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How Do We Acquire Faith?

Mike Johnson

There are many views concerning how people acquire faith. Some people say the *alien sinner* is to *pray for faith*. Others may say that *God miraculously strikes* a person with *faith*, and they may cite how they received “theirs” one day in a cornfield. We need to consider what the Bible has to say on this subject. The subjective feelings and speculations of people matter little.

The subject of how to acquire faith is important because faith is essential. **Hebrews 11:6** tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Further, **John 3:16** says, “*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.*” Thus, since faith is essential, it is crucial to know how to acquire faith.

The teaching of the Scriptures on this subject is unambiguous. God’s Word, the Bible, is where we acquire our faith. **Romans 10:17** says, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” Furthermore, **John 20:31** shows us the effect of the recorded miracles of Christ. It says, “*John 20:31, “...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”* In **John 17**, Jesus prayed for unity among his apostles. He stated in verse 20, “*I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.*” Thus, according to Jesus, belief would come by the preaching of the Apostles. The conversion cases illustrate this point also. With the Corinthians, for example (Acts 18:8), the people heard, believed, and were baptized. (Note also Acts 15:7, 11:13-14; Luke 8:12.)

Many do not have or have become weak in faith. The reason is they have not turned to or have turned from its source. That source is the Bible; it is the producer of our faith.

How to Make Your Bible Study More Interesting and Helpful

Bob Dickey

It is hard to find time to study the Bible—or even want to—when we don’t find it interesting or helpful to us. Let me make some suggestions that may help.

A Plan – Set aside some time (each day, if possible) to study the Bible on your own. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

A Pattern – Follow a definite pattern. This will give your study some direction and help you accomplish your goals. Let me recommend this pattern.

- Read the text carefully.
- Note divisions and parts (make an analysis).
- Study anything unknown or not understood.
- Consult Parallel passages.
- Consult good study helps (such as dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordances, etc.).

- Make any helpful notes about what you learned.
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A Prayer – Pray about what you have studied and learned, and ask God to guide you with wisdom (James 1:5ff).

A Personal Application – Consider what has been read or studied in light of your own life. Look for applications and make the message personal. This is the only way to grow (2 Peter 3:18).

A Preparation – Now, begin to prepare to share what you have learned with others (2 Timothy 2:2). Happy studying!

Speaking As The Oracles Of God

Irvin Lee

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11)

Speaking as the oracles of God is an important task, and it should be done by more people publicly and from house to house. It ought to be done by father to son. It ought to be done in private conversation with friends.

We should never tire in this worthy work. It is our opportunity to be useful in this world. The world can do without the work you are doing at the factory. Someone would like to have your job. Yet, there is another job more important than the one you are doing there.

The gospel message is to be proclaimed as God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16). This should be done by factory workers, professional men, merchants, farmers, and all others.

Paul asked that Timothy teach faithful men the things he had learned from Paul (2 Tim. 2:2). They, in turn, could teach others. This chain is not to be broken. I wish I knew how to make each person feel his great obligation to help others come to know more of the right way of the Lord.

We need to be workmen who have no need to be ashamed of the way we handle the word of the Lord (2 Tim. 2:15). We need not wait for a B.A. degree from a modernistic seminary to begin preaching His law. The humblest man alive has authority to speak the truth.

Happiness in the New Year

- “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice” – Philippians 4:4
- Be content – “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:” Philippians 4:11
- “... Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9
- Think of others - *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4
- “...what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

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