

# AMAZING DISCOVERY 5 WHAT IS TRUE FAITH?

## INTRODUCTION

"Faith" simply means trust. The Christian Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, "It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the

### FAITH SHOULD HAVE A TRUSTWORTHY OBJECT

certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead." All religions profess faith in God. But not all types of faiths are pleasing to Him.

We don't place our faith in ourselves either. To anchor a boat, you don't take the anchor and place it in the boat itself just because you believe in the anchor.

**WE SHOULD FIX OUR FAITH ON AN UNCHANGING, EVERLASTING AND TRUSTWORTHY GOD, and HIS PROMISES.**

When it comes to life after death, we cannot place our faith on just any man's word. As a man is mortal even though he could make all sorts of promises, he

will not be able to fulfil them once he dies, whereas God is infinite and immortal who knows all things past, present and future. Hence, we can trust such a God to keep all His promises.

- "...Though others may be liars, God is not. Do you know what the book of Psalm says about it? '... that God's word will always prove true and right, no matter who questions it'" (Romans 3:4).
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word remains for ever" says Jesus, (Matthew 24:35).

The purpose of faith is to know our Creator God, to have peace with Him, and to be with Him when we die.

However, if the god whom we worship never promises to meet these specific needs we so eagerly desire, at the end of the day we will be awfully disappointed.

Faith can be distinguished between **BLIND FAITH v TRUE FAITH**

### BLIND FAITH

Blind faith is in a god/gods assuming that they will

It will be tragic if we depend upon BLIND FAITH. We may assume that if we trust in a god, he will save us and secure a place in heaven for us. However if he did not promise this, we have no right to assume that he would.

fulfil our hearts' desires even though they never promised us.

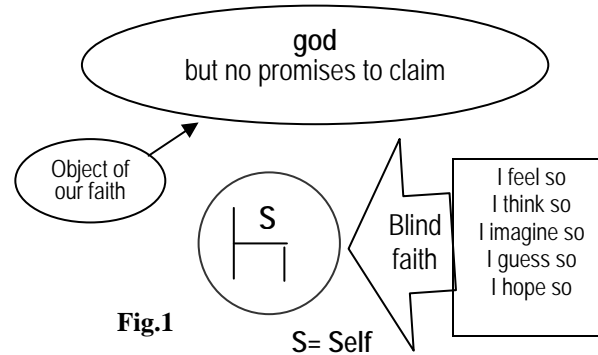


Fig.1

On the other hand

### TRUE FAITH.

True Faith is placing our trust in the **ONE and ONLY CREATOR**, the **PROMISE KEEPING, LIVING GOD**. (See the Fig.2)

As I examined the Christian Holy Bible I learned the following:

- It says in John 1:3, "He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn't make." Therefore, **JESUS is our CREATOR GOD**. Any others are creations. As such they depend on the Creator for their survival; we should not be worshipping them but obey the Creator God. Otherwise we may soon be worshipping each other!
- Jesus said (John 10:30), "I and the Father are one."

Again the Holy Bible says in 1 John 2:23, "For a person who doesn't believe in Christ, God's Son, can't have God the Father either. But he who has Christ, God's Son, has God the Father also."

The **One and Only Creator, Living God (Jesus)** has given us many promises in the Bible that concern our real life needs, such as:

- to forgive all our sins, to make us children of God, to give us eternal life, to raise us from the dead, to make sure that we get to heaven when we die, to give us peace, and power to overcome temptation,

to transform us into the image of Christ, to live within our lives, never to leave us nor forsake us, *and many more*.

▪ The Apostle Paul wrote in 2Corinthians 1:19-20, "He (Jesus) isn't one to say "yes" when He means "no". He always does exactly what He says. He carries out and fulfils all of God's promises, no matter how many of them there are; and we have told everyone how faithful He is, giving glory to His name." We can place our faith in such a loving and trustworthy God, Jesus. The following illustrates TRUE FAITH.

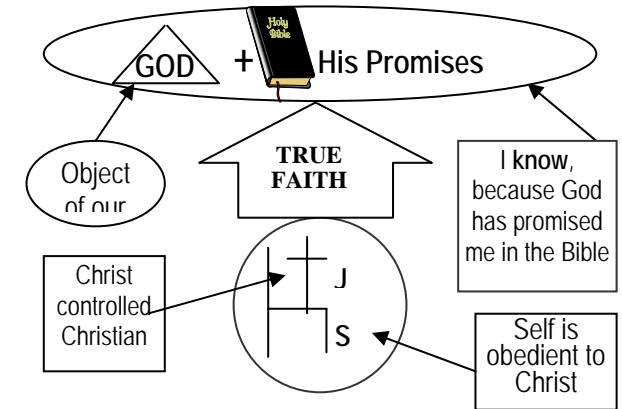
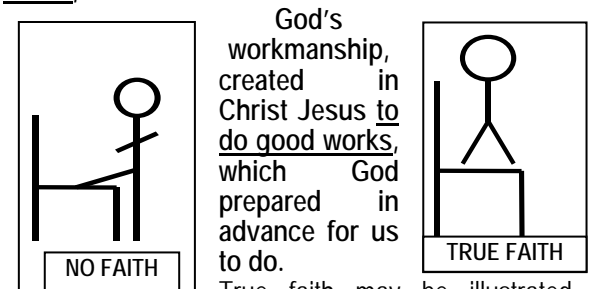


Fig 2 J = Jesus; S = Self

It isn't enough just to have faith. "Faith that doesn't show itself in obedience to God's word is no faith at all - it is dead and useless" (James 2:17). This does not mean that we gain salvation (*eternal life*) by doing good. The Bible says, in Ephesians 2:8 -10, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one should boast. For we are



True faith may be illustrated in another way. For instance you may believe that a chair can fully support your weight. Yet if you are not willing to stand on the chair or even if you merely place one foot on it, either way you show that you don't trust the chair.

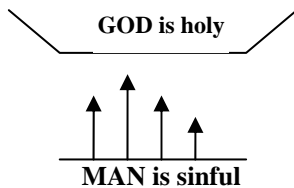
But if you stand with both legs on the chair you really demonstrate that you fully trust the chair.

So it is with our faith in God. We express our faith in Him by **totally depending on Jesus and His promises alone** fully to save us from our sins and for eternal life.

Do you sincerely desire to have this kind of faith and to make sure you have eternal life? If your answer is 'yes', the following explains HOW to have TRUE FAITH and live in PEACE with GOD.

- ◆ We have to **agree with God** that we are sinners. The Bible says, **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). Sin is an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference to God's laws written in our consciences.
- ◆ We **agree with God** that the penalty for sin is eternal punishment in hell. **"The wages of sin is death.."** (spiritual separation from God)", (Romans 6:23).

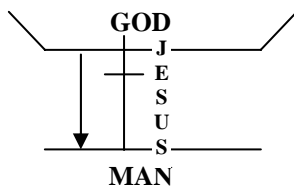
The arrows in the diagram illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as good works, philosophy or religion.



- ◆ Next, **accept that Jesus paid the penalty** for your sins by dying on the cross on your behalf. **".. but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 6:23).

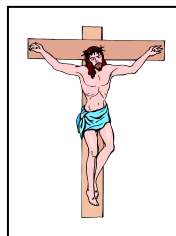
◆ Take a few moments to meditate on some of the things you have done against your own conscience that are wrong and ask God's forgiveness. Now tell Him that you are willing to obey Him with His help.

◆ Also believe that Jesus rose from the dead after three days defeating sin and death. **"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures.."** (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).



He said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) but through Me"** (John 14:6).

God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for **our** sins.

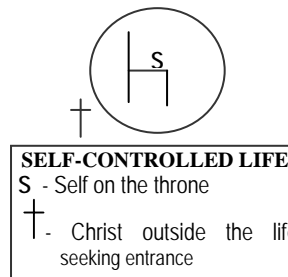


**Meditate for few moments on how much Jesus suffered before He died for your sins.** You may be asking, **"Why should Jesus die for me?"** Well it is important that a sinless person should die for sinful

people to save them. Just like **a person who does not know how to swim cannot save another person from drowning.** Jesus never sinned, therefore **He is the ONLY PERSON who is worthy to die in our place to justify before God.** Now, it is not enough merely to know all this.

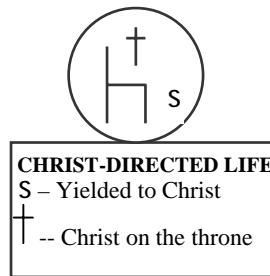
◆ We must **"receive"** Jesus Christ, only then we can experience God's love and forgiveness in our lives. The Bible says, **"But as many as received Him to them He gave the right to become children of God"** (John 1:12).

◆ We receive Christ by personal invitation. Jesus said, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him"**



◆ (Revelation 3:20).

◆ We receive JESUS into our lives by **faith through prayer.** Prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with the words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:



◆ **"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of**

**my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."** Amen.

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, pray it right now and Jesus will come into your life just as he promised. You invite Him in only once, because He promised that, **"I will never leave you nor forsake you"** (Hebrews 13:5). Thereafter simply thank Him that He lives in you. Thanksgiving is an expression of your **FAITH** in God and His promises. Hebrews 11:6 says, **"Without faith we cannot please God."**

Now you can know on the basis of His promises that

- ◆ **Jesus came into your life** Revelation 3:20 and Colossians 1:27).
- ◆ **Your sins were forgiven** (Colossians 1:14 and 2:13-15).
- ◆ **You became a child of God** (John 1:12).
- ◆ **You received eternal life** (John 5:24).
- ◆ **He will never leave you nor forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5).

Can you think of anything more wonderful that can happen to you than receiving Christ? Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? Here is a thanksgiving prayer:

**"Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you for forgiving all my sins, giving me eternal life and making me a child of God. Thank you for coming into my life and that you will never leave me nor forsake me. In Your name I pray. Amen."**

The very act of thanking God demonstrates your faith. **"Without faith it is impossible to please God"** (Hebrews 11:6).

I trust that now you know **"WHAT IS TRUE FAITH."**

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surf: <http://sank.sccc.org.sg>

For further spiritual growth, please attend a nearby church where the Bible is taught and Christ is honoured.