

F A I T H

MORE THAN WORDS

Part 3

Week 1: "The faith" – God's systematic teaching revealed in scripture.

I want to encourage [exhort; urge; appeal to] you to fight hard for [earnestly contend for; defend] the faith [the authentic gospel message]... **Jude 3b (EXB)**

Week 2: A look at two different "kinds" of faith.

what good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you? **James 2:14 (CEV)**

- Incomplete Faith – _____ Faith – Modeled by the demons.
- "Complete" Faith, _____ Faith – Modeled by Christ and Abraham.

Today: A closer look at the Greek word "pistis," often translated faith or believe.

➤ CAN WE KNOW WHAT THE GREEK WORD "PISTIS" MEANS?

1. Translation takes a word from the original to the desired language.
2. Accurate translation requires an understanding of the original word.
3. Understanding the original is found by examining common usage.
 - Common usage is determined by examining how it is used in the _____ at the time and in other places in the _____.

➤ COMMON DESCRIPTIONS OF FAITH THAT ARE NOT "PISTIS".

- Pistis is not the opposite of _____ examination. (A shot in the dark)

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

- Pistis is not a mere _____. (He lives within my heart)

If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. **1 Corinthians 15:9 (MP)**

- Pistis is not _____ acknowledgment. (It's a fact, but I don't care)

Yet many leaders secretly believed in Him but would not declare their faith because the Pharisees continued their threats to expel all His followers from the synagogue; ⁴³ here's why: they loved to please men more than they desired to glorify God. **John 12:42-43 (VOICE)**

- Pistis is not the opposite of _____. (obedience / works)

Someone may say, "You have faith, I have actions." Show me your faith without any actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions. **James 2:18 (ISV)**

You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. **James 2:22 (NLT)**

➤ CLARIFYING WHAT PISTIS CAN BE AND WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

- My Pistis can be a belief that does not alter _____.

Do you think that believing there's one God is going to get you anywhere? The demons believe that, too, and it terrifies them! **James 1:19 (VOICE)**

... Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵ Remember what it says: "Today when you hear His voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled." ¹⁶ And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard His voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom was God speaking when He took an oath that they would never enter His rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed Him? ¹⁹ So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter His rest. **Hebrews 3:12, 14-19 (NLT)**

- My Pistis can and should be a faith that produces _____.

King Demetrius to the nation of the Jews, greetings. Since you have kept your agreement with us and have continued your friendship with us, and have not sided with our enemies, we have heard of it and rejoiced. Now continue still to keep faith [pistis] with us, and we will repay you with good for what you do for us. **1 Macc. 10:25-27 (150 B. C.)**

"Repent and believe (pistis) in me ... " – **Josephus, 66 A.D.**

The Kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe (pistis) the Good News!
Mark 1:15 (NIV)

We received grace and apostleship through Him to bring about the obedience of faith among all the nations, on behalf of His name. **Romans 1:5 (HCSV)**

...All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God... ²⁷ All our praise is focused through Jesus on this incomparably wise God! **Romans 16:26a-27 (MP)**

- God's resolute desire is that I have a _____.

The person who is right with me will live by trusting in me. But I will not be pleased with the one who turns back in fear. **Hebrews 10:38 (ERV)**