

What is Faith?



Webster's dictionary says; Firm belief in something for which there is no proof.

The Bible says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1 esv)

It was by faith that Noah built the Ark. It was by faith that Abraham left his home and moved to another land. It was by faith that Sarah had a child, even though she was old and barren. It was by faith that Moses challenged the Pharaoh and led his people to the promised land.

The Bible passage listed above (Heb. 11:1) is considered one of the most concise definitions of faith given in the Bible. **Faith** is synonymous with **belief**, and both are translated from the same Greek word *pis'-tis* in the New Testament.

Many theologians, especially from Reformed backgrounds, argue that true saving faith as described in the Bible must include not only mental **knowledge** and **assent** (agree (*to*); concur) but the vital aspect is of **trust**. This idea is found in the Westminster Confession of Faith in the phrase "But the principal acts of saving faith are **accepting**, **receiving**, and **resting** upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace," (WCF 14.2). This idea is illustrated in the figure below.

