

# Shocking Elements of Faith

## **FAITH** (STP) DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

**Faith** is the absolute sure knowledge that God exists and He will accomplish those things He promised. **Faith** in God—trust in His promises and belief that He is in overall control is a major characteristic in the Christian life and is absolutely necessary for salvation.

*Romans 1:17; 10:17; Ephesians 3:17; Hebrews 11:1-2; James 2:22-24*

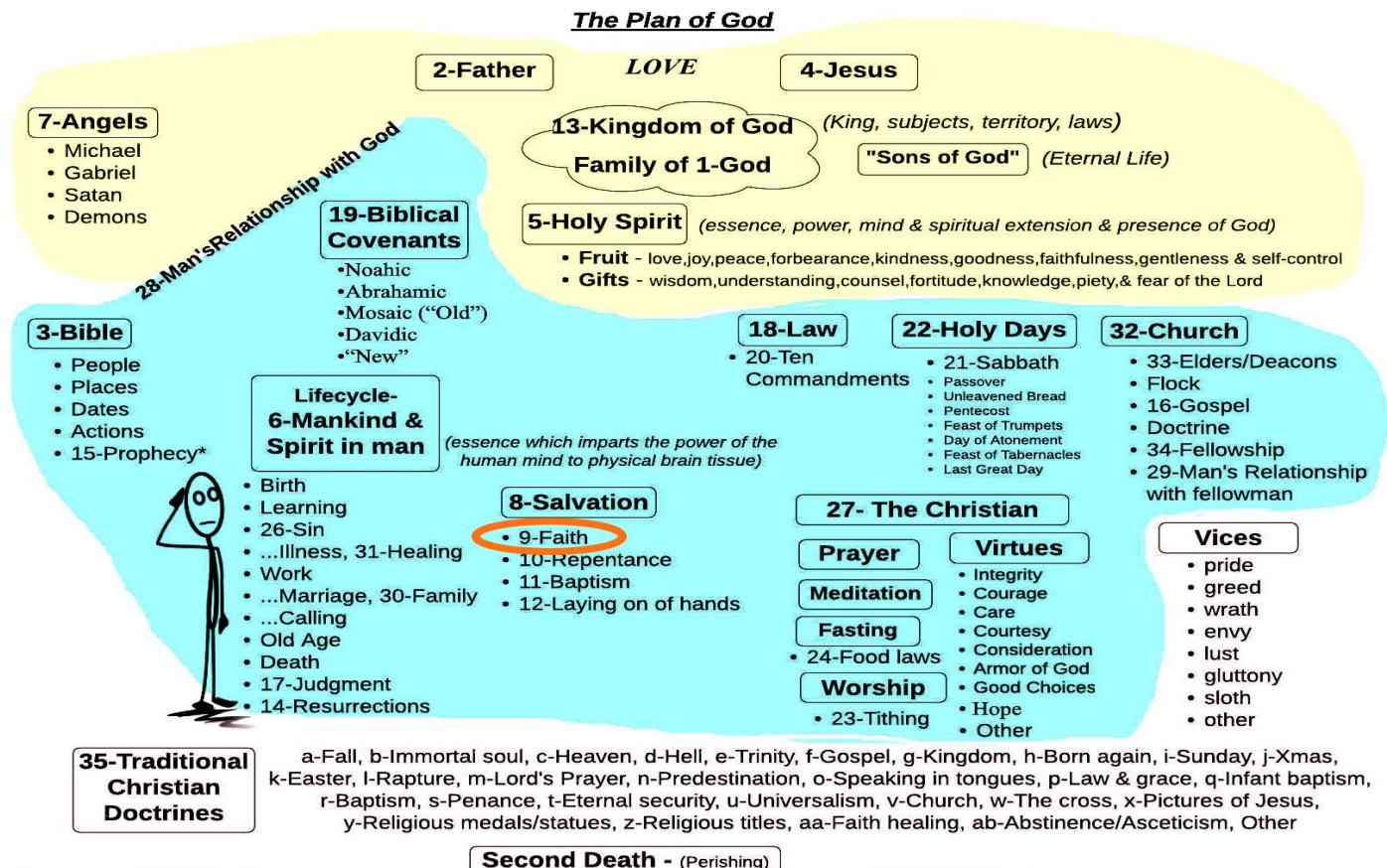
(Rom 1:17) For in it (*the Gospel*) the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith** to **faith**; as it is written, "The just shall live by **faith**."

(Rom 10:17) So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Eph 3:17) that Christ may dwell in your hearts through **faith** ...

(Heb 11:1-2) Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

(James 2:22-24) Do you see that **faith** was working together with his works, and by works **faith** was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by **faith** only.



**Time:** (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... **Present** -(World events) ... (**Future** - 15-Prophecy\*) ... **Eternity** ...)

## 4 Types of Faith

1. **Saving Faith** - —For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; & that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8)
2. **THE Faith**- Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the **faith**. Test yourselves...(2 Cor 13:5)
3. **Living Faith** - ...The just shall live by **faith**. (Rom 1:17 NKJV)
4. **Personal Faith** - Do you have **faith**? Have it to yourself before God... (Rom 14:22a NKJV)

Two more Types??

**Blind faith** - is believing something without reason to believe it. It can also be defined as an unquestioning belief in something, even when it is unreasonable or wrong.

**Informed Faith** - is when proof (or evidence) allows someone to have belief, trust & confidence in something or someone else

- This distinction implies that faith is not always blind. If it were inherently “blind faith”, there would be no point in making the distinction. Intuitively, we already know faith is not inherently blind.

For example, as a seven-year-old child, did you doubt your parents or guardians would protect you? Probably not. Why?

Not simply because they're your parents, but because for the entirety of your childhood, your parents **showed you** that they would protect you. From the past experiences of them always giving you this protection, you realized you can always have faith that they would always protect you. Notice what came first: the proof (or reason) that your parents would protect you came first. After the proof came your faith in them.

Consider it this way: A man might propose to his girlfriend *only after* she has shown him that she would be a good, faithful wife. In showing him this, he can have the faith necessary to ask her to be his wife

**Are Christians supposed to embrace blind faith or evidential faith?**

Perhaps a better way to ask this question is to ask: “**With what kind of faith does Scripture teach Christians to live?**”

**Joh 20:30-31** 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.

*(If we are to only have blind faith, why would Jesus give us **evidence** that proves He is the Messiah? After all, blind faith asserts that evidence is not necessary.)*



**1Pe 3:15** (NIV) But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

(The content gives us an idea of what kind of faith we should have. It is not only a “suggestion” to have an **informed faith**; this verse **commands** it! We are to know **why** we have faith in Jesus so that we can **share** not only our faith but the reason for our faith as well.)

So often ... we associate Faith with our belief that God can perform miracles ... to accomplish His will.

Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11		
1	ABEL'S Faith	Faithful sacrifice (Genesis 4:1-15)
2	ENOCH'S Faith	Walked with God & was translated (Genesis 5:22)
3	NOAH'S faith	Built the ark (Genesis 6:14-22)
4	ABRAHAM'S Faith	Followed as God led (Genesis 12:1-7)
5	SARAH'S Faith	Came to believe what was impossible (Genesis 18:11-14)
6	ISAAC'S Faith	Foretold the future (Genesis 27:27-29)
7	JACOB'S Faith	God would fulfill His promises (Genesis 49)
8	JOSEPH'S Faith	His bones to rest in Canaan (Genesis 50:25)
9	MOSES' Faith	Forsook Egypt for Israelites (Hebrews 11:24-25)
10	JOSHUA'S Faith	Walls of Jericho fell (Joshua 6:20)
11	RAHAB'S Faith	Cast her lot with the Israelites (Joshua 2:9; 6:23)
12	GIDEON'S Faith	Waxed mighty in war (Judges 7:21)
13	BARAK'S Faith	Subdued kingdoms (Judges 4)
14	SAMSON'S Faith	From weakness was made strong (Judges 16:28)
15	JEPHTHAH'S Faith	Defeated armies (Judges 11)
16	DAVID'S Faith	Obtained promises (2 Samuel 7:11-13)
17	DANIEL'S Faith	Stopped mouths of lions (Daniel 6:22)
18	JEREMIAH'S Faith	Was tortured (Jeremiah 20:20)
19	ELIJAH'S Faith	Raised the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24)
20	ELISHA'S Faith	Raised the dead (2 Kings 4:8-37)
21	ZECHARIAH'S Faith	Was stoned (2 Chronicles 24:20)
22	ISAIAH'S Faith	Sawn asunder (Tradition)

When pondering Faith ... I was reminded of one of the timeless lessons that came out in my childhood (1965) ... “**Impossible things**” happen because *some* people believe & pursue them

# **"Impossible / It's Possible"** Lyrics (Copyright © 1957 by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II)

Godmother:

Fol-de-rol and fiddledy dee, Fiddledy faddledy foddle,  
All the wishes in the world Are poppycock and twaddle!

Fol-de-rol and fiddledy dee, Fiddledy faddledy foodle,  
All the dreamers in all the world Are dizzy in the noodle.

Impossible

For a plain yellow pumpkin To become a golden carriage!

**Impossible**

**For a plain country bumpkin & a prince to join in marriage!**

And four white mice will never be four white horses—

Such fol-de-rol and fiddledy dee of course is

Impossible!

But the world is full of zanies and fools Who don't believe in sensible rules

And won't believe what sensible people say,

And **because** these daft and dewy-eyed dopes

**Keep building up impossible hopes,**

**Impossible things are happ'ning every day!**



Cinderella:

It's possible

For a plain yellow pumpkin To become a golden carriage!

**It's possible**

**For a plain country bumpkin And a prince to join in marriage!**

Godmother:

And four white mice are easily turned to horses!

Cinderella:

Such fol-de-rol and fiddledy dee of course is

Quite possible!

Both:

It's possible!

Cinderella:

For the world is full of zanies and fools—

Both:

Who don't believe in sensible rules

And won't believe what sensible people say.

And because these daft and dewy-eyed dopes

**Keep building up impossible hopes,**

**Impossible things are happ'ning every day!**



# Shocking Scriptures about faith:



## 1. **Faith** Can Move Mountains

**Matthew 17:20** – “So Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief (*the disciples could not cast out certain demons*); for assuredly, I say to you, if you have **faith** as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’”

**Shocking Factor:** Jesus is saying that even the tiniest **faith** has the power to command nature itself!

## 2. Doubting Is Like Being Tossed by the Wind

**James 1:6-7** – “But let him ask in **faith**, with no **doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

**Shocking Factor:** If you pray with doubt, James says you shouldn’t expect to receive anything from God!

## 3. Whatever Is Not of **Faith** Is Sin

**Romans 14:23** – “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from **faith**; for whatever is not from **faith** is sin.”

**Shocking Factor:** Paul is saying that any action not based on **faith** is actually a sin!

## 4. Faith Can Save the Sick

**James 5:15** – “And the prayer of **faith** will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

**Shocking Factor:** Not only can **faith** heal sickness, but it can also lead to the forgiveness of sins!

## 5. Jesus Couldn’t Do Miracles Because of Unbelief

**Mark 6:5-6** – “Now He **could do** no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their **unbelief**. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”

**Shocking Factor:** The Son of God Himself was limited by people's lack of **faith**!

## 6. Some People’s Faith Will Be Shipwrecked

**1 Timothy 1:19** – “Having **faith** and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the **faith** have suffered shipwreck.”

**Shocking Factor:** Paul warns that people can completely wreck their **faith** if they abandon a good conscience!

## 7. **Faith** Without Works Is Dead

**James 2:26** – “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without works is dead also.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** alone isn’t enough—if it doesn’t lead to action, it’s lifeless!

## 8. Even Demons Believe—And Tremble

**James 2:19** – “You **believe** that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”

**Shocking Factor:** Just believing in God isn’t enough—demons believe too, but they’re still doomed!

## 9. Jesus Prayed That Peter’s **Faith** Wouldn’t Fail

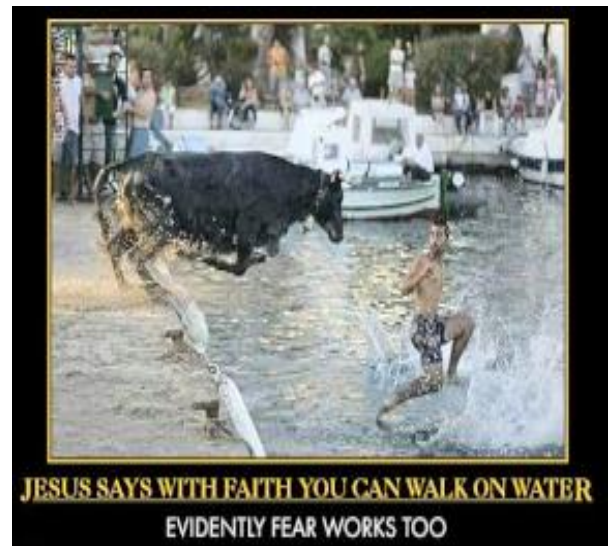
**Luke 22:31-32** – “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your **faith** should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”

**Shocking Factor:** Even Peter, one of Jesus’ closest disciples, was at risk of his **faith** failing—so Jesus personally prayed for him!

## 10. Peter Walked on Water Until His Faith Wavered

**Matthew 14:28-31** – “And Peter answered Him and said, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’ So He said, ‘Come.’ And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little **faith**, why did you **doubt**?’”

**Shocking Factor:** Peter literally walked on water—but his fear and doubt caused him to sink!



## 11. Your **Faith** Has Made You Well

**Luke 8:48** – “And He said to her, ‘Daughter, be of good cheer; your **faith** has made you well. Go in peace.’”

**Shocking Factor:** It wasn’t just Jesus’ power—it was **her faith** that brought healing!

## 12. A Lack of **Faith** Is a Sinful Rebellion

**Hebrews 3:12** – “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”

**Shocking Factor:** Unbelief isn’t just doubt—it’s described as an evil heart turning away from God!

## 13. Some People’s **Faith** Will Be Overthrown

**2 Timothy 2:17-18** – “And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the **faith** of some.”

**Shocking Factor:** False teaching has the power to completely destroy some people’s **faith**!

#### 14. God Has Dealt to Each One a 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**.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** isn't just something we build—it's something God gives!

#### 15. Without **Faith**, It's Impossible to Please God

**Hebrews 11:6** – “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.”

**Shocking Factor:** No matter how good your works are, if you don't have **faith**, you cannot please God!

#### 16. **Faith** Works Through Love

**Galatians 5:6** – “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith** working through love.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** isn't just about belief—it has to operate through **love** to be effective!

#### 17. Jesus Questions If He Will Find **Faith** on Earth

**Luke 18:8** – “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find **faith** on the earth?”

**Shocking Factor:** Jesus suggests that **faith** may be **rare** when He returns!

#### 18. Faith Overcomes the World

**1 John 5:4** – “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our **faith**.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** isn't just for personal growth—it's the key to victory over the worldliness in society!

#### 19. Jesus Rebukes the Disciples for Their Lack of **Faith**

**Matthew 8:26** – “But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little **faith**?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.”

**Shocking Factor:** The disciples were panicking over a storm, but Jesus expected them to have **faith** instead!



#### 20. Some Will Depart from the **Faith**

**1 Timothy 4:1** – “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the **faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

**Shocking Factor:** Some people will abandon their **faith** (& God's truth) because of demonic deception!

#### 21. **Faith** Can Justify a Sinner

**Romans 5:1** – “Therefore, having been justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** alone makes us right with God, not our works!

## 22. The Righteous Walk by **Faith**, Not Sight

**2 Corinthians 5:7** – “For we walk by **faith**, not by sight.”

**Shocking Factor:** You are meant to live by trusting God, even when you can't see how things will work out!

## 23. Even Jesus Was Amazed by Great **Faith**

**Matthew 8:10** – “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!’”

**Shocking Factor:** A Roman centurion's **faith** was so strong that it made Jesus Himself marvel!

## 24. You Are Saved by Grace Through **Faith**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** – “For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**Shocking Factor:** You cannot earn salvation—it's a free gift received only through **faith**!

## 25. **Faith** Must Be Tested

**1 Peter 1:7** – “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.”

**Shocking Factor:** Your **faith** will go through **fiery tests** to prove its strength!

## 26. **Faith** Must Be Spoken

**2 Corinthians 4:13** – “And since we have the same spirit of **faith**, according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke,’ we also believe and therefore speak.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** isn't just believing—it's declaring what you believe!



27. **Faith** Can Protect You Like a Shield  
**Ephesians 6:16** – “Above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench **all** the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** is a spiritual weapon that can stop every attack of the enemy!

28. The Power of **Faith** Can Be Wasted  
**Hebrews 4:2** – “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit

them, not being mixed with **faith** in those who heard it.”

**Shocking Factor:** Hearing God's Word means nothing if you don't **mix it with faith**!



## 29. Jesus Heals Because of People's **Faith**

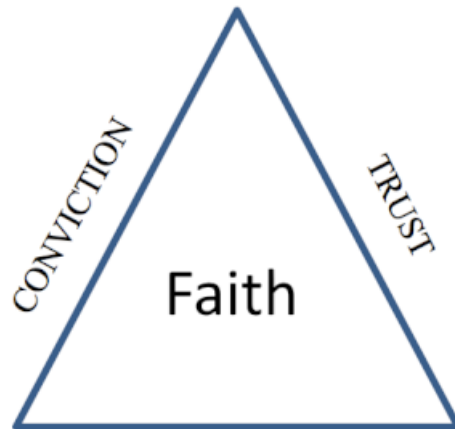
**Matthew 9:29** – “Then He touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your **faith** let it be to you.’”

**Shocking Factor:** The level of **faith** determines the level of breakthrough!

## 30. You Must Keep the **Faith** Until the End

**2 Timothy 4:7** – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the **faith**.”

**Shocking Factor:** **Faith** isn't just a one-time decision—it's a **lifelong fight!**



## Summary: What is Faith According to scripture?

1. **It is the substance of hope and evidence of the unseen** (Hebrews 11:1).
2. **It comes from hearing the Word of God** (Romans 10:17).
3. **It must be active—faith without works is dead** (James 2:17).
4. **It saves us—salvation is through faith** (Ephesians 2:8-9).
5. **It is a way of life—the just shall live by faith** (Habakkuk 2:4).
6. **It means trusting God even when we don't see the outcome** (2 Corinthians 5:7).
7. **It is complete confidence in God's promises** (Romans 4:20-21).
8. **It is the key to overcoming the world** (1 John 5:4).
9. **It is believing without seeing** (John 20:29).
10. **It is tested and refined through trials** (1 Peter 1:7).

In the Hebrews 11 “**Faith** Chapter” ... we learn that God will grant these **faithful** men & women salvation and eternal life in God's kingdom—why? Because they believed they would receive it, and because they had real **faith**. They will receive the reward they hoped for, because:

- they believe God exists and
- He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

Our task is to follow their example, endure in **faith** until the end, and receive this same reward.