

Faith That Obeys

It can be fascinating when clever people explain the way something ‘works’. Computers, engines, plant life, the human body, and chemical reactions, all need understanding. The dynamics of faith, and the way it ‘works’ can at times seem complex or foggy. Over the next few weeks, I hope we can clear some of the theological fog, and sharpen our understanding of **faith**. We will look at a few aspects of faith. And we might notice some different uses of the word, ‘**faith**’ in Paul’s letters, in Hebrews, and in Jesus’ words in the gospels.

What is Faith?

“Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God...” (Hebrews 11:1, 3).

What is Obedience?

Obedience is the life Jesus lived, and lives with the Father, in the Spirit’s power. His obedience, is the right response to God, on our behalf; and through **faith**, we now share in his obedience and his righteousness. The life I now live, says Paul, ‘I live by the **faith** of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me’ (Galatians 2:19–20). People and Nations are called to it.

What is the Gospel of Grace?

The Gospel is the good news of Jesus, the crucified, risen One, who is the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. It is basically, the whole counsel of God. Paul describes his life task as testifying to ‘the gospel of the grace of God’ (Acts 20:24).

In a **descriptive** sort of way, we can say these things:

- **Faith** is the *instrument*, through which we receive the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8).
- Jesus is the **grace** of God that appeared bringing salvation, training us (Titus 2:11).
- The **obedience of faith** is for nations. It is life in union with Jesus (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

The apostles wanted *increased* faith. He called them to *obedience* (Luke 17:5-10).

Prayer: Dear Lord, in our daily **prayers**, our words and deeds, and thoughts, help us by the Spirit to keep rediscovering what it means to participate in God’s great enterprise. Teach us what it means to obey your Word.

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