical images for salvation vary widely.” [12, 247].

Summary. In light of these definitions, we see that one of the main conditions for a person’s salvation is **faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Faith in the Old Testament

1 Faith of Abraham

In the times of the Old Testament, God called Abraham and brought him out of his land. Abraham obeyed the Lord because he believed Him.

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ...” (Gen. 12:1-3ff).

God foretells Abraham about his descendants.

“Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ...” (Gen. 15:5-6ff).

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Apostle Paul, while listing the men of faith—Abel, Enoch, Noah—also writes about the patriarch Abraham.

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ...” (Heb. 11:8-12ff).

It is known that in the times of the Old Testament, a person’s righteousness was solely based on the fulfillment of God’s law, but the Lord Jesus Christ emphasized that the most important aspect of the law was **faith** (see [1]).

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” (Matt. 23:23).

It is also known that without faith, it is impossible to please God.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6).

In the Old Testament times, it was necessary to believe in **the coming Redeemer—the Lord Jesus Christ** (see [1]).

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. ...” (Job 19:25-27f).

Summary. In the Old Testament times, **faith was paramount** among the people. It also came from hearing about the **coming Redeemer (Jesus Christ).**

Faith in the New Testament

1 The Teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ on Faith

From the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) we know that the Lord Jesus Christ preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’ ...” (Mark 1:14-15ff).

Many people today say they have faith but believe in their own way, privately, in their hearts. Yet the Lord, Jesus Christ, always taught His disciples **repentance and faith in God** (see [1]).

“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.’ ” (Mark 11:22-24).

The Evangelist John writes that **faith in the Lord Jesus Christ leads to eternal life.**

“And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:26-31).

Summary. *The faith of God is based only on the word of God (the Bible).*

2 The Teaching of the Apostle Peter on Faith

The Apostle Peter, in his First Epistle, writes about the preaching of the Gospel (see [1]).

“**If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.** If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Pet. 4:11).

We see that the Apostle Peter writes about how the Gospel of Jesus Christ should be preached: as the Word of God instructs—that is, **as it is written in the Bible** (the Word of God), without adding anything to it or taking anything away, for such actions would invoke the wrath of God upon that person. (Rev. 22: 18-19).

It is also known that when the Apostle Peter **preached the Word of God** (the Gospel) to the Jews, about **three thousand souls repented**.

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:37-42).

Further, we read that after the preaching of the Apostle Peter, about five thousand people believed (see [1]).

“However, many of those **who heard the word believed**; and the number of the men came to be about **five thousand**.” (Acts 4:4).

Summary. *We see that the Gospel has power and authority over the souls of men, because the word of God is spirit and life.* (John 6:63).

3 The Teaching of the Apostle Paul on Faith

The Apostle Paul, in the Epistle to the Romans, writes about faith.

“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** ...” (Rom. 10:8-17ff).

Here’s a brief commentary on these verses (see [1]).

– **Verse 8.** Originally, Moses spoke here about the law (Deut. 30:14), but the Apostle Paul interprets this passage as referring to Christ, whom the Jews should recognize in the law and believe in Him. (John 5:39ff).

– **v. 9.** Our mouths confess what our hearts testify to.

– **v. 10.** We have come to salvation through our confession of faith.

– **v. 11.** Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will not be put to shame; but whoever is ashamed to come to the Lord and repent is unbelieving.

– **v. 12.** All people are equal before God, whether Jews or Gentiles.

– **v. 13.** A person who confesses the name of the Lord is a believer. His confession grants him salvation.

– **v. 14.** The preaching of the Gospel is essential for faith.

– **v. 15.** It is impossible to believe without the preaching of the Gospel.

– **v. 16.** Many, unfortunately, did not believe in the Gospel.

– **v. 17.** **Faith comes from hearing the word of God.** Because by believing in the Gospel, we believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

So, we have received the answer to the **main question of our topic**: How to acquire God's faith, pleasing to the Lord?

Summary. *The faith of God can be acquired only through hearing the Word of God, that is, only through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Conclusion

Summing up the results of this study of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (*Nelson's NKJV Study Bible*), the following important conclusions can be drawn.

1) The **faith of God** in the Old Testament comes only *from hearing about the coming Redeemer* (the Lord Jesus Christ).

2) The **faith of God** is based solely on the *Word of God* — the Bible.

3) The Gospel holds power and authority over human souls because the *Word of God is spirit and life*.

4) The **faith of God** is acquired only through hearing the *Word of God*.

The **main conclusion** is proven by the Scriptures:

The faith of God comes only from hearing the Word of God (the teaching of the Apostles, the Gospel of Jesus Christ).

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