



FAITH, PART 2 (TRUST, BELIEF)

Trust in the Lord and do good.... Psalm 37:3a

Day 1: Using a thesaurus or dictionary, do a study of the word *trust* and *believe*. List synonyms / antonyms / definitions.

Make a chart of any organizations, things, people you trust. Why do you trust them? Is there a difference in the trust level between things and individuals?

Day 2: What are some Biblical examples of trust. Paraphrase these verses in modern vernacular. Are they included in your above list?

- Habakkuk 2:18

- Exodus 19:9

- Judges 11:20

- 1 Chronicles 9:22

- Job 31:24-28

- Job 39:12

- Psalm 118:8-9

Day 3: How would explain these expressions: *trust in*, *depend on*, *believe in*? Are they synonymous? (Do you depend on your car and your grandmother in the same way?)

Study these descriptions from the Bible. How do they compare with your explanations?

- Isaiah 30:15

- Isaiah 50:10

- Luke 11:21-22

- Proverbs 29:26

- Matthew 18:2-4

- James 2:19
- Psalm 52:8

Day 4: Does having faith demand boldness? Summarize the story in Luke 8:43-48. When has your faith required courage?

Day 5: Read of Saul/Paul's journey of faith. Why caused him to transfer his former belief system into a dogmatic defense of the faith?

- Acts 8:3
- Acts 22:4-21
- Acts 9:10-19
- Galatians 1:21-23
- 1 Timothy 1:12-13

Day 6: How does *believing* work? Give an explanation from each of these verses.

- 1 Sam 12:16, 20-22
- Proverbs 3:5-6; 29:25
- John 4:50
- Hebrews 4:2
- 1 John 5:4-5
- Isaiah 26:3
- 2 Peter 1:1-2

Day 7: Read these passages and record your thoughts about how practicing faith could lead to hard times. If you truly believe, why would God allow adversity?

- 1 Peter 1:6-9
- 1 Peter 5:8-11

- Hebrews 13:5-8
- Acts 20:18-24
- Acts 22:17-21
- Philippians 1:27-30

Day 8: Is *belief* and *opinion* synonymous? Consider these types of belief in the following passages. How does this differ from saving faith?

- Luke 24:11
- Luke 24:36-43
- Genesis 45:25-27
- 2 Kings 18:28-36
- Acts 14:8-18

Day 9: Believing in 1st US President George Washington will not result in salvation. What is *saving faith*? Can you give examples for the following explanations of *belief* as expounded in *Amplified Bible*:

- clings, adheres to
- relies on what I say
- remains steadfast to
- acknowledges me as Savior and devotes oneself to me
- believe in me as able to do this
- rest in Christ's name

Is *saving faith* and *surrender* synonymous? Read these verses. Do they fit the above descriptions?

- Matthew 9:28-29
- John 3:18

- Romans 10:1-4, 8-11
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14
- Psalm 9:10

Day 10: Read John 6:44. What is *conviction*? How important is it in saving faith?

Summarize these examples of conviction. Do you think these people applied saving faith?

- Psalm 51:17
- John 8:7-9
- Isaiah 6:5
- Jeremiah 23:9
- Luke 5:8
- Acts 2:36-38
- 2 Corinthians 7:8-11
- Matthew 21:33-46

Day 11: What does a follower of Christ believe? Can you replace the word *belief* with *conviction*? Recap the explanations from these passages:

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- Exodus 4:30-31
- Habakkuk 1:5
- Matthew 17:14-20
- John 6:64-69

Day 12: Explain how is one justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable: [*Amplified Bible*]) by faith, using the following verses:

- Romans 3:20
- Galatians 2:15-16, 20; 3:11-14, 24-15
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 4:1-5
- Acts 13:39

Day 13: Read James 2:14-26. Explain his argument that "faith without works is dead."

How would you explain these types of "works"? How do you know if someone is a fraud or if he/she has a strong, true faith?

- Matthew 7:15-23
- 1 John 4:1-3
- Matthew 23:1-7; 27-28

Day 14: In the form of an autobiography, summarize this account of a woman's faith among faithless church leaders in Luke 7:36-50. Where would you put yourself in the story?

Day 15: Read these Old Testament examples of those who put their trust in God. How does their faith please Him?

- Exodus 14:13-14
- Psalm 31:6,14
- Jeremiah 49:11
- Nahum 1:7
- Psalm 22:4-5
- Psalm 40:4

Day 16: Read Daniel 6:1-28. What was King Darius' trust level? What kind of faith did Daniel show? Reword the king's final commands.

Day 17: What are the consequences of these Old Testament characters who decided *not* trust God? Why was their choice displeasing to God?

- Numbers 20:10-12
- Deuteronomy 1:29-33
- Deuteronomy 9:13, 23-24
- Psalm 5:9-11
- Jeremiah 2:37; 17:5-6

Is there a time limit to God's mercy? Consider these verses:

- Numbers 14:11-12
- Hebrews 3:12-15, 19

Day 18: Read 2 Kings 17:12-20 and list those actions which showcased the Israelites' mistrust. Why were these activities displeasing to God?

Day 19: Is trusting in God's Word outdated? Write your thoughts after each of these passages:

- 2 Samuel 7:28-29
- Psalm 19:7
- Psalm 111:7
- Psalm 119:86, 138-140
- Proverbs 22:17-19
- John 8:31-36

Day 20: Using the word descriptions from *Amplified Bible* (Day 9), what are the results of trusting in God? Reword these passages.

- Hebrews 13:8
- John 14:1-6, 12-14
- Acts 14:23
- Romans 10:11; Romans 15:13
- Proverbs 28:25
- Ephesians 1:13-14

Day 21: Read some of these testimonies from people in the Bible. Then write your own declaration of faith.

- Psalms 13:5; 22:9; 26:1; 119:66
- Isaiah 12:2
- John 4:28-30, 39-42
- Acts 13:6-12
- Acts 10:38-43

Day 22: Read the testimony of a man born blind in John 9:1-41. Why wouldn't the Pharisees believe the man's story? Why did the man's faith not only heal him, but also save him?

Day 23: What could be said about your faith-walk? Is it a workable faith? How can you emulate the actions of other believing lifestyles reflected in these passages:

- Luke 16:10
- Proverbs 13:17
- 1 Timothy 3:11
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- John 11:17-27

Day 24: Explain the expression: "Seeing is believing." When would you need to "wait and see" before you trust someone? Study these Biblical examples of others who needed visual verification before trusting.

- Exodus 4:1-5; 14:30-31
- Isaiah 43:7-10
- Mark 15:31-32
- John 2:11
- John 14:10-12
- John 20:24-26

Day 25 Summarize the confrontation in John 6:22-36. Think of instances in your life where you have also had trouble wholly trusting God. Do you find yourself arguing with God at times?

Day 26: Consider the different characters in the story in John 9:13-41. Who believed / refused to believe? What was the result of the blind man's faith?

Day 27: Who had faith and who disbelieved? Are you surprised at these Biblical examples?

- John 7:3-5, 25-32
- John 2:23-25
- Jonah 3:1-10; 4:1
- Matthew 21:28-32
- Matt. 27:38-44
- Luke 23:39-43
- John 11:45-53; 12:9-11

Day 28: Notice how fear generally precedes faith in these passages. Why do you think this is so? Do you think this kind of fear displeases God? Can you relate to these fears?

- Exodus 3:1-6
- Luke 1:11-20
- Mark 5:35-36
- John 14:1-3
- Matthew 14:24-32

Day 29: What the words of Jesus that John records about personal belief which leads to salvation. Use modern day examples to explain each passage below:

- John 4:9-14
- John 6:28-35
- John 10:21-30
- John 12:35-36
- John 12:42-50

Day 30: Summarize Jesus' prayer in John 17:19-21. List the aspects of faith you discovered throughout this study. Understand that Jesus prayed this prayer with you in mind.

Day 31: Study these instructions concerning your belief in Christ. Substitute other synonyms you have gleaned from this study. Do these admonitions strengthen your faith, cause you to reevaluate your trust level, or encourage you, knowing that commands such as these were necessary for early Christians' daily lives?

- 1 John 3:23
- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- Jude 1:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Proverbs 3:3