Where Does Faith Come From?

We know what faith is by the definition found in the book of Hebrews: “*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”* (11:1-2)

But where does faith come from? Scripture also teaches us: *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*  (Romans 10:17) But, I sense that this verse is teaching us that this is how faith grows and not necessarily answering my question of “where faith comes from.”

Now this is my take on it: Since we are made in the image of God – faith is in us from the start; a mustard seed faith. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, said Jesus.

Now this is my take on it: Since we are made in the image of God – faith is in us from the start; faith that is like Jesus described: a mustard seed faith. I think it is interesting how Jesus answered His apostles (first disciples) when they said, *“Lord, increase our faith!”* Luke 17:5

The reply of the Lord was: *“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”* Luke 17:6

Did He increase their faith by this reply? What would they need to do in order to grow up their faith? They would have to ‘act’ on what Jesus said they could do.

In another situation a father brought his demon-possessed boy to the apostles to be healed, but they could not. Then the man brought him to Jesus. Jesus commanded the demon to come out and it did. The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him why they could not drive it out. Jesus answered,

*“Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”* Matthew 17:20

Again, it seems that Jesus is putting the responsibility of growing our faith into our hands. When we don’t take responsibility of what we’ve been given from God, it shrivels up and dies; it’s not good for anything or anyone.

From the start – faith is in us – along with our sin nature. The nature of God’s Spirit is not; we must receive the Lord’s “gift” of the Holy Spirit for all the other attributes of God to be formed in us. (This is my belief.) This is how we fight and overcome our sin nature. With the nature of the Holy Spirit in us we have received the power to overcome our fleshly desires which lead to sin; to overcome the world in which we were born into and have been influenced by with all its attractions; and to overcome the devil – who works day and night relentlessly to deceive us and completely destroy our faith in God with lies and temptations of every kind imaginable.

Jesus Christ is called the True and Faithful One. (Psalms 33:4, Revelation 3:14 and 19:11)

That which makes you and I different from the Son of God is our sin nature and that we had a beginning; both of which do not apply to Jesus Christ. The fact that He came into this world the way that He did, is different as well: Born of a virgin by the seed of the Spirit of God. We have each come into this world by the seed of our human father and the womb of our mother. Our birth is natural. Christ’s was super-natural. Yet, our “born-again” experience is super-natural because it is by faith in who Jesus Christ is for us, and by God’s indwelling Spirit giving us a new beginning in life.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Every quality or attribute of God is formed in us by the Holy Spirit; we just don’t have the supremacy of each characteristic like God does. For instance: God is all-knowing, all-powerful, etc. God is everywhere, but we are not. God never had a beginning, but we each did, etc. We have His DNA potential. But it takes the indwelling Holy Spirit to bring it to bud and thrive.

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”* Galatians 5:22-26

Where does our faith come from? It comes from God. God remains faithful, even though we do not, because God IS faithful. *“If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.* ***Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail****.”* Psalms 89:31-33

God does NOT change. He remains the same.*“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.* ***Thy faithfulness is unto all generations****: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.”* Psalms 119:89-90

God makes Himself known to every soul so that there is no one that will stand before Him on Judgment Day with an excuse. (Romans 1:18-25) We have each been given every opportunity to know Him and His the Gospel of His Son – to apply our mustard seed faith to.

The faithfulness of our God is because of His love. God is love, therefore, God is faithful. He has and will make Himself known to every human life; life comes from God and at the end of our life we each will stand before Him – accountable for the life He gave us.

 *“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning:* ***great is thy faithfulness****.”* Lamentations 3:21-23

When God says He will do something - He will do it. If God has made His covenant with you - He will fulfill the covenant He makes because He cannot work or act against His own nature of faithfulness. Yet, we have a responsibility:

*“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.”* Malachi 2:5-6

God has given us a conscience that connects us to Him. Each of us have to be taught or forced to go against our good conscience in order to reject or hate God, and for some people it doesn’t take much based on how they were raised and how successful the devil has been in deceiving them.

Faith in anything else but God - is not faith. Although we say we have faith in this or that, what we have is not faith; rather what we have is self-deception disguised as faith. Who wants to believe they are deceived – when they can believe they have faith? Faith verses fraud/falsehood; hum, that’s a no-brainer. I’ll take faith thank-you! I choose to call what I believe in – faith! We have every kind of religion you can come up with based on what they call faith. Yet, they all have different beliefs about God. Is this faith? No. It’s self-deception!

Everyone talks about faith today as if we are the ones that determine what faith is and how we should and will apply our false-faith, but we are ignorant as to where “faith comes from.” We act like we have the authority to define true faith. I’m reminded of how my children (teenagers) thought they ‘knew it all’ as they opposed our instructions, wise counsel and warnings, only to humbly confess to their dad and me of where “it” got them. True faith humbles us before the Lord and those that God has put over us to help us remain faithful to the Lord.

True faith comes by hearing the truth (the Word of the Lord) and applying His Word by the conviction and motivation of the Holy Spirit. Test the spirit; for demons also speak and with very convincing words that deceive the elect of God, if that is possible. Don’t just act on what that “inner voice” says; test it by reading the Word of God and then by waiting on the Lord to confirm what He says to you. Waiting on the Lord is hard, but the blessing of God comes without added trouble in our life if we will wait on the Lord. (I speak from experience; even shameful experience.) It is to our good advantage to wait on the Lord. He won’t let us miss His open door of opportunity. He won’t let us make a wrong turn. He will lead us to do the very thing/things that He is eager to bless and prosper – if we will wait for Him.

The Lord has commanded His people to “hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” The Lord has said it, not once, not twice, but seven times. (Revelation chapters 2 and 3) We also know from what the Lord said that in the last days, in our day, there are many imposters: false teachers, false preachers, false apostles (church starters), false counselors, false prayer intercessors, false ministries, false leaders, false believers, etc.

With all the so-called experts, professionals and authorities on *truth and reality* - how many have begun their knowledge and journeys with what God says in His written Word?

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”* Proverbs 1:7

*“And he said to man, ‘The fear of the Lord — that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.’”* Job 28:28

*“Administer the law of the Lord to settle disputes…You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord. In every case that comes before you from your fellow countrymen— whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or ordinances — you are to warn them not to sin against the Lord; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not sin.”* 2 Chronicles 19:8-10 (This applies to individual families as well as to national governments.)

Faith comes by hearing truth and obeying the will of God. Self-deception comes by hearing lies and then acting on those lies. My husband has a quote: **“Someone tells a lie, and then it is backed up by another person saying the same lie. Then it is confirmed by someone else. Therefore, it must be a truthful lie! It takes time to research for ‘the truth,’ but it takes no time to believe a lie.”**

Truth has become what every man thinks on his own, based on his own limited knowledge and understanding. This is dangerously deceiving and leads to eternal damnation; which is Satan’s goal for mankind. He has a kingdom too, but it’s not a pleasurable one. God has ‘limited’ man’s ability to know “all things” because “all-knowing” is one of God’s supreme attributes.

Eve was deceived and then cursed by God for believing the lie of the devil that it was possible for her to know everything that God knows simply by eating the fruit of the tree that God told Adam not to eat from. Now, according to the Bible; the peace of God surpasses all our understanding. No matter how much understanding you get, God’s peace in you is greater. We can gain greater understanding but we will never know “it all.” Throughout eternity we will be ever learning and never coming to full knowledge of who our Father God is; what He is capable of and all that He has planned for those that love Him. Wow!

We do not want the curse of God upon us because we forfeited being at peace with God. We would each be wise to make our peace with God, and then continue to live in His peace, His love and His joy. We don’t need to know everything; just what God wants us to know so that we can live with His blessings instead of His curse.

I like the way “The Message” Bible explains what it is to be at peace with our heavenly Father:

*“His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah – Jesus Christ, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.*

*“How? you say. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.”* 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

God says that even though we have ears to hear – we do not understand; even though we have eyes to see – we do not see. There are those who will only believe in what they see physically that the Bible tells us is “temporal,” and then there are those who have faith in what they cannot see, but is there all the same because it is “eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18) What sets apart (distinguishes) these two types of people? Did God choose some to believe in the eternal, and some not? So, what sets one man apart from another?

Hebrews 11:6 *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

I believe that we are each responsible for the mustard seed faith that we came into this world with. Jesus said to everyone that came to Him that according to their faith in Him – it will be done to you. So, that would mean that faith is our responsibility.

True faith ends when we see the Lord as we have hoped to see Him and longed to see Him, as the people of faith (not self-deception). People who say that they have faith in God and yet are afraid to die – do not have true faith. They do not have a right relationship with Jesus Christ: the Author, Perfector and Finisher of faith. (Hebrews 12:2-3)

Now, here is another belief of mine: Each and every human being that has ever lived has called on God at some point in their life, whether they admit it to anyone else or not. They have because we are made in God’s image and we are connected to Him by the conscience He gave us and by the seed of faith we are born with. Based on the response we each get when we called on God, or the lack of response, we begin to form a belief system about God; one that either works for or against us. Satan, of course, is at work against us having faith in the One True God: Jesus Christ. Now God knows ‘why’ we call on Him and based on our motives – He will respond, or not. If we don’t come to Him in spirit and in truth, we can’t expect to receive a thing from Him in one way or another.

Jesus taught and warned:

*“A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”* John 4:23-24

Religions are formed based on what people choose to believe about God; even the religion of atheism. Satanists believe in God, and God’s Son, although they hate Him. They hate God because they love their sinful life more and is why they serve the devil with such zeal (and with great ignorance of where they will end up forever). They know God exists; everyone knows that God exists deep down inside. This revelation is ‘naturally’ there by God’s design.

Satan and his fallen angels (demons) are called the “principality of the air.” Satan has used how God so wonderfully made him - against his Creator in turning mankind against God and His Son. And by the way the history of mankind has gone so far – we’d have to admit that he’s good at turning man against his Creator. When you look at history (true history) you’d have to admit that Satan got the title: “the god of this world” by his proud and powerful ability to deceive people, even God’s people because they do not know what they should know from God’s Word.

Before anyone can say that there is no God, they first had to believe that there is a God. The reason they come into this life believing in God is because we are each and all made in His image; given a good conscience and seed of faith. God is the creator of all life. The wonder (thought or question) that there is a God that created you comes from the conscience you have that comes from God. It causes each of us to start wondering and calling on God. I would say that the conscience is the spirit part of us; the place of our good convictions. The Bible also teaches us that our conscience can become seared and hardened by not rightly responding to the convictions of our good conscience. Eventually, there is a point in which God turns us over to the darkness that we chose to live in and live by; to do those things we should not do. (Romans 1:20-32)

*“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* Romans 1:32

The Holy Spirit stops coming to us to lead us to the truth because we have become hard-hearted towards God altogether.

We can grow up claiming we don’t believe in God, but the truth within each of us that there is a Creator and that we are accountable to Him - can not be denied, and is why no one will be able to stand before God with an excuse that they did not know. All creation points to the Creator, whether we like it or not, and if that’s not enough – God has done all He could to make sure each and every human being ever born, has had every opportunity to begin a relationship of faith, hope and love in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”* Titus 2:11-14

The fact that atheists work so hard to discredit the existence of God – is because of their great pride; a secret hateful attitude that comes from God’s number one enemy: Satan. Pride keeps us from acknowledging our sinful ways and evil thoughts before God or anyone. Pride keeps us from repenting of our rebellion towards God, and Satan will help us to keep doing this until the day we die. Pride is a powerful thing; it is a very destructive force, as we have seen in this world throughout time.

*“The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.”* Psalms 37:12-13

There is a clear distinction that God makes between those who love and serve Him and those who do not. History has always proved this over and over.

God reveals Himself to those who seek Him in truth and spirit, and He hides Himself from those who only pretend to seek Him so that they can structure false evidence in which to prove their stupidity that there is no God, or that if there is – well, He certainly is not personal with man. But, true disciples know better, and is why they are making themselves ready to see the Lord by getting as close to the Lord as they can in these mortal bodies and with our limited minds.

*“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* Hebrews 11:5-6

What will the people left behind say when the Lord quickly takes the “faithful” off the earth before His second coming to the earth – to reign? I’m sure they will make up all kinds of convincing reasons why – as they work frantically to save themselves from the wrath of God, as if they could.

The truth cannot be inwardly ‘denied;’ it can only be publicly rejected. And, the truth is rejected by those with great pride; by those that have become like their father - the devil. Not only do they arrogantly reject the truth for themselves, but they ‘suppress’ the truth so that others can not find it. This is ultimate pride; the pride of Satan himself.

Jesus was clear when He said, *“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? You are unable to hear what I say because you belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!”* John 8:42-46

God knows who will come to Him humbly and those that will not, and He will make a way for those who seek Him in truth and spirit, no matter what happens.

*“Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.”* Psalms 37:16-19

Faith is from God so that all people can know Him personally and live with Him forever - living the life that is truly life; life everlasting; the glorious life perfectly designed by our Creator and gracious Father. So, do not throw away the faith God gave you. Do not sell out the truth, but live on every word of His each day. Stand on the Rock that has remained throughout all ages. Keep to that ancient sacred path without fear or waver. Soon our most holy faith will be rewarded by the God that created us and brought us through it all – into His Glory.

It takes more faith to follow the Lord to the end of our lives than it took to receive the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins at first; when we first believed. Faith must grow. A mustard seed faith is what we’ve each been given to put to good use – to the glory of our Father. Faith without works is dead. (James 2:17) We can believe in the Lord’s resurrection without experiencing His Spirit’s power in our own lives. If the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from death to life then why should we live as though we have no power over anything; over our flesh, the world or the devil?

Jesus asked the invalid hanging out by the pool of miracles if he really wanted to get well. (John 5:1-14) What a ‘seemingly’ ridiculous question to ask a person like this. Yet, Jesus knew that it would take more faith to go from being healed to live for God the rest of one’s life.

*“Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, ‘See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.’”* John 5:14

From what our Lord said here I would be right in saying that sin and sickness are connected. I would even go as far as to say that unbelief and depression are connected, as well as pride and destruction. Knowing what our Father requires of us as His sons and daughters and then living it out (with His help of the blessed Holy Spirit) is our guard and strength against sickness, disease, depression and destruction.

Proverbs 13:21 *“Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.”*

Matthew 10:7-9 Jesus instructed His disciples, *“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

Mark 6:5-6 *“Jesus could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.”*

Free men and women – free other men and women. Are you free? Do you know what real freedom is? The Lord Jesus taught His first disciples about true freedom and how to remain free the rest of their lives.

*“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”* 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

After we come to Christ to receive His forgiveness, we must continue on with faith to live for Christ, pleasing our Father in how we live. For as Jesus stated, many are invited to His cross, but few are chosen for the work of God. (Matthew 22:14) God knows who will continue on in faith and who will not.

Therefore Jesus also tells us: “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that [you] may have life,* ***and have it to the full****.”* John 10:10

Life to the fullest is life eternal with the Lord our God which started the moment we put our faith in the truth concerning Jesus Christ. Certainly our God desires to make our earthly life full and abundant so that we prosper in every way, and so that we can have enough to help others both physically and spiritually; that they come to know Jesus Christ like we have.

After we come to Christ – we must keep walking with Him so that we don’t get lost again; not knowing our purpose in life. When we don’t know our purpose – we will live for ourselves and waste all that God has given us – on selfishness. (Forgive me Lord for not seeking Your Kingdom first in all my ways!)

Wisdom! Now here’s the issue of our day with God’s Church because the whole world is now coming into the one-world order as prophecy is fulfilled leading up to the short reign of the last “anti-Christ.”

Jesus was wise to know when not to speak out publicly, when to go somewhere and what to do there. He withdrew with His disciples out of public view because He knew the “authorities” of that day (both Jew and Gentile) were waiting for the perfect opportunity to kill Him; that is to stop Him from speaking, teaching and drawing people to Himself. It’s all about our testimony and witness of Christ; not about our physical life. Jesus didn’t hide out in fear of His life, but to keep going in the work of His Father. And so we should not be afraid of death, but rather be wise and obedient to complete what is ours to do, each and every one of us.

Beloved of Christ, we need the same wisdom today as we are quickly approaching the Day of the Lord. Jesus knew when to be speak and when to be silent; when to go into the city and when to retreat to far-away places. He was always “escaping their grasp;” the grasp of His persecutors. He “hid himself” when necessary so to keep doing the work of His Father. (John 8:59, 12:36 and 10:39) We have the same power, favor and wisdom over us as Jesus did. We have the same Holy Spirit and love of the Father. We have one and the same faith that comes from the True and Faithful: King of Glory. Hallelujah to the Lamb! Let us make ourselves ready for Him by keeping hold of our God-given faith. For our faith must become ‘the faith of Jesus Christ;’ who did not love His physical life so much that He didn’t complete what He came to do.

The ultimate faith or, your most holy faith is defined by this verse:

*“And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.”* Revelation 12:11 (NLT)