



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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## Faith

Faith is the foundation of salvation and the doorway to peace with God: *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through who also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1, 2).*

When Jesus’ disciples were filled with fear out in the middle of a storm, they frantically asked Him for help, saying, *“Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Jesus calmed the storm and then asked His disciples, “How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:35-41).*

When you face storms in life, do you have faith that Christ will be there to help you? If you don’t have that kind of faith, the Bible is the place to look: *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).*

- Faith Defined

*Hebrews 11:1* ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The Biblical definition given in Hebrews 11:1 is a practical one that tells us how faith operates. Faith is total belief; a complete trust or confidence. For example, *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3).* Having faith means that you do not know or understand everything about a topic or an issue, yet you believe it anyway. All people have faith; the question is: In what do you place your faith? For the Christian, faith is placed in Jesus Christ and the knowledge that His death on the cross provides a way to have a relationship with God.

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- Faith Developed

*Matthew 13:31, 32* <sup>31</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, <sup>32</sup> which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

These verses refer to the kingdom of heaven. Jesus also said that “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21), and “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” (Luke 17:6). When you become a Christian, the kingdom of heaven is planted in your heart. As you grow spiritually, your faith in God also grows. With each prayer, each Bible study, and each time you see God’s work in your life, the small mustard seed of faith develops until you “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). As you mature in your faith, the kingdom of heaven, God’s kingdom, takes over more of your life and your faith increases.

- Faith Through Trials

*Deuteronomy 8:12-16* <sup>12</sup>lest - when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; <sup>14</sup>when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; <sup>15</sup>who lead you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; <sup>16</sup>who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end --

God allowed the Israelites to experience many trials and difficulties in the wilderness before entering Canaan, the Promised Land. He did this to do them good - to “humble” them and “test” them and to help them learn to rely on Him and trust Him. As Christians, we are God’s chosen people now and heaven is our promised land. The trials of this life are the “wilderness” that God uses to teach us to have faith in Him and to trust His promises.

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Sometime your faith may be tested when you experience difficulties and trials. God promises that if you depend on Him, your testing will not destroy you. In fact, it will only serve to make you stronger and increase your faith. You can see God work through the most difficult circumstances. God also promises that even though you experience trials now, you can rejoice because Christ will return for you and you will spend eternity in heaven with God. *1 Peter 1:5-9 says, “[We] are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”*

- Faith Demonstrated In The Invisible

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