LIVING FAITH

What is faith?

Faith is: **(Heb 1:11)**

1. the assurance
   5712 ὑπόστασις *hypostasis*
   = substance, nature, essence
   = trust, confindence, being sure

   the conviction
   1650 ἔλεγχος *elegchos*
   = proof, evidence
   = a certain persuasion
   = the evidence as to the truth or reality of something

   of things hoped for
   1827 ἐλπίζω *elpizō*
   = expected with certainty
   = to wait for with joy and full confidence

   of things not seen
   1063 βλέπω *blepō*
   = not visible to the bodily eye
   = not perceivable by the power of sight

2. Faith is acting on something with the certainty that it is true, although there is as yet no visible, with the physical eye, proof that it is true

3. Faith is not a mere assumption or a simple hope that the "thing" is true – the one who has faith knows that it is true

4. Faith is accepting God's word as fact, not probability or possibility, during the time between God's speaking and His bringing His word about **(Gen 1; Eze 36:24, 28-30, 33-35)**

5. Faith, in prayer, is the firm expectation, free from any doubt, that what was asked for will be given by God **(Ja 1:5-8; Mk 11:24; 1 Jn 5:14-15)**

6. Faith is believing God's word even though it is unsupported by any other evidence **(Acts 27:22-25)**

7. Faith is relying unfalteringly on the promises of God, even when everything that is seen looks like fulfilment is impossible **(Rom 4:3; Gen 15:4-6; Rom 4:19-21)**

8. Faith is taking God at His word; it is belief on the all sufficient, most reliable evidence – the word of the God who cannot lie **(Titus 1:2)**

9. Faith that asks for evidence other than the word of God is not true biblical faith

10. Faith is that by which we live until we are absent from the body – then faith will be sight **(2 Cor 5:6-7)**

How does faith come?

1. Faith, first of all for salvation, is the gift of God; it is not self-produced but rather received **(Eph 2:8-9; 2 Pet 1:1)**

2. Faith comes from the hearing of God's word **(Rom 10:17; Acts 4:4, 16:31-32)**

3. Faith comes through the word and faith grows by continually partaking of the word of God **(2 Tim 3:14-15; Ja 1:21; Jn 20:31)**

4. No amount of praying for faith will bring it if the word by which it comes is neglected

5. Faith is the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit **(Gal 5:22)**

6. Jesus is the author and perfecter of faith **(Heb 12:2)**

7. To have more faith we must
   a) look to Jesus (fix our eyes on Him) **(Heb 12:2; Mt 14:30-31)**
   b) exercise the faith that we already have **(Mt 25:29)**
   c) seek praise from God rather than praise from one another **(Jn 5:44)**