

The Word of Truth

The Firm Basis for a Grounded Trust in God that Leads to Triumphant Living

Part Five – The Word of Truth

[A]nd without trusting it is impossible to please God: for it is necessary for one who comes to God to believe because then He becomes a rewarder to those who seek Him out. (Heb. 11:6; The Power New Testament by William J. Morford)

1. The Formula for Receiving and Strengthening Faith

- a. Romans 10:17
- b. It is a mistake to believe that by simply reading Scripture that, apart from any exercise of determination on their part, that they would receive faith.
- c. If this were true, then some of our Bible critics and atheists should be faith giants. Many of them read the Bible more than many dedicated Christians.
- d. Satan and demons should be great giants of faith. They believe what the Bible says, but it does nothing to change them (Matt. 8:29; James 2:19).

2. Taking Romans 10:17 Out of Context

- a. Keeping verse 17 by itself gives us the wrong impression that faith is an automatic impulse from hearing it.
- b. Romans 10:16-18.
- c. The context shows that some hear the word and should believe but choose not to.
- d. Mark 4:18-20
- e. In Hebrews we read, “*but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it*” (Heb. 4:2).

3. God’s Word is Truth

- a. We cannot receive God’s Word apart from knowing the character of its author.
- b. If God is Truth and He is trustworthy, then the basis of faith or trust in God is in the certainty that God is telling the truth in any of His promises.
- c. John 17:17.

- d. Psalm 119:160 says, “*The entirety of Your word is truth*” (NKJV).
- e. Some ministers are able to advocate liberal doctrines by claiming that the Bible is not the Word of God, it only *contains* the Word of God. They say it only *contains* truth.

4. Faith – Certainty that God’s Word is Truth

- a. Eph. 1:12-13
- b. Truth: Greek word “*aletheia*.” Kittle’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says it means “***that which has certainty and force.***”
- c. Hebrews 11:1 says, “*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*” (New International Version)
- d. *True faith is being sure of the hope we have and being certain that we shall see what has been promised, even though we do not see these things at present* (Heb. 11:1; The Truth New Testament)
- e. Do not allow yourselves to be led astray by those who speak of faith as something great and unintelligible. Faith is nothing more than the certainty that God speaks the truth. Take some promises of God and say to Him, “I know for certain that this promise is truth, and that You will fulfill it.” He will do it. – Andrew Murray
- f. Proverbs tells us that the Word of God was written in order to enable us to trust Him and make known the *certainty* of the words of truth
- g. Prov. 22:17-21
- h. The Eerdman’s Bible dictionary says, “The most common term for truth in the OT is Heb. ‘emet, meaning a reality which is ‘firm’ or ‘certain.’”⁵ The Strong’s dictionary defines it as, “stability; figuratively certainty, truth, trustworthiness.”
- i. When we hear what He says, and we are grounded in the certainty that anything He says is true, then we will have faith for that specific promise that we hear

5. Recognizing the Bible as God’s Word of Truth

- a. The Bible is called Scripture—the collection of sacred writings. Jesus also affirms that “The Word of God” and “The Scripture” are synonymous (John 10:35).
- b. Dan. 10:21
- c. *But you are to continue in what you have learned and have believed, knowing from whom you learned these things. From early childhood you have been familiar with **the holy***

scriptures which give you revelation about the salvation that comes through faith in Christ Jesus. God has breathed His life and truth into all scripture which is therefore beneficial for teaching what is right, rebuking what is wrong, bringing correction and instruction and equipping people for righteousness so that the man of God may be ready for every good work (2 Tim. 3:14-17; The Truth New Testament by Colin Urquhart)

6. The Written Word to Produce Faith

- a. John 20:31; 1 John 5:13.
- b. John says that His written record is true, and because it is true, we can believe it
- c. John 19:35; 21:24.
- d. God provided the written word for the purpose of our believing.

7. Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

- a. *“Every path of the LORD is one of mercy and truth for those who cling to his promise and written instructions” (Psalm 25:10; God's Word).*
- b. Once we have established that the Word of Truth is the foundation for faith then we must learn how to search it in order to receive faith for specific areas.
- c. 2 Tim. 2:15.
- d. To “rightly divide” the Word of Truth means to teach the truth correctly and directly.
- e. The person who studies the Bible as the Word of God will not discount any one of its promises one iota. The one who studies the Bible as the Word of God will say, “God who cannot lie has promised,” and he will not try to make God a liar by trying to make the promises mean less than it says. The one who studies the Bible as the Word of God will be on the lookout for promises (R. A. Torrey)
- f. Acts 17:11-12
- g. The Bereans searched the Scriptures to find out if *these things were so*. The Bible says, *“Therefore many of them believed.”* Searching God’s Word and rightly dividing it imparts and strengthens faith.

8. Trusting is an Act of our Will

- a. Psalm 119:41-43
- b. Faith is not dependent upon having some great *feeling* that we can believe God apart from any evidence. It is based on knowing the certainty of His Word.