The Kingdom of God
Have Faith in God
Mark 11.19-24

A. The **Pearl** of Faith (vs 22; John 20.29; James 2.19; Eph 2.8-9; Heb 11.1; Rom 4.19-21)

[ – And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. – In referring to the Pearl of faith, what do I mean? I mean that a pearl is something of great value, something to be desired, something one would desire to possess. So it is with Faith. Faith is something of great value to every child of God, every born-again Christian. It is something that only the redeemed can have and that the lost world around us does not understand and cannot know. But that does not stop them from claiming to have faith, only a worldly kind of faith.]

[So let’s learn about **biblical faith** and the pearl it is to every Christian.]

**The Definition of Faith** (John 20.29; Heb 11.1; Rom 4.19-21) - Biblical Faith is not the same as cultural faith or worldly faith. Faith in our world is often thought of as synonymous with belief. People will often be found speaking of faith as if it were merely belief. To our world, if you believe something strongly you might be said to have faith in that thing or principle.]

[I have often asked Church people, young and old, “**What is faith?**” The most common answer is, “**Believing in something you cannot see.**” I think that many people actually base this idea of faith on the Bible. Jesus said to Thomas,]

*John 20:29* Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.]

[But faith and belief are two different things according to the Bible. Faith in the Bible is a noun and belief is a verb. Faith is something tangible, belief is an action. One might say that faith is our foundation and belief is the result of our faith; belief is what we do as a result of our faith. Concerning faith and belief James records,]

*James 2:19* Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ]
[Folks, will there be a devil in heaven? **No, not one.** Belief without biblical faith cannot save and belief in a false worldly faith will lead one away from God and salvation, not toward God and salvation.]

**[Ephesians 2:8-9]** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **No of works, lest any man should boast.**

[Biblical faith is essential for our salvation, for it is through faith that we are born-again. Not mere belief.]

- [The devil believes there is a Jesus.]
- [The devil believes Jesus died on the cross – He was there.]
- [The devil believes Jesus rose from the grave – He saw it happen.]
- [The devil is not saved and will not be in heaven – He will be turned into the lake of fire.]

[Biblical faith is something more than mere belief, and we must understand what it is, so that we can make it our foundation in life.]

[If one is asked, “Is there a biblical definition of faith given in the Bible, many would refer to,]  

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

[In some modern versions of the Bible this verse is rendered in a way that makes it appear as the definition of faith. However, all of Hebrews chapter eleven focuses upon the results of faith, not the definition of faith. Hence, even verse one is not a definition but is a description of the work of faith upon those and through those who have Faith in God.]

[There is in the Bible a Biblical definition of faith and we find it in Romans chapter four. Now as we read this we must understand that this text is talking about Abraham, who had received promises from God concerning a son that he would have, but having not received this promise and He was now one hundred (100) years old and his wife was ninety (90). Having waited over twenty (20) years for God to fulfill his promise our text reads,]

**[Romans 4:19-21]** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the
deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ]

[Now the definition of faith is found in verse twenty-one (21).]

[Abraham had,]

• [Received a Word from God – The promise.]
• [Believed what God had said - He was fully persuaded.]
• [Acted upon his faith in God.]

[Now folks that is Biblical faith. Faith is not that you just believe something strong enough, it is that you believe what God has said that He would do.]

[If there is no word from God then there is no Biblical faith. If there is no resulting action from your belief in what God has said then there is not biblical faith.]

[Have you ever met someone who said, “I’m saved I believe in Jesus.” And yet they are living in presumptuous sin, looking like the world, smelling like the world, talking like the world, acting like the world. Folks, belief without action, is not faith. The devil believes in Jesus but he is not saved.]

[Our Lord tells us, in our text, to have faith in God. Do you believe what God has said?]

[Do you believe,]

• [That you are a sinner lost and undone in your sin and if left in your sin you will go to an eternal hell (Rom 3.23; 6.23) – Many might agree that they are sinners, but they might think that they are not all that bad and they don’t really believe that they deserve to go to hell. My friend all sin deserves hell because God has said that sin, any sin, will end in eternal death if left unatoned.]

• [That Jesus Physically rose from the grave and is your only hope for salvation? (Romans 10.9) ]

• [That you must call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved? (Rom 10.13)]
• [That there is coming a Rapture of the Church and a Great Tribulation Period that will terrify this world and lead to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

• [That there is coming a Judgment Seat of Christ and then the Great White Throne Judgment? ]

[All of these things are written in the Word of God and much, much more. Things that we understand by Faith, because God has revealed them in His written Word and we must believe them and allow them to mold our lives and characters. If you really believe the word of God then it will guide your choices, it will affect your actions, it will transform your life.]

[Faith in God is not just believing something strongly, it is believing what God has said, and deciding to walk with God based upon His Word regardless of what might be happening in the world around you.]

B. The Power of Faith (vs 23; Heb 11) [– For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. – Biblical faith is incredibly powerful. It is supernaturally powerful. According to our text Faith in God can move mountains, and it does. It has the power to change lives and mold communities and cultures. Heaven and earth are moved by biblical faith. Do you believe that? I have already mentioned Hebrews 11, now lets look at this text again and see just how powerful Biblical faith really is.]

1. [Faith Materializes the mysterious (Heb 11.1) – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. – What does my belief in the revealing Word of God make real to me?]

   o [The Resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ is real to me because of the Word of God.]

   o [Heaven To come is real to me because of the Word of God ]

   o [The Rewards to be awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ are real to me and I strive for them because of they are revealed in the Word of God.]
2. **[Faith Justifies the faithful (Heb 11.4)](https://bible.com/bible/112/11.4) — By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. Abel was righteous because Abel was faithful and obedient. Abel offered what God asked for; Cain offered what he expected God to accept. As we come to God we must come God’s way. Biblical faith results in obedience to God.**

3. **[Faith Eternalizes the diligent (Heb 11.5-6)](https://bible.com/bible/112/11.5-6) — By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Enoch was translated, he did not see death. Because he pleased God.**

"Without faith it is impossible to please God. (vs 6)"

4. **[Faith Energizes the remnant (Heb 11.7)](https://bible.com/bible/112/11.7) — By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Noah was moved with fear. Noah had heard from God. Noah had never seen rain nor a flood. God spoke and Noah believe God and went to work. His Faith was displayed by his actions and his faith saved his family.**

5. **[Faith Personalizes the promise (Heb 11.8-19)](https://bible.com/bible/112/11.8-19) — By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare
plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.]

6. [Faith Dignifies the persecution (Heb 11.36-40) – 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.]

[2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.]

C. The Persuasion of Faith (vs 24; Psalm 37.4) [– Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. – Many people look at this verse and mistakenly think that this verse says that whatever they want, if they can believe that God will give it to them when they pray and ask for it, then they will have it. This is a name it and claim it religious belief. But what does the whole counsel of God teach us?]

[Desire and Faith - . . . What things soever ye desire . . . – What happens to your desires when you get saved and strive to walk with God?]

[Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.]

[Now, some folk think that this verse says that if you love God then God will give you whatever your little heart desires. But the true meaning of this verse is that when you delight in the Lord God then His presence in your heart and life]
will transform your desires so that you will desire what God desires. When that happens you will then begin to pray the desires of God, which have become your desires, right back to God and you will receive those things that God wants.]

[Now, you must understand that the only things anyone could ever really ask God for is what God has already revealed that He is going to do. Any other prayer will be born of doubt and presented with doubt. Abraham could pray for a son in his old age because God had already told him that a son would be given to Him. Abraham could head to the mountain to sacrifice Isaac expecting as he went that he would see Isaac resurrected that day, because of the promises that God had already given to him. God said that His seed would be as the sands of the earth through Isaac.]

[So I must ask you, what is in the heart of God? Is that what is in your heart too?]

[If you get in touch with the heart of God then, though your adversaries place mountain sized hurtles before you, you can merely pray and all of the power of heaven will come to your aid and those mountains will be removed.]

[So do you have faith in God?]

[Are you in touch with the heart and mind of God?]

[Have you heard a Word from God?]

D. **The Promise of Faith** *(John 3.3,16; Rom 10.9)* [– If you will hear the Word of God, believe what God has said, and act upon what God has said you too can be born-again.]

*John 3:3* Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*Romans 10:9* That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.