

Foundations of the Faith

Lesson 15 – Faith - Calvary Chapel Northwest

Overview

What is
Faith?

Language

Examples
in OT

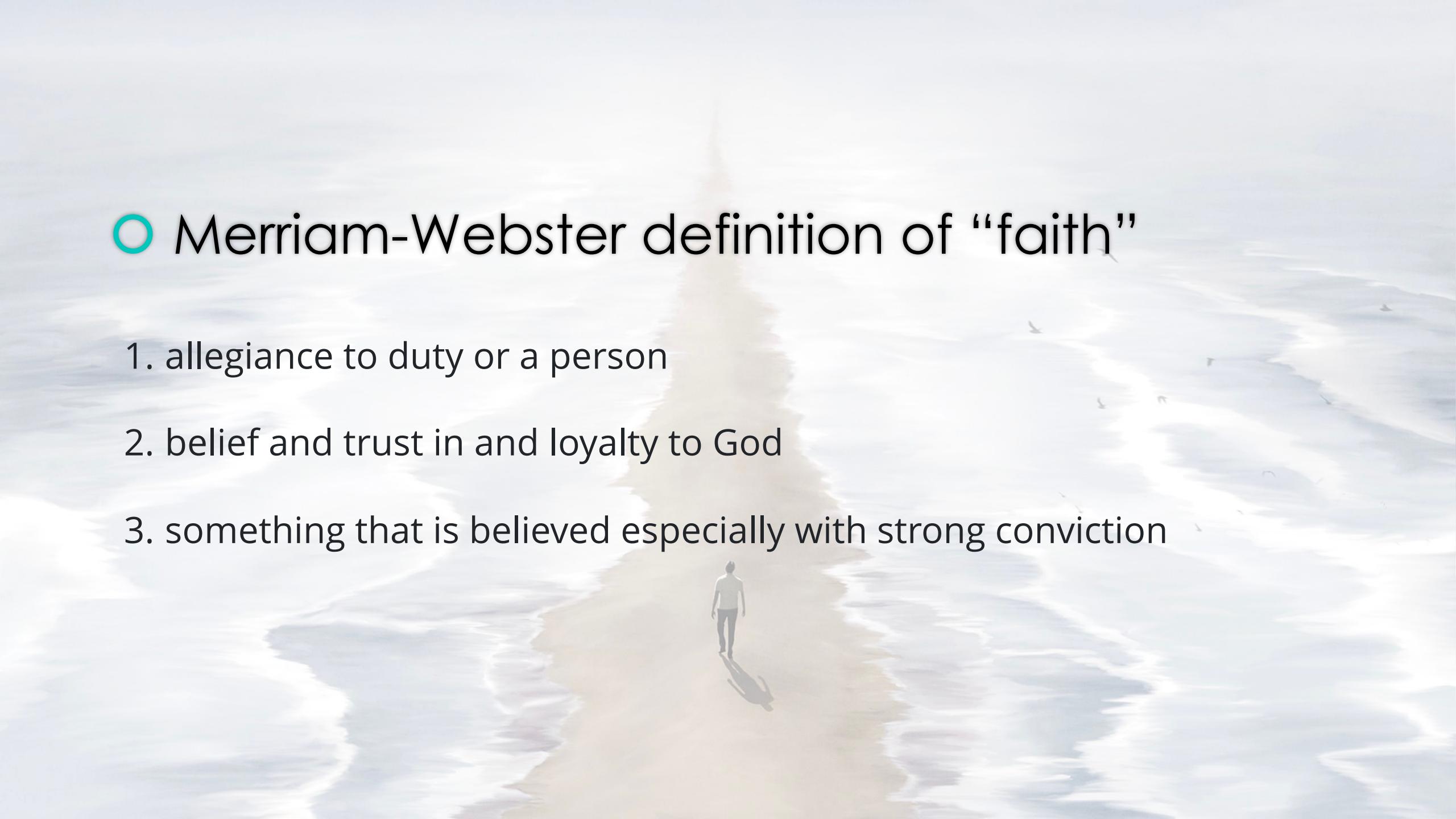
Examples
in NT

Our Faith



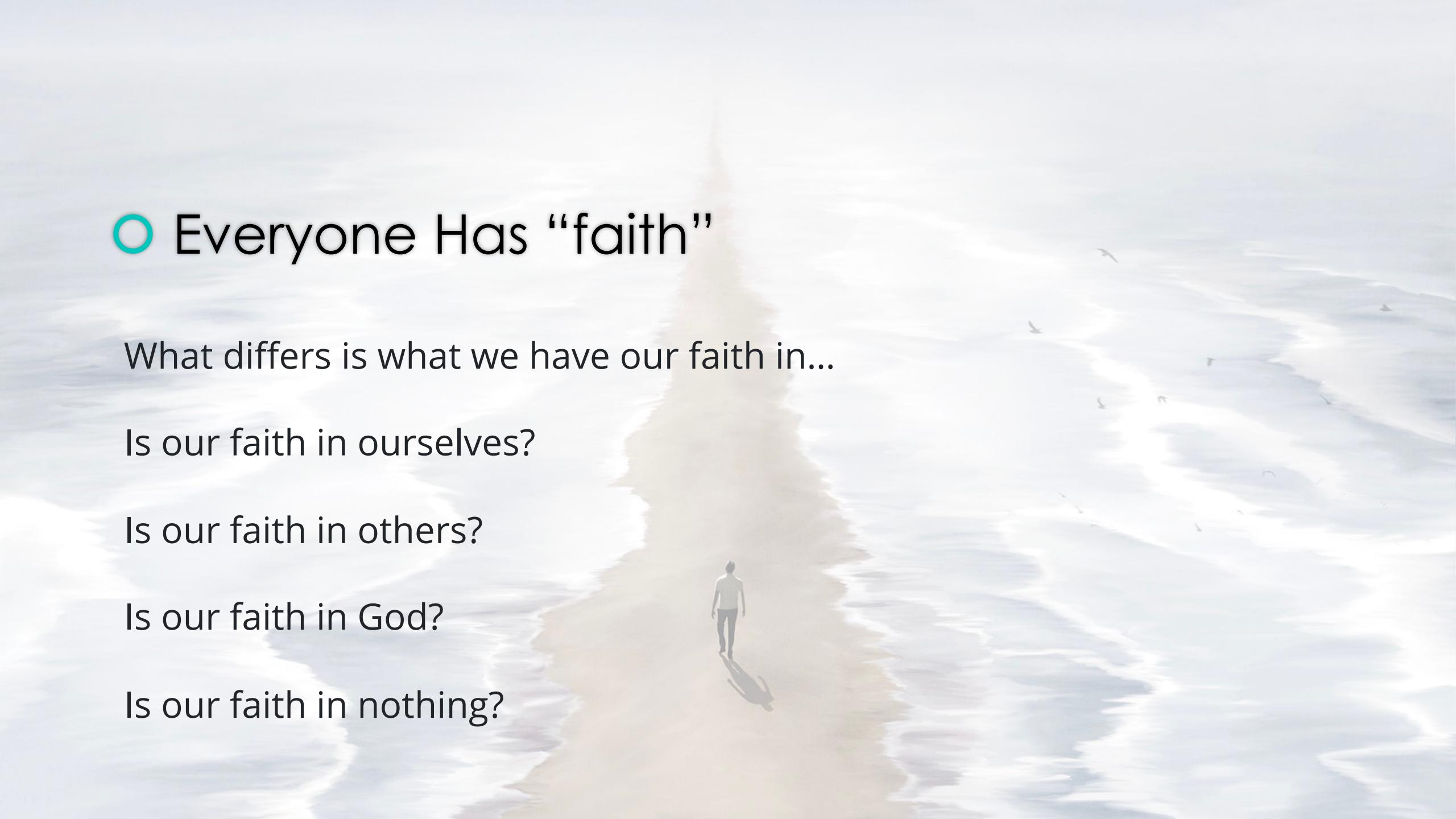


What is Faith?

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. The person is small in the frame, and their long shadow stretches out in front of them. The background is a bright, overexposed sky with a few small birds visible. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

○ Merriam-Webster definition of “faith”

1. allegiance to duty or a person
2. belief and trust in and loyalty to God
3. something that is believed especially with strong conviction

A person is walking on a bright, sandy path that leads into a bright light. The path is surrounded by water on both sides, and birds are flying in the background.

○ Everyone Has “faith”

What differs is what we have our faith in...

Is our faith in ourselves?

Is our faith in others?

Is our faith in God?

Is our faith in nothing?

What is our faith in?



Language OT + NT

The word “faith” shows up 247 times in the KJV

2 times in Old Testament, 245 in the New Testament

אמונה

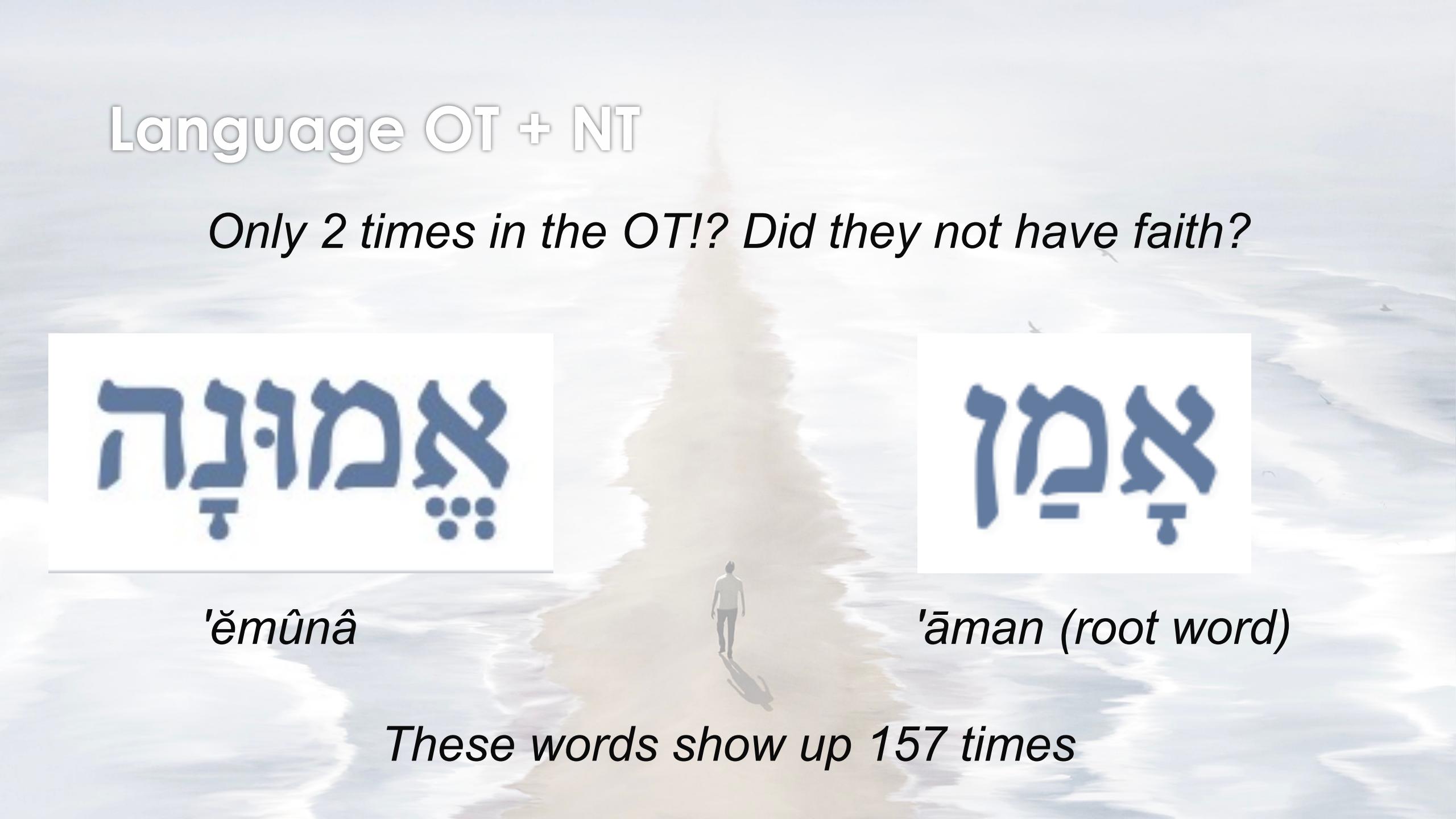
'ěmûnâ

πίστις

pistis

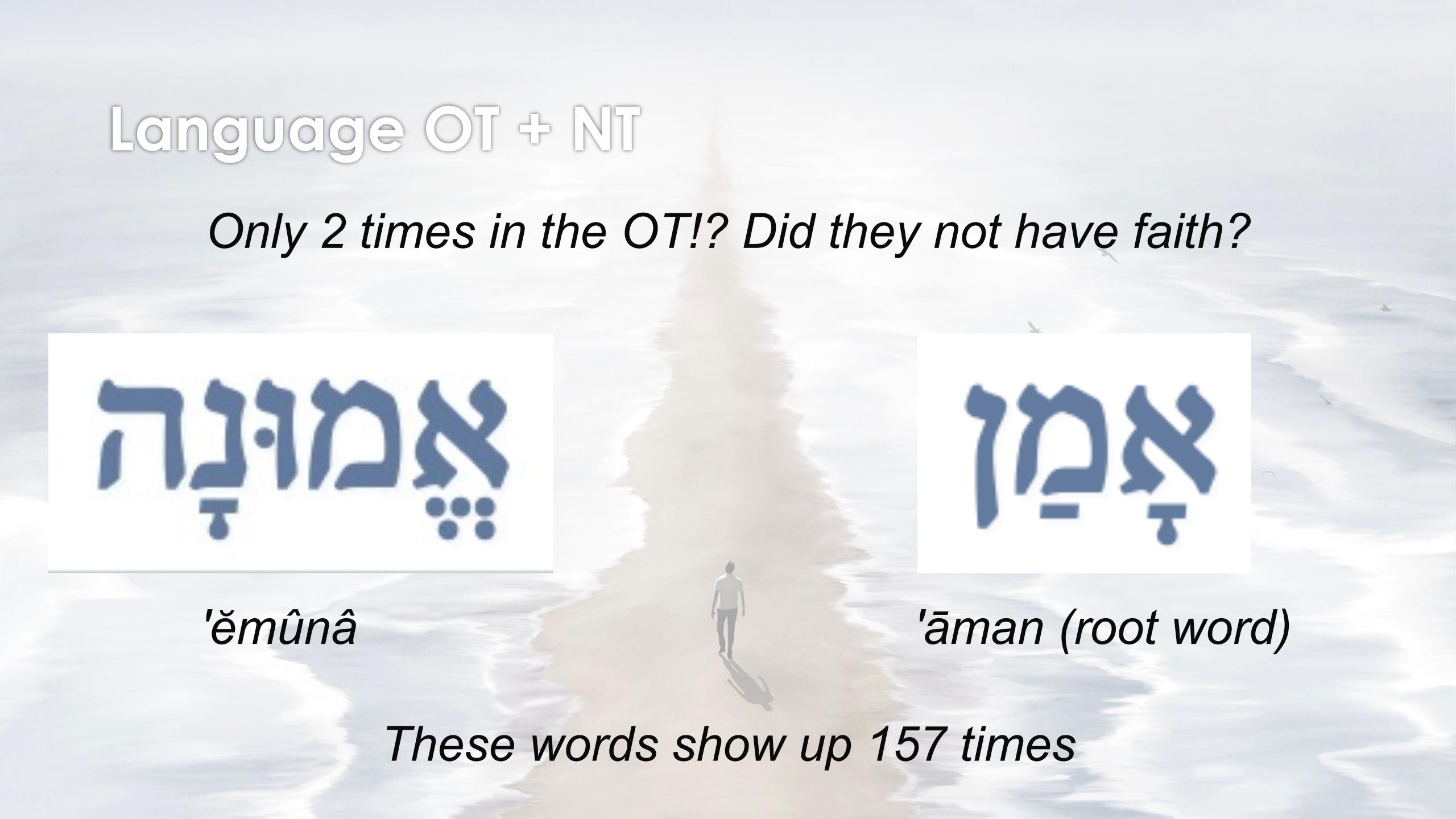
Language OT + NT

Only 2 times in the OT!? Did they not have faith?

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a sandy path. In the background, a large, light-colored pyramid is visible against a clear sky. The path is surrounded by sand dunes and some sparse desert vegetation.

אֶמְוּנָה

'ěmûnâ

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a sandy path. In the background, a large, light-colored pyramid is visible against a clear sky. The path is surrounded by sand dunes and some sparse desert vegetation.

אֶמְן

'āman (*root word*)

These words show up 157 times

Language OT + NT

'ěmûnâ : firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness

First Mention:

Exodus 17:12 “But Moses' hands *were* heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady (*'ěmûnâ*) until the going down of the sun.”

Language OT + NT

'âman : to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain;—hence, assurance, believe, bring up, establish, fail, be faithful (of long continuance, stedfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified)

First Mention:

Genesis 15:6 “And he believed ('âman) in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”

Language OT + NT

pistis : conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it

1. relating to God

1. the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

2. relating to Christ

1. a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God

3. the religious beliefs of Christians

4. belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same

1. fidelity, faithfulness

1. the character of one who can be relied on

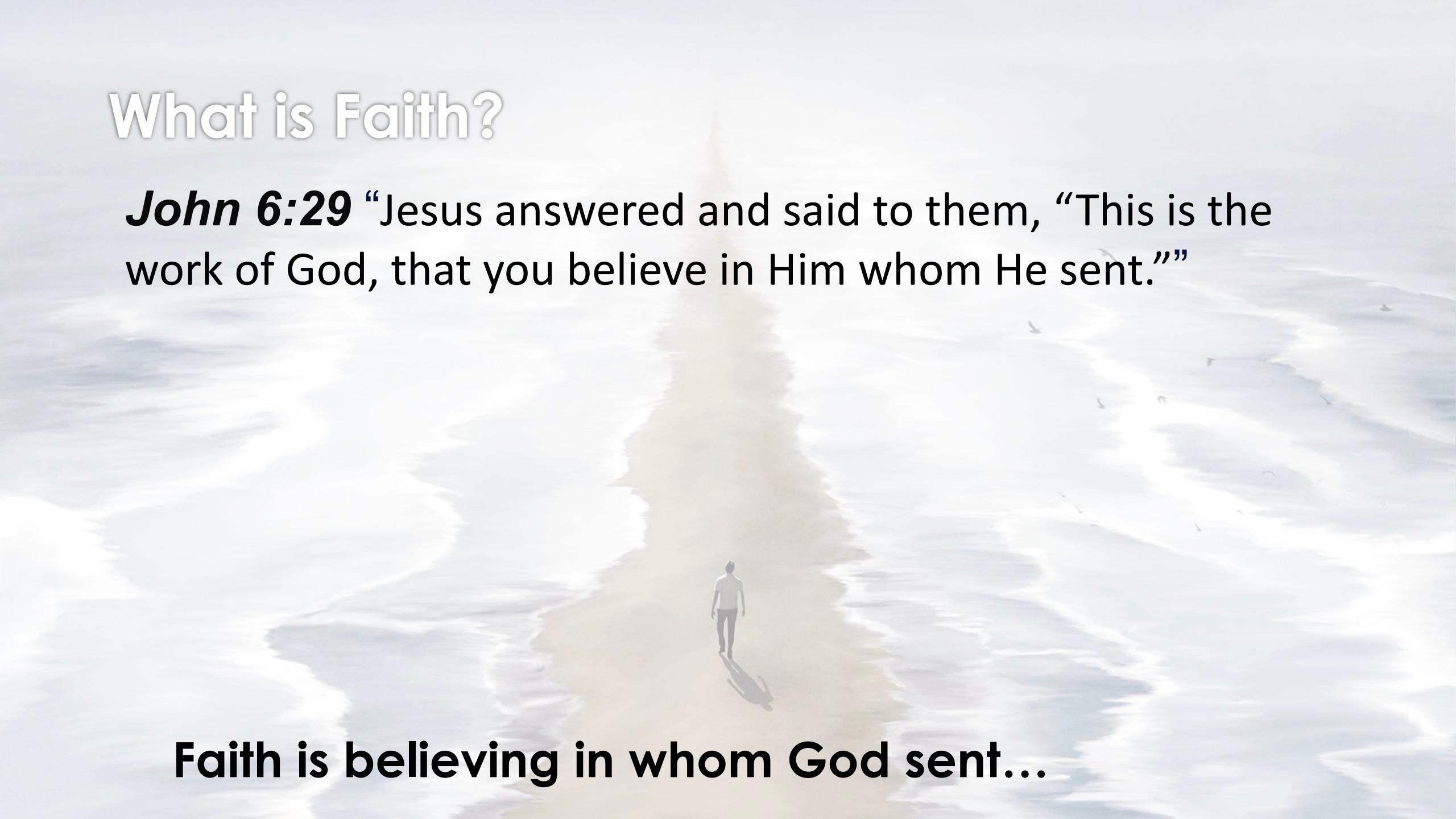
What is Faith?

Hebrews 11: 1-3 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. 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 do appear.”

Faith is the substance of things hoped for...

What is Faith?

John 6:29 “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.””

A person is walking on a path made of clouds, with birds flying in the sky.

Faith is believing in whom God sent...

What is Faith?

James 2:18 “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

Faith is demonstrated by our actions...

HEBREWS 11

HALL OF FAITH



Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abel

Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Genesis 4: 1-8 “ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.” ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.”

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abel

Cain's sacrifice was faith in his own works.

Abel's faithful sacrifice of a lamb points us to Jesus. Faith in our own works will not cut it. Faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for us is the only way.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Enoch

Hebrews 11:5-6 “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ 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.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Enoch

Abel died a violent death, but Enoch did not die.

God has a different plan for each that trust Him.

Do we have faith that God knows what's best for us?

Our faith pleases God, without faith it is impossible to please God.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Noah

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Noah

Noah and his family were saved by faith in God.

Think about those that ridiculed him. Why are you building a boat, they have never seen a flood let alone it rain!

In contrast, those around died in their disbelief.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abraham

Hebrews 11:8-10 “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. ⁹ 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; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abraham

Abraham showed faith in God by obeying Him.

He obeyed God and went out into the unknown but trusting in God.

Lived in tents but waited for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abraham

Galatians 3:5-8 “Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— ⁶just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ⁷Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: The Patriarchs

Hebrews 11:13-16 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: The Patriarchs

The Patriarchs showed their faith by looking forward to what God had planned for them.

They had the option to look back and go back.

But they pressed on knowing God had something better for them.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abraham

Hebrews 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Abraham

Abraham showed faith in God by offering His own son as a sacrifice.

Abraham had faith in God's promise.

Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for Isaac.

Can have faith and trust in God like Abraham did?

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Isaac

Hebrews 11:20 “By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Isaac

It's interesting that God points to Isaac's faithfulness in blessing his sons and not that he was willing to be offered as a sacrifice to God.

Isaac was around 33 when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.

But Isaac showed faith by blessing his sons knowing what was to come.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Jacob

Hebrews 11:21 “By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Jacob

Jacob's life is an example that we are saved by grace.

If it were not for the grace of God, Jacob would have been lost.

Jacob worshiped God leaning on his staff

Jacob was crippled when he wrestled with God.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Joseph

Hebrews 11:22 “By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Joseph

Just like Isaac, so much more could have been said about Joseph and his faithfulness to God.

There are many similarities between Joseph and Jesus.

What a contrast to his father Jacob.

By faith, seeing past the present, gave instructions about his bones. Don't leave me in Egypt!

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Moses' Parents

Hebrews 11:23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Moses' Parents

At this point, the children of Israel are slaves in Egypt.

Exodus 1:22 “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”

Great example of faith over fear!

Moses lived because of the faith of his parents.

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Moses

Hebrews 11:24-29 “By faith Moses, when he became of age, 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 passing pleasures of sin.
²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to 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 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.”

Examples of faith in the Old Testament

Hebrew's Hall of Faith: Moses

Moses could have enjoyed the good life!

Chose to follow in faith after God.

By faith he led God's people across the Red Sea

Contrast Exodus 1:22 with Hebrews 11:29

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13 “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” ⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.” ¹⁰ 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! ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.”

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Centurion

The Centurion had a personal faith in Jesus.

He trusted in the power of Jesus.

Would Jesus marvel at our faith in Him?

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Canaanite Woman

Matthew 15:22-28 “And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” 23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” 24 But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

26 But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” 27 And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Canaanite Woman

Taken out of context, and especially in English, it's easy to mistake this for an insult.

Jesus is creating a metaphor meant to explain the priorities of His ministry. He is also teaching an important lesson to His disciples.

Her faith was tested and was persistent.

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Bleeding Woman

Matthew 9:20-22 “And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. 21 For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” 22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your **faith** has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.”

Examples of faith in the New Testament

The Bleeding Woman

This woman had faith the power of God.

Mark 5:30 “At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’”

That word for power is Dunamis is where we get the word dynamite!

Examples of faith in the New Testament

Ten Leppers

Luke 17: 11-19 “Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” 19 And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your **faith** has made you well.”

Examples of faith in the New Testament

Ten Leppers

Here we see ten leppers healed by Jesus.

Go show yourselves to the priests (dust off those books)

Sadly, Only one returned to thank Jesus.

We see here that his faith made him well.

Examples of faith in the New Testament

Blind Man

Luke 18: 35-43 "Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. 36 And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. 37 So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. 38 And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

39 Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

40 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, 41 saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

42 Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." 43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God."

Examples of faith in the New Testament

Blind Man

This blind man cried out in faith to Jesus and was healed.

His faith also led him to follow and glorify God.

Because of his faith others around him praised God.

Our Walk of Faith

Measure of Faith

Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Each one of us has differing gifts, use them in proportion of our faith.

Our Walk of Faith

Increase Our Faith

Luke 17: 5-6 "And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." 6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

The tiniest bit of faith, when it is true faith from God, grow to immense proportions in the lives of believers and spreading out to influence all they come into contact with.

Our Walk of Faith

We walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith.

To walk by faith requires that we tune our hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit and the truth of His Word. We choose to live according to what God reveals to us, rather than trust our own understanding.

Our Walk of Faith

Be Doers of the Word

James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

The Word of God is not just a beautiful piece of literature to be savored and enjoyed. Its purpose goes beyond provoking thought and inviting meditation. It requires more than memorization and sharing with others. It demands a change of heart that prompts a change of behavior. The Word of God is to be obeyed.

Our Walk of Faith

Faith in Jesus is Key

Romans 10: 9-13 "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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Questions

Q/A

