

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : #6

Faith



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PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we shall study about **FAITH**.

Faith is something that everybody **EXERCISES** everyday in some form or the other—

- ➔ One has **FAITH** that the sun will rise the following morning !
- ➔ One also has **FAITH** that **AFTER** working for a month one will receive the **WAGES** or salary.
- ➔ One also has **FAITH** that the money that is **DEPOSITED IN THE BANK** is safe.
- ➔ Then there is the **FAITH** that is of a **RELIGIOUS** kind and it is varied—

☞ A **HINDU** has **FAITH** in the various idols, pujas, and rituals that are performed.

It is also believed that the **COW** is a sacred animal and thus its urine is considered to be sacred.

➔ **IT IS HIS FAITH !**

☞ A **MUSLIM** has his **FAITH**. He believes that a protection from evil spirits is gained by bathing in bath water mixed with a certain sweet smelling incense **powder**.

➔ **IT IS HIS FAITH !**


Thy Word is Truth




Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth


 A **BUDDHIST** has his great faith in rebirth and reincarnation and a cycle of births aimed for attaining **NIRVANA** of the soul. (An escape from further rebirth)
IT IS HIS FAITH !

 A **ROMAN CATHOLIC** will visit "Vellankani" church in South India and worship and pray to Mother Mary there and buy scapulars, rosaries, holy water, etc believing that by using these he will be protected and assured of his prayers and the solutions to his problems.
IT IS THEIR FAITH !

 A **PENTECOSTAL** Christian has a belief in mass tongue speaking and miracles and pays special attention to glorifying the Holy Spirit.
THIS IS THEIR FAITH !

So these are various EXAMPLES of FAITH as we see it in the world !

Now we come to the question—

 **WHAT IS EXACTLY MEANT BY FAITH ?**
How do we **DEFINE** it ?

Let us look for the answer in the Bible as we read from—


Hebrews 11:1

*"Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for,
the EVIDENCE of things NOT SEEN."*

Yes ! Faith is a strong belief or conviction about things unseen.


Example: God

This **FAITH** can be said to be divided into 3 kinds—

 1. **SAVING FAITH** ⇨ This is the faith of a **salvation** from the present conditions of suffering and death. All religions have a plan of salvation.


In the Bible — **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."*

 2. **DAY TO DAY FAITH** ⇨ This is the faith exercised for **DAILY** providence, protection and guidance.

In the Bible — **Matthew 6:11**

"Give us this day our daily bread."

 3. **DOCTRINAL FAITH** ⇨ This is the faith that is **BASED** on teachings or **DOCTRINES** and vary among various religions and even among the many and various Christian denominations.



These **THREE** kinds of faith are exercised by **ALL** people in some way or other **EVERYDAY**.

☞ This now brings us to **ANOTHER** and very different Faith !
This is mentioned in the Bible !
Let us see this faith as we now read from —

Jude : 20

*".....building up yourselves on your **MOST HOLY FAITH**, praying..."*

Yes ! It is called- "**THE MOST HOLY FAITH**" !
Have you ever heard about this faith before ?

☞ What is this "**Most Holy Faith**" ?
☞ What does the "**building up**" mean ?
Let us see as we read of this "**faith**" again in—

Jude : 3

*"...exhorting you to contend earnestly for **THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS.**"*

Yes ! This **MOST HOLY FAITH** was
"once delivered unto the saints" by Jesus Christ —God's Son,
And what was it that the "Son" brought with Him ?
We read in -

John 1:17

*"For the law was given by Moses but **GRACE** and **TRUTH** came by Jesus Christ."*

Yes! Here this Most Holy Faith is being referred to as — "**grace and truth**"
What was this "**grace and truth**" that came by Jesus ?
Let us see and read in —

Hebrews 1:2

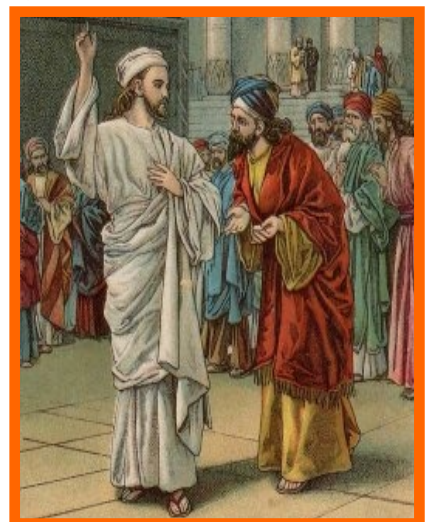
"...Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

Yes! This "**grace and truth**" are **GOD'S WORDS** !!
Jesus **SPOKE** God's Words as we read very clearly in.....

John 3 :34

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God..."

Yes ! It is very clear that Jesus spoke God's words !
Now what is it that we read about God's words ?.....



We read in....

John 17 :17

"...thy word is truth."

Yes ! God's words are **TRUTH** and these words of **TRUTH** were spoken by Jesus to his disciples and upon these words of **TRUTH** was built up a **FAITH** called **THE MOST HOLY FAITH**.

THUS THE "MOST HOLY FAITH" IS THE FAITH BASED UPON GOD'S WORDS OF TRUTH- WHICH IS ALL RECORDED IN THE BIBLE.

➡ How many in this world are **SEARCHING** for **TRUTH** ? !

➡ All around us we see various **CLAIMS** to being the truth.

But we hear these **quiet** words of His **Word** simply saying, it- "**is truth**".

👉 **DO YOU BELIEVE IT ?**

👉 Do you believe the Bible to be the truth ?

Today many have no **FULL FAITH** or belief in the Bible.

We see that, Christians in great **MAJORITY** have no idea even of the **BOOKS** of the Bible, leave alone the understanding of it !
(Take for example some books like **Esther / Ezra / Titus, etc.** Many are unaware of these names being books of the Bible and have no idea whether they are in the **OLD TESTAMENT** or in the **NEW TESTAMENT**.)

• For those of us who **FIRMLY BELIEVE** God's Word **IS** the Bible let us see how God revealed these words of **HIS** as we read from —

Hebrews 1:1,2

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son..."

Yes ! This is the way God revealed His words

Here, this scripture as we see it symbolically represented means —

👉 *"times past"* ⇒ This is a reference to the **Old Testament** period

👉 *"sundry times"* ⇒ This means over a period of **1600 YEARS** for the **Old Testament**

👉 *"divers manners"* ⇒ A reference to prophecies, symbols and types and through the mouths of **angels** and **prophets**.

👉 *"these last days"* ⇒ This is a reference to the **New Testament** over a period of **100 years** in the "**last days**" of the Jewish Age.

👉 *"by His Son"* ⇒ These refer to the words of Jesus which would be revealed to and recorded by the 12 apostles.



God's Words are thus DIVIDED into TWO sections—

OLD TESTAMENT ⇨ 39 BOOKS
NEW TESTAMENT ⇨ 27 BOOKS
TOTAL BOOKS ⇨ 66 BOOKS

Thus in these 66 Books of God's Words is revealed... "THE TRUTH".

These 66 Books are the **COMPLETE** revelation from God.
It begins at **GENESIS** and ends at **REVELATION**.

And this is further confirmed in-

Revelation 22:18,19

*"If any man shall add unto these things... or take away from the words of this prophecy
God shall take away his part out of the book of life..."*

This was a clear command of God cautioning not to
ADD or **REMOVE** from the Word of God.

☞ There are no more extra books in the Bible as some Christians seem to claim!

Then we read again of the same in-

Deuteronomy 12:32

"...thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it..."

Another clear command regarding God's words and of **NOT**
"adding" and "removing" from it.

And again we read of the same matter in-

Proverbs 30:6

*"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee,
and thou be found a liar."*

Here is another **STRONG WARNING**
from God to those who **DO ADD** to His
words.

It seems **VERY CLEAR** that God is very
strict about not adding
or taking from His words and of
maintaining the **ACCURACY** and **PURITY**
of His Word.

Thus of **THE APOSTLE PAUL** we read in-



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

Acts 20:27

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Tamil Vs. 26)

Thus the Apostle Paul here speaks of speaking "all the counsel of God".
Yes! God's words are **NOT** to be spoken **SELECTIVELY** and care taken to please men
but rather **CARE** must be taken to please God!

• So, seeing these **STRICT** commands from God, the question we ask is—

**👉 IS THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY DEVOID OF
"adding and taking away" ?**

The **ANSWER** to this question is a **SHOCKING —NO !!**
There are **TWO** passages of the scripture which are today proven to be **SPURIOUS**
by the **NIV** translation.

The printed Bible that we have today has been translated from
what are called "**manuscripts**"

👉 What are "**manuscripts**" ?

Before printing, was invented the Bible was **HANDWRITTEN** upon skins of goats
and cows. These were called scrolls and the regular usage of these **SCROLLS** caused
the handwritten matter to fade after 50-60 years.

Thus there was a need to **REWRITE** the whole Bible on another skin or scroll.

WHAT A LABOUR! JUST IMAGINE!

Thus over a period of 1400 years the Bible was written and rewritten many times.

These handwritten copies are called "**manuscripts**" and are called **MSS** in short.

Example: Syriac MSS, Vatican MSS etc.

Now the **authorised King James
Version (KJV)** of today which was
printed in **1611** was translated from a
manuscript of the 16th century (about
100 years before).

👉 Then in the 1940's near the Dead
Sea—in the **QUMRAN CAVES** which
are full of salt was found manuscript
scrolls dating to the second or third
century.



**THE QUMRAN CAVES NEAR
THE DEAD SEA**

**It was wonderfully preserved in the salt
for more than 1500 years !!**

👉 From these scrolls was made the translation called—
the **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)** and



through it was discovered the many verses
and scriptures that had been added to the Bible later— the **INTERPOLATIONS** !

 The **TWO** largest scripture passages that are spurious **AND ADDED** are—

 1. **Mark 16:9-20**

 and 2. **John 7:53-8:11**

THE **NIV FOOTNOTES** UNDER THESE PASSAGES TESTIFY TO THESE FACTS.

Thus one must be very careful in studying God's Word
by comparing translations in various languages.

The two very necessary Bible translations required for serious Bible study are—

 1. The **KING JAMES VERSION (KJV.)** (The **OLDEST** translation)

 2. The **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV.)** (The **LATEST** translation)

An accurate understanding of God's Words are very important
because the "faith" that is **BASED** on the **revealed and written words of God** is—

THE MOST HOLY FAITH

In the early church it was very important to them that
WHAT THEY BELIEVED be found written in the scriptures

That is why in Berea—we read—

Acts 17:11


*"in that they received the word with all readiness of mind,
and searched the scriptures DAILY, whether those things were so.*

Yes! The Bereans would search and confirm every scripture they heard,
-even of the Apostle Paul!

 Paul called them "**more noble**" !!

We too must be like those Bereans if we would also have the **MOST HOLY FAITH**
and be pleasing to God.

 What kind of **FAITH** do we have ?

 Is it just faith, or is it— "**the Most Holy Faith**" ?

 **IS THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IMPORTANT ?**

YES ! It is !because we read of God's words—

"...thy word is truth"

And faith which is **NOT** based on God's words is— **UNTRUTH**
or **NOT** of God and referred to in the Bible as—

1 Timothy 4:1



"some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."
Yes ! Thus **FAITH** which is **NOT** based on the Bible words is of the devil
of whom we read in —

John 8:44

"abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar and the father of it".

So it is **VERY** important to examine what our beliefs are ?

➔ Do we have the **"Most Holy Faith"** or is it merely **"faith"** ?

What do we BELIEVE ABOUT.....

- ☞ 1. **THE HUMAN SOUL** and its doctrines— Is the soul immortal ?— Can it die ?—
What is the soul ? Is the teaching which is taught in all religions about the soul
also found in the Bible ?
- ☞ 2. What is **HELL** ? Is Yamaloka of the Hindus and the Bible Hell the same ?
Can you die in Hell ? What is the truth about Hell ?
- ☞ 3. **THE TRINITY** and its "mystery" of 3 **GODS** being **ONE**- How is it understood ?
Is God a "Divine Mystery" ? Can one never understand about God ?
- ☞ 4. **THE ANTICHRIST** and **666**— Who is this Antichrist ? Is he one person ?
- ☞ 5. **BIBLE CHRONOLOGY** and the study of time from Adam's creation till date.
How many years has man been on earth ?
Is it millions of years as taught by the scientists ?
- ☞ 6. **THE ADVERSARY SATAN** —Is he ugly ? —Is he immortal ? Can he die ?
What about his power ?
- ☞ 7. **THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD**. Will anybody ever know when the Lord will
come ?
- ☞ 8. **THE CHURCH** and its many denominations. How come ?
Are all together the Church of Jesus Christ ? Why is there no unity as we see in—
Ephesians 4:3-6 — "one body", one baptism, "one hope of your calling" ?
- ☞ 9. What is **THE KINGDOM OF GOD** and its meaning ? Is it real ?
Will it be established on the earth ? Or is it **ONLY** in Heaven ?
.....and so many, many more !!
- ☞ Is our **BELIEF** about **ALL** these doctrines based on God's Word ?
If you say -" Yes"- Are you sure? We must be sure !

IS OUR FAITH JUST FAITH.... OR IS IT "THE MOST HOLY FAITH" ??

For it is written in —

Jude :20

"building yourselves upon your Most Holy Faith..."



This refers to **THE GRADUAL AND STEADY** growth in the **KNOWLEDGE** and Faith of God's Word— "...the truth".
Yes ! Bible study and the gaining of knowledge is gradual and a continuous process.

This is the "*building yourselves upon*" !!

For the Lord assures us in —

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth (the Word) and the truth (the Word) shall make you free."


Yes ! the **TRUTH** -the **WORD** -makes free from **errors, superstitions and false doctrines (philosophies)** that are everywhere and seeking to deceive and trap people.


For we read about the Word of God and its knowledge and its blessings in-

2 Timothy 3:16,17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."


Yes ! The Knowledge and study of the scriptures will be useful for-

 "*for doctrine*" —All the **TRUTHS** about ever teaching and on every subject as taught in the Bible.

 "*for reproof*" —showing the **LIGHT** on **WRONG BELIEFS** and identifying **ERRORS** regarding teachings and doctrines.

 "*for correction*" —the showing forth of the **TRUE TEACHINGS** and **DOCTRINES** according to the **TRUTH**.



 "*instructions in righteousness*" —The perfect guide to the God approved **WAY OF LIFE** in all things of life and living.

**Having understood all these things we wonder-
WHY IS BIBLE KNOWLEDGE and the MOST HOLY FAITH very weak among
Christians today ?**

We will find the answers in the next class when we study
the **SECOND PART** of Faith !



Finally, a **QUESTION ?** - Which do you think is more important



 **-BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER ?**

Let us see the answer in the Bible in -

Jude :20

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

See ! The **FIRST** importance is given to **GROWTH** in Bible knowledge through Bible study and **THEN** prayer.

 Why **THEN** is that correct order of importance **REVERSED** today ?
 Why do Christians **NOT** give much importance to the study of the Bible today ?

We will meet again in the next class to hear the answers !

--Amen--

