

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith**? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things in vain — if indeed *it was* in vain? ⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith**? — ⁶ just as Abraham "*believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" ⁷ Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."* ⁹ So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Gal. 3:1-9)

The Hearing of Faith

What is “faith”?

Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)

(Greek, “*pistis*”) 1. “conviction of the truth of anything, belief”; cf. trust

Sometimes in scripture the term “faith” can be used in reference to the gospel itself, the word of God (i.e., “the faith”).

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for **the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)



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The conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.

A strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ([Heb. 11:3](#))



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THOUGHT (Greek, “*pistis*”) 1. “conviction of the truth of anything, belief”; cf. trust

ACTION (Greek, “*pistis*”) 2. “fidelity; faithfulness”

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**...

(Gal. 5:22)

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. (Heb. 11:4)

THOUGHT

ACTION
(faithfulness)



By **faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved with godly fear, prepared an ark** for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

(Heb. 11:7)

THOUGHT

ACTION

(faithfulness)



By **faith** Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ([Heb. 11:8](#))

THOUGHT

ACTION
(faithfulness)



What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also **faith** by itself, if it does not have **works**, is dead. (Jas. 2:14-17)



ACTION

(faithfulness)



THOUGHT



But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works."
Show me your **faith** without your **works**, and I will show you
my **faith** by my **works**. (Jas. 2:18)



THOUGHT



ACTION
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But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (Jas. 2:18)

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons **believe** — and tremble! (v. 19)

THOUGHT

You see then that a man is justified by works [actions; faithfulness], and not by faith [thought; belief; trust] only. (v. 24)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without **works** is dead also. (v. 26)

ACTION

(faithfulness)

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household." Then **they spoke the word of the Lord to him** and to all who were in his house. **Rom. 10:17** them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. **And immediately he and all his family were baptized**. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; **and he rejoiced, having believed in God** with all his household.

(Acts 16:29-34)

Notice that (in this context) "believing" in Christ entailed the act of baptism – without which they could not be saved.

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Thus, in the N.T., a "believer" was someone who had been baptized.

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But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe [**thought; belief; trust**] that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek [**actions; faithfulness**] Him. (Heb.11:6)

The Hearing of Faith

What is “faith”?

*Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)*

(Greek, “*hupostasis*”) “that which has actual existence; is firm or concrete; is real”

“Hoped for” indicates something that has not yet occurred. It is forward looking, with anticipation.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

([Heb. 11:13-16](#))



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(Greek, “*elegchos*”) “a proof; that by which a thing is proved or tested”

It also means “conviction.”

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16)

We are convicted by the divinely proven word of God.

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For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

(Rom. 1:20)

The Hearing of Faith

What is “Hearing”?

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ([Rom. 10:13-17](#))



The Hearing of Faith

What is “Hearing”?

(Greek, “*akoe*”) “one of the five natural senses of the human body; the literal or physical ability to hear sound, noise, conversation, etc.”

(Greek, “*akouo*”) “to attend to (take heed to) what is or has been said or written; to embrace; to understand or perceive the sense of what is said.”

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell* from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. (Lk. 16:19-25)

²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" (Lk. 16:26-31)

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At the time of this statement, Moses had been dead for about 1,400 years (and the last of the Old Testament prophets, Malachi, for about 400 years). How could the tormented rich man's brothers hear Moses and the prophets?

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Can you “understand or perceive”; are you willing to to “take heed to” (Greek, “*akouo*”) what God has said?

The Hearing

of Faith

Do you “believe”; “trust” (Greek, “*pistis*”) in the evidence of God’s word?

Are you willing to “take action”; “be faithful” (Greek, “*pistis*”) based on that trust?

THE
POWER
OF
FAITH



