

# Doctrine #68: Faith

This is Part 5: Redemption | Doctrine 22: Faith

## From the 99 Essentials Booklet

Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

## From the Bible

### **John 3:16–21 (NKJV)**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

### **1 John 4:13–16 (NKJV)**

13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

### **John 1:10–13 (NKJV)**

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### **James 2:19 (NKJV)**

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

### **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### **Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

## **Key Thoughts**

What is faith? According to Hebrews 11 it is:

- the substance - that which stands under (like scaffolding) and that which is the raw material
- the evidence - the literal proof of what we cannot see

Faith begins with a mental assent but culminates in moving assets

## **Additional Thought**

Jesus was mentioned by only three Graeco-Roman authors: Pliny (Epistles 10.96), Tacitus (*Annals* 15.44), and Suetonius (*Lives* 24.4). Tacitus noted that Christ was executed under Pilate; Pliny wrote Emperor Trajan about the Christian "superstition" and Christ as an object of ridicule; and Suetonius noted Jewish restlessness under "Crestus."

Jewish sources, such as Josephus (*Antiquities*) and the Talmud contain scant data about Him. Josephus' statements validate John the Baptist's execution—and a contested passage refers to Jesus as a wise man with a significant following who appeared to His followers after His resurrection, as the prophets had predicted. If the disputed passage about Jesus is authentic, it would validate the biblical narratives. The references in the Talmud were much later and sought to exonerate the Jews for the crucifixion—that is if they are indeed references to Jesus of Nazareth (a point still disputed). They also scorned Jeshu of Nazareth for leading the world astray.

Burns, J. L. (2016). [Jesus Christ](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.