

STATUS OF ONE'S FAITH

The Greek noun, **pistis** (faith), is related to the verb **pisteuo** (faith, trust, belief). In the New Testament "faith" is used in a number of ways, but primarily with the meaning "trust" or "confidence" in God.

Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone; and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to **your faith**, so that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about **your faith**, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain. But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of **your faith** and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through **your faith**; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in **your faith**? 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-10

VARIOUS STATES OF FAITH

Faith is described to be in various states, from a "dead faith" to a "perfected faith" and many conditions in between.

LITTLE FAITH "O men of little faith" Mat.6:30

Context: Mat.6:24-34

What type of person is said to have little faith?

What kind of thinking keeps one's faith little?

MUSTARD SEED FAITH "if you have faith as a mustard seed" Mat.17:20

Context: Mat.17:14-20

What lesson is Jesus drawing from the mustard seed?

What lessons do we need to learn from Jesus' remarks?

INCREASING FAITH "Increase our faith!" Luk 17:5

Context: Luk 17:1-10

There are at least two lessons taught here. What are they?

Are the two main lessons independent of each other?

GROWING FAITH "faith is greatly enlarged" 2Th.1:3

Context: 1Th.3:1-10

What characteristic of faith is revealed?

What grows in proportion to faith?

WEAK FAITH “**weak in faith**” Rom 14:1

Context: Rom 14:1-10

What admonitions concerning weak faith are found here?

OBEDIENT FAITH “**the obedience of faith**” Rom.1:5

Context: Rom.1:1-7

What is the connection between faith and obedience?

Is it possible to obey and not believe?

WORKING FAITH “**faith working through love**” Gal.5:6

Context: Gal.5:1-10

What does love have to do with faith working?

STABLE FAITH “**the stability of your faith in Christ.**” Col.2:5

Context: Col.2:4-8

What is connected with a stable faith?

What does a stable faith guard against?

STRONG FAITH “**grew strong in faith**” Rom.4:20

Context: Rom.4:16-22

What do we learn from Abraham’s faith?

GREAT FAITH “**such great faith**” Mat.8:10

Context: Mat.8:5-10

What was so remarkable about the centurion’s faith?

PERFECTED FAITH “**faith was perfected**” Jam.2:22

Context: Jam.2:14-23

How does one perfect his or her faith?

DEAD FAITH “**faith without works is dead**” Jam 2:26

Context: Jam.2:24-26

What is a good indication of someone’s faith being dead?

Note Rom.1:17 “live by faith”

FINAL THOUGHT

“ . . . when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” Luk.18:8