

CHAPTER THREE

# FAITH AND THE PROMISES OF GOD

A group of people once asked Jesus how they could do the work of God. Jesus replied, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:29). God desires belief and faith from us, for “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).

But often our “faith” is nothing more than wishful thinking—“I hope everything works out all right. I have ‘faith’ that it will.” The biblical concept of faith far surpasses this superficial approach.

## WALKING BY FAITH

1. How does faith relate to the *beginning* of the Christian life?  
*Ephesians 2:8-9*

You received Christ by faith. How then should you live?  
*Colossians 2:6*

2. How would you define faith from:  
*Acts 27:25*

Romans 4:20-21

Hebrews 11:1

“Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in his word is true, and that God will act according to what he has said in his word. . . . Faith is not a matter of impressions, nor of probabilities, nor of appearances.”

GEORGE MULLER<sup>3</sup>

3. What does faith make possible? Match the following:

- \_\_\_ Hope, joy, peace      a. *Matthew 21:22*
- \_\_\_ Answered prayer      b. *Romans 15:13*
- \_\_\_ Power over Satan      c. *Ephesians 3:12*
- \_\_\_ Access to God      d. *Ephesians 6:16*

4. State the principle of 2 Corinthians 5:7 in your own words, and give an example of how you can apply it.

5. What sin can exclude you from seeing God work?  
*Matthew 13:58*

*The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is unbelief. Doubt only needs more facts. Unbelief is disobedience and refuses to act in accordance with what God has declared.*

<sup>3</sup> As quoted in *George Muller: Man of Faith* by Basil Miller (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1972), 27–28.

**OBJECTS OF FAITH**

6. What are some of the unworthy objects in which people may place their faith?

*Psalm 33:16-17* \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 146:3* \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 3:5* \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 28:26* \_\_\_\_\_

*Jeremiah 9:23* \_\_\_\_\_

Place a check by those you find yourself most likely to depend on. What do you feel is the inevitable result of placing faith in these objects?

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who should be the object of your faith? *Mark 11:22*

8. Your confidence and faith in God are built on your knowledge of who God is and what he is like. What verses about God's nature and character have been significant to you?

**VERSE** \_\_\_\_\_ **WHAT THIS SHOWS ME ABOUT GOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

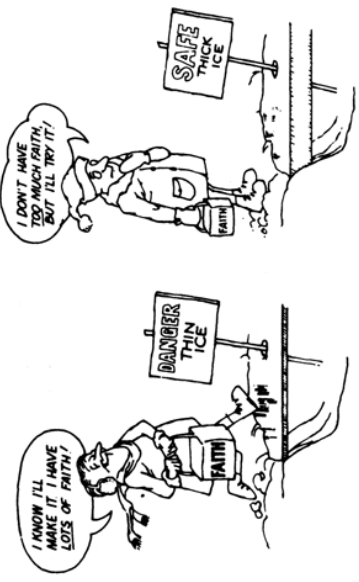
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9. Describe what the following illustration communicates.



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**EXAMPLES OF FAITH**

10. Hebrews 11 is a key chapter on faith. Read through all of this chapter, taking note of the things accomplished by faith.

a. Which of the things accomplished by faith do you consider to be the most significant?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Why did you choose this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE PROMISES  
OF GOD**

- 11.** Think of a specific situation when someone promised you something.  
a. How did you evaluate whether or not that person would keep his promise?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Did he keep it? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. How does this affect your attitude toward his future promises?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**12.** God also makes certain promises to you. What does Scripture say about the words of God?

*1 Kings 8:56* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Psalms 89:34* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Isaiah 55:11* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*2 Peter 1:4* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

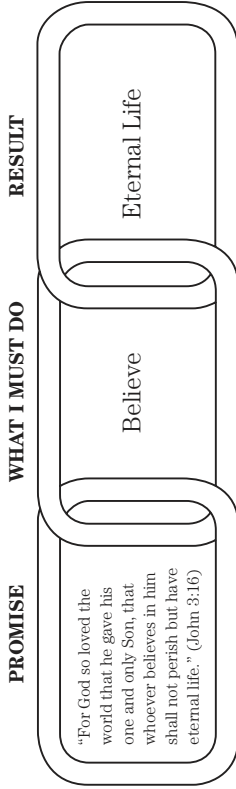
**13.** Why do you think God's promises are trustworthy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PROMISES  
TO CLAIM**

**14.** Fill in the following chart.

PROMISE	CONDITION, IF ANY
<i>John 15:7</i> _____	_____
<i>Lamentations 3:22-23</i> _____	_____
<i>Romans 8:28</i> _____	_____
<i>Galatians 6:7</i> _____	_____
<b>15.</b> Why do you feel God places conditions on some promises?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>16.</b> What is God's attitude about fulfilling his promises to you?	_____ _____
<i>2 Corinthians 1:20</i>	_____
What should your attitude be in claiming God's promises?	_____ _____ _____
<i>Hebrews 6:12</i>	_____ _____

It is helpful and encouraging to note God's promises. You may want to keep a list of these promises, their conditions, and their results. God's promises often form a "chain" like the example below.



**17.** Discover how Jehoshaphat utilized the promises of God. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.

- What was the first thing Jehoshaphat did? *Verses 3, 6-12*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did God answer him? *Verse 15*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Was this a promise? \_\_\_\_\_
- What was his next response? *Verse 18* \_\_\_\_\_
- What evidence is there that Jehoshaphat believed God's promise?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did he encourage others? *Verse 20*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was the result? *Verses 22, 27* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**18.** What is one promise you have discovered in your Bible reading?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Specifically, how has this promise helped you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember These Points**

- Faith is based on the Word of God.
- People may entrust their lives to a number of objects which will ultimately fail. The only worthy object of faith is God.
- To me, the most significant example of faith from Hebrews 11 was:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- God is a faithful Promiser whose words never fail. God does what he says he will do because he is faithful to his word.
- Christians should claim God's promises, for he desires to respond to our faith.