

## Biblical Faith – Study Questions

### 1) What is the meaning of the word “faith”?

- A) The word “faith” has the dictionary definition of “strong \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in someone or something.”
- B) The word “faith” has also picked up some additional meaning based on its use in popular \_\_\_\_\_. For example, faith is often thought of as believing in something which has no basis in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C) Is this the kind of faith Christians have? The answer is a resounding ‘No!’ Indeed, just the opposite is true. Christians believe in what best explains both reality *and* reason: \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2) What is biblical faith?

- A) Biblical faith is faith as defined by \_\_\_\_\_. As we study the Bible, we see that biblical faith has the following characteristics:
- (1) Biblical faith is grounded in \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Biblical faith acknowledges the reality of the \_\_\_\_\_. This stands in contrast to a religion like \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Biblical faith, far from denying the existence of the universe, embraces it as \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 14:16–17).
- (c) Paul believed in the reality of the universe, and he recognized that it revealed many of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Romans 1:19–20).
- (2) Biblical faith uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to discern the existence of God.
- (a) Given the reality of the universe, a logical question that follows is: ‘\_\_\_\_\_ does the universe exist?’
- (b) The \_\_\_\_\_ Contingency Argument.
- Premise 1: Everything that exists has an \_\_\_\_\_ of its existence, either in the \_\_\_\_\_ of its own nature, or in an external \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Premise 2: If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Premise 3: The universe exists.
  - Conclusion: The explanation of the universe’s existence is God.
- (c) The Bible affirms that faith must begin with the belief that God \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 11:6).

(3) Biblical faith \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ truth.

(a) We can deduce several important truths from the fact that God created the universe:

- God is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- God is infinitely \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .
- God is a \_\_\_\_\_ being.
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- God is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ .
- God is worthy of \_\_\_\_\_ .

(b) The proper reaction to these truths is \_\_\_\_\_ to God for His goodness and the pursuit of a \_\_\_\_\_ with Him (Acts 17:24–27 NIV).

(c) Sadly, men are not grateful for the testimony of the universe to the existence of God. Instead, they \_\_\_\_\_ what they know to be true (Rom 1:18).

(4) Biblical faith accepts the \_\_\_\_\_ fact of the physical, bodily \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus from the dead.

(a) History is the study of \_\_\_\_\_ events, and historians employ various \_\_\_\_\_ when examining historical evidence.

- Multiple \_\_\_\_\_ sources support historical claims.
- Attestation by an \_\_\_\_\_ supports historical claims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ testimony supports historical claims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ testimony supports historical claims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ admissions support historical claims.

(b) When we apply these principles to the ancient texts which speak of Jesus' death and resurrection, several historical \_\_\_\_\_ emerge:

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross and was buried.
- Jesus' tomb was \_\_\_\_\_ and no one ever produced His body.
- Jesus' disciples testified that they \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus resurrected from the dead.
- Jesus' disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ following their alleged interaction with Jesus.

(c) Here are the various \_\_\_\_\_ for these historical facts:

- The disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus' death.
- The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ about the resurrection.
- The disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ by an imposter.
- The disciples' interactions with Jesus were only \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The disciples' accounts of the events were later \_\_\_\_\_ .

- The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ reported Jesus' resurrection from the dead. *Although it requires the existence of the supernatural, this explanation \_\_\_\_\_ accounts for all the historical facts.*

(d) Biblical faith accepts the historical fact of the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead (1 Cor 15:1–19). This event is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian faith, for Jesus' resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ all His claims:

- He is the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:25–26).
- He is \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:30–33).
- He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Matt 16:13–20; John 5:17–18).
- He is the \_\_\_\_\_ way to God (John 14:6).
- He is the source of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:3).
- He is the source of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:6).

(5) Biblical faith \_\_\_\_\_ what God says.

(a) Biblical faith believes the \_\_\_\_\_, for it is the record of what God has said.

(b) It's very important to have an \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of what God said. Biblical faith recognizes the importance of careful \_\_\_\_\_, for misinterpreting what God has said is ultimately no better than \_\_\_\_\_ Him (cf. 1 Cor 5:9–13; 2 Tim 2:15). Here are some examples of misunderstanding what God has said, especially concerning faith itself:

(i) If someone were to say, "I believe that God will welcome into heaven \_\_\_\_\_ who has tried to live a good life," that would be a statement of belief, but not of biblical faith. Biblical faith believes God to be exactly as He has \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to be in His Word (John 10:7–10; 14:6; 1 Tim 2:3–6).

(ii) If someone were to say, "I asked God to help me win the \_\_\_\_\_, and I have faith that He will do it," that would be a statement of belief, but not of biblical faith. Biblical faith believes that God can do anything He \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 8:5–10; Mark 9:22–23) and that He will do everything He has \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 10:23).

(iii) If someone were to say, "Jesus said, 'Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith,' and so I'm believing God for the \_\_\_\_\_ of my aunt Margaret," that would be a statement of belief, but not of biblical faith. Biblical faith \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture with Scripture (1 John 5:14–15), carefully \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word (2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet 3:16), and seeks God's \_\_\_\_\_ in all things (Luke 9:23; Matt 26:39).

(iv) If someone were to say, "God's been blessing my ministry, and so I'm stepping out in faith and believing Him for the \_\_\_\_\_ for a new building," that would be a statement of belief, but not of biblical faith. Biblical faith recognizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of life (James 4:13–17; Prov 27:1), makes plans for the future with \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10, 13), exercises \_\_\_\_\_ in setting goals (Prov 21:5; 22:3; 24:27; 27:23);

Luke 14:31), and is vigilant against \_\_\_\_\_ ambition (Phil 2:3; James 4:3).

- (6) Biblical faith draws the right \_\_\_\_\_ from what God has said.
- (a) Not only does biblical faith believe what God says, it also \_\_\_\_\_ correctly and draws necessary \_\_\_\_\_ from what God has said. Several stories in the Gospels about faith are examples of this kind of right thinking. For example:
- (i) Jesus and the crowds (Matt 6:28–30). The people’s knowledge of God’s care and provision for \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Ps 65:9–13; 104:10–28; 145:15–16) should have led them to conclude that God would also care and provide for \_\_\_\_\_. Not drawing the proper conclusion brought a rebuke from Jesus.
- (1) The word *oligopistos* (“little faith”) speaks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith in question, not the \_\_\_\_\_. A study of the contexts in which the word occurs (Matt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20; Luke 12:28) shows that Jesus used it to indicate that there was something \_\_\_\_\_ with the person’s faith. It wasn’t that they needed more faith. Rather, they needed a different \_\_\_\_\_ of faith—one that believed and drew the proper conclusions from what God had said.
- (ii) The Roman centurion (Matt 8:7). The centurion believed that Jesus had the power and \_\_\_\_\_ to cure diseases, and he reasoned correctly that Jesus did not need to be in \_\_\_\_\_ proximity to his servant in order to heal him. All Jesus needed to do was say the word. Drawing the proper conclusion brought approval from Jesus.
- (iii) The storm on Galilee (Luke 8:22–25). The disciples should have realized that Jesus’ command to sail across the lake meant that they would arrive \_\_\_\_\_ on the other side. After all, He would not command them to do something without also \_\_\_\_\_ them to carry out His will. Not drawing the proper conclusion brought a rebuke from Jesus.
- (iv) The woman with the discharge of blood (Luke 8:43–48). She reasoned that she didn’t need to have \_\_\_\_\_ contact with Jesus in order to be healed. Jesus praised her: “Daughter, your \_\_\_\_\_ has made you well; go in peace” (Luke 8:48). Drawing the proper conclusion brought approval from Jesus.
- (v) Peter and Jesus on the Sea of Galilee (Matt 14:22–33). When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water, he realized that Jesus could do \_\_\_\_\_. That included \_\_\_\_\_ Peter to walk on the water too! Peter acted in faith and came to Jesus on the water. “But when he saw the \_\_\_\_\_, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Peter should have known that Jesus would not have told him to come only to let him \_\_\_\_\_. Not drawing the proper conclusion brought a rebuke from Jesus.

(7) Biblical faith \_\_\_\_\_ what God commands.

- (a) Consider the ten plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:14–12:32). When God warned Pharaoh about the seventh plague of hail that would come the next day, God told the Egyptians to get their animals and servants to \_\_\_\_\_. The question is: which Egyptians truly believed what God said? The ones who \_\_\_\_\_ His command!
- (b) Faith without obedience is no faith at all. That's why James said, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ believe—and shudder!" (James 2:19; cf. Deut 6:4). The demons' belief in God does them no good, for they have \_\_\_\_\_ to rebel against Him (and thus there is nothing left but a fearful expectation of judgment).
- (c) Several stories in the Gospels illustrate that biblical faith responds in obedience to what God commands. For example:
  - (i) The man \_\_\_\_\_ from birth (John 9:1–7).
  - (ii) The ten \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 17:11–19).
  - (iii) The man with the \_\_\_\_\_ hand (Mark 3:1–6).

(8) Biblical faith \_\_\_\_\_ in spite of hardship and adversity.

- (a) Biblical faith is like a \_\_\_\_\_ : the more it works against an opposing force, the more it \_\_\_\_\_ and develops (cf. James 1:3–4; Rom 5:3–4).
- (b) Several stories in the Gospels illustrate that biblical faith persists in spite of adversity. For example:
  - (i) The \_\_\_\_\_ woman (Matt 15:22–28). Look at the difficulties Jesus put in the path of this desperate mother: He \_\_\_\_\_ her cries for help, He told His disciples that He was sent "only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," He called her a " \_\_\_\_\_ ," and He refused to give her the "children's bread." How did she respond? She \_\_\_\_\_ in Him as the Messiah (she called Him "Son of David"), she harassed His disciples, she threw herself at His feet, and she answered His objection with \_\_\_\_\_ and wisdom. True faith persists in spite of adversity.
  - (ii) The disciples' \_\_\_\_\_ to cast out a demon (Matt 17:14–20). The disciples expected the demon to come out \_\_\_\_\_ , and when it resisted them, they gave up. Had they \_\_\_\_\_ in faith and called out to God in prayer, they would have prevailed (cf. Mark 9:29).

(9) Biblical faith lasts a \_\_\_\_\_ .

- (a) Biblical faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a lifetime, not merely the \_\_\_\_\_ of a moment. How do people of faith behave? How can you tell them from others? They \_\_\_\_\_ by faith. It is the pattern and habit of their lives. It is an initial belief that is continually affirmed, and it is the foundation of their

confidence and their conduct.

(i) Their Confidence. This confidence is *not* an \_\_\_\_\_ outlook on life or a general attitude of hopefulness. Anyone can have that kind of perspective. This confidence is a steady, continual belief in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

(ii) Their Conduct. When someone is convinced that what God has said is true, their \_\_\_\_\_ life is affected by that belief.

B) In summary, we have seen that biblical faith:

- Is grounded in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to discern the existence of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ truth.
- Accepts the historical fact of the physical, bodily \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus from the dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what God says.
- Draws the right \_\_\_\_\_ from what God has said.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what God commands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in spite of hardship and adversity.
- Lasts a \_\_\_\_\_ .