

## FAITH: FIVE ASPECTS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

By Rick McKinney, 2021; Scripture verses taken from the NRSVCE

***The Assurance of Hope*** - Faith as a gift of personal encounter or knowing recognition of Jesus as Lord and God. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8). For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn. 3:16). Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn. 20:28). And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight (Lk. 24:31). And Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting' (Ac. 26:15).

***The Attitude of the Heart*** – Faith as a personal trust in a loving, all powerful and wise God, which grows, for it often starts out as little faith, but matures as one sees God work his will in one's own in life, as well as in other lives. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him (Ps. 28:7). But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you of little faith? (Mt. 6:30). Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief' (Mk. 9:24). Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus (Mt. 14:28-29).

***The Assent of the Head*** – Faith as an assent or agreement with the truths of THE faith while seeking greater understanding. "In vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines" (Mk. 7:7). If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed (1 Tim. 4:6). Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them (Heb. 13:9).

***The Actions of the Hand*** – Faith as loving work and obedient faithfulness in God's kingdom. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much (Lk. 16:10). We have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5). To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith (2 Thess. 1:11). You see that faith was active along with Abraham's works, and faith was brought to completion by the works (James 2:22). For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

***The Assurance of Healing*** – Faith as a gift that knows in a specific moment that Jesus will heal a particular person or do some other wonderful thing. To one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-9). For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well." And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease (Mk. 5:28-29). Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him (Mk. 11:23). But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Ac. 3:6).