



# Attitudes of the Heart

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Attitudes of the Heart

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Rick Cowan. 525 Elinor St. Windsor, Ontario, Canada, N8P 1E3

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The Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV)

# Attitudes of the Heart

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# Preface

Many churches put an inordinate emphasis on outward conformity and reformation and teach very little on spiritual attitudes of the heart. For this reason, when I became the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in April of 2010, one of my first priorities was to teach a series on internal attitudes that the Holy Spirit desires to produce in every Christian. This book is the culmination of that series.

## How to use this Book

**Open the Bible.** This book is designed for Bible study. In order to fully benefit from the studies contained here, you must be willing to open your Bible and search the scriptures for answers. These studies are based upon the King James Version of the Bible. If you are accustomed to reading another version you may need to have both opened in order to discover the right answers.

**Take your Time.** The purpose of any Bible study is not to race to the finish line. If your time spent studying scripture does not produce a better understanding of the word of God then it is in vain. Take your time going through these studies. Stop and think about what you've read and take the time to apply the truths to your life.

**Reflect.** Throughout these studies you will see the symbol  followed by a question. There is no room to write an answer because these are designed for meditation. Take a minute and think about how the question applies practically to your life. Apply the study and be willing to change where God prompts you to. You will also see questions prefaced by **Think**. These were originally questions for open discussion in our church. There are no right or wrong answers for these just your own personal opinion.

**Pray.** Bible truths are only imparted by the Holy Spirit of God. While you study, pray that God would help you to understand and apply His word to your life.

## Contact

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# 2



## Faith


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### Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*:  
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,  
and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.


**A**s we learned in the last study, spiritual growth is an inward work of the Holy Spirit in the life of God's people. God is not concerned with men conforming outwardly to some religious system but rather that they be conformed inwardly to the image of His Son (Rom 8:29; Gal 4:19). This conforming process takes place as we learn more about God the Father and submit ourselves to His word. Although the Holy Spirit is responsible for producing these attitudes, we are also responsible for obediently submitting to the Spirit's work within us (Eph 4:30-32; 1 Thes 5:19).

In this study we will be dealing with an attitude which is foundational to all others; that is *Faith*.


 Heb 6:1. **Q.** According to this verse, what two things are foundational to Christianity?

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 Romans 5:1. **Q.** How are we justified? \_\_\_\_\_

Faith is the door through which all men must pass in order to enter the Kingdom of God (Gal 3:22; John 3:15). Basically, it is *trust in God*.

 Hebrews 11:6. **Q.** What does faith make possible? \_\_\_\_\_


**Q.** According to that verse, what two things does faith encompass?

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Faith in God is believing that He exists and that the revelation he has given of himself is true. It is then trusting Him based upon that revelation. A Christian has, by definition, exercised faith in God when he trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord (Gal 3:26). He believed that God existed, he believed the testimony God gave of His Son and trusted that God would save him as He had promised (1 John 5:10-13).

Not only does a man become a Christian through an initial exercise of faith (Eph 2:8-9), but he continually grows in his faith as he matures spiritually (2 Thess 1:3).

 Gal 3:11. **Q.** How much influence should faith have in our lives?

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## Faith is Trusting God

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We have already seen that faith is *believing that God exists, that He is who He has revealed Himself to be and then trusting Him based upon that revelation*. At salvation, we trust God to fulfill the initial promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. Following salvation, the Christian life consists of learning more and more about God and developing an ever increasing trust based upon our growing knowledge of who He is and what He has promised (Eph 1:15-17).

“ Deep faith comes from deep knowledge of who God is. ”

In 2 Timothy Paul is writing to Timothy from prison. He has experienced much affliction for the gospel’s sake and is aware that his death is imminent. It is under these circumstances that he wrote 2 Timothy 1:12:

 2 Timothy 1:12. **Q.** For what two reasons was Paul not ashamed?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Paul’s unashamed faith was firmly founded upon the fact that he *knew God*. It was because of this elder saints deep knowledge of God that he was persuaded that God would preserve him at the time of judgment. *Deep faith comes from deep knowledge of who God is.*

Many Christians find it difficult to trust God because they have a shallow understanding of who He is. It is hard to trust someone that you do not know! As we read and obey the Bible, experience answers to prayer and trust God through our trials, we learn more and more about Him. The more we learn about him the easier it becomes to trust Him. The more we trust Him, the easier it is to exercise faith.

Paul had experienced both triumphs and trials in his Christian life and through it all he learned to trust God by faith. In Philippians 4:12 Paul said “*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*”

 Philippians 4:13. **Q.** What belief sustained Paul through his times of abundance and abasement?

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The Christian life is a life of faith. **Q.** Gal 2:20. How did Paul say that he now lives?

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For the Christian, all of God’s promises are culminated in the person of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says *For all the promises of God in him [Jesus] are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.* If we ever doubt God’s loving care for us, or his ability to help us, we need not look any further than the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God proved His endless love by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. He proved His unlimited ability by raising Him from the dead (Eph 1:19-20). God has provided more than ample reason to trust him by faith.

## **The Hall of Faith**

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Hebrews chapter 11 is commonly referred to as God’s *Hall of Faith*. In it we see a list of some of the great men and women of faith found throughout the Old Testament.

### ***Abraham***

 Heb 11:8-10. **Q.** How did Abraham respond to God’s call?

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**Q.** Did Abraham know where he was going? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.** v9. If Abraham did not know where he was going and had no rightful claim or ability to take the land he was in, on what basis was he dwelling there?

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Abraham did not know where he was going, yet he obeyed. He uprooted his family and travelled to a strange land all based upon his trust in God. He believed that God would fulfill the promise that He had made even though the circumstances around him did not reflect it.

 Romans 4:16-24. **Q.** v17. What are two aspects of God's character in which Abraham trusted?

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v18. **Q.** Abraham believed even *against hope*. On what basis?

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v19. **Q.** What did Abraham *not* consider?

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v20. **Q.** Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ in faith.

v21. **Q.** What was Abraham persuaded about God?

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 Heb 11:17-19. **Q.** What did Abraham do by faith?

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**Q.** What had Abraham received from God? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.** What did Abraham take in to account when he offered Isaac?

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Abraham was able to disregard his difficult circumstances and the apparent impossibility of his situation because he believed God's promises. He was able to trust God and to remain strong in faith because he *knew God*. He knew God enough to be persuaded that He would (and could) keep the promise that He had made. He offered



Isaac knowing not only that God had promised him a seed, but that God was also *able to raise him from the dead*.

*Faith is standing upon God's promises and believing that He is not only able, but also faithful, to fulfill them.*



**Do you have a tendency to allow circumstances to affect your faith? Spend time reading God's word and seeing how men and women of faith overcame their circumstances by trusting God.**

## **Sarah**

Heb 11:11. **Q.** What did Sarah do by faith?

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**Q.** How did Sarah judge God? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.** Because Sarah judged God as faithful, what did she believe God would do?

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Sarah did not have the strength or ability to conceive. The reality of her situation was bleak. There was no logical reason to believe that she would have a child naturally, but she did have a child and through that child a multitude of descendants arose (v12). Sarah not only believed *in* God, but she *believed* God. She knew God was faithful and unchanging and based upon her knowledge of who God was, she trusted Him.

“ Sarah knew God was faithful and unchanging and based upon her knowledge of who God was, she trusted Him. ”

## **Joseph**

Heb 11:22. **Q.** What did Joseph do by faith?

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There were no circumstances occurring in Egypt at the time of Joseph's words which would have lead him to believe that the children of Israel would ever escape Egypt. He based his claim entirely upon faith in the promise of God (Gen 50:24-25). He so trusted in God's promise that he gave the children of Israel instruction as to how to deal with his bones when they were finally freed from Egyptian bondage (Ex 13:19).

Looking at the above examples we could say that *Faith is resting in God's promises based upon our trust in His character and ability*. Like Abraham, Sarah and Joseph we should not allow circumstances to affect our faith. Even when we don't understand our circumstances, we can still understand our God. In order for us to truly exercise faith then, we should seek to learn more about God and more about what he has promised.



**Romans 10:17 says "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." If you find that you have a lack of faith the first thing you should do is ask yourself "Do I read and obey the word of God faithfully"?**

## Faith – Resting on His Promises

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List the promises found in the following passages.

 Rom 10:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_


 John 10:27-28 \_\_\_\_\_


 Heb 13:5 \_\_\_\_\_

 Php 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

 1 Cor 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_

 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

 James 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

 Rom 8:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

This is only a small sampling of the multitude of promises God has given to His people throughout scripture. Do you believe them? Even God's most difficult promises become easy to believe when we learn to trust *Him*. Getting to know our eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, holy, sovereign, righteous, promise-keeping God, leads us to real faith. No matter how unbelievable God's promises might seem at first, they all become believable as we grow in our knowledge of who God is and what He is able to do.



**Do you sometimes find it hard to trust God? Even the Apostles had to ask Jesus to increase their faith (Luke 17:5). Take what faith you have now and ask God to give you more, than trust that He will (Mark 9:24).**

## Review: Faith

1. Christianity is not a matter of conforming to outward religious standards. What is it a matter of?
2. How does becoming like Jesus happen?
3. In your own words, what is faith in God?
4. Faith involves more than belief, what should our faith lead us to do?
5. If we want to deepen our faith, what should we learn more about?
6. How should the fact that God sent Jesus Christ to die for us increase our faith?
7. Why can we still have faith when our circumstances don't make sense?
8. How does learning about God's character help us to trust His promises?
9. How is Christian faith different from a blind or naïve faith?