

OUR SOURCE & SHIELD

Faith For Provision & Protection

- I. **What you believe, your faith is a major factor in whether or not you experience God being your source and God being your shield-*Pr29:25-The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust (confident, sure, bold, careless) in the LORD shall be safe (lofty, inaccessible, on high). Pr28:25-He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat (satisfy, become prosperous)***
- A. **Faith hooks you to your source**-It is the connector, bridge or channel between me and God; God can want to be your source but without faith there is no way for Him to get to you what He can supply-**Hb11:11, Ep2:8**
1. **I can flourish in any environment being hooked to God**-**Jer17:7-8**
- B. **Faith activates your shield**-**Pr30:5-He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him; Ps18:30-He is a buckler to all those that trust in him Ps115:9-Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield**
1. **Our shield has to be activated and faith is the activation button**-**Ps91:2-In him will I trust**
 2. **Faith is our shield**-**Eph6:16-Taking the shield of faith; 1Pet1:5-Kept by the power of God through faith**
- C. **Faith specific for provision and protection**-This will hook you to your source and activated your shield; **Ps91:2-Specifically trusting God for protection; Ps23:1-Specifically trusting God for provision**
- D. **We should be highly interested in faith**-We want to grow in our understanding of what faith is so that we can make sure that we actually are in faith and living by faith so that God can be our source and our shield
- II. **Becoming more developed in faith and in your knowledge of faith begins with acknowledging you don't know all there is to know about it and you have room to get better at living by faith in your life**
- A. **Oversimplifying leads to lack of understanding**-You don't pursue knowledge of things you've deemed simple
1. **People say faith is simple**-It's trusting God, but what is that? If it was so simple more would be exercising it
 2. **Simple at core, but layers of depth**-Something can be simple at it's core and yet have layers of depth
- B. **Thinking you know everything leads to lack of understanding**-Knowledge comes from pursuit and if you think you know everything there is to know about a topic you won't pursue more knowledge on it
1. **Anybody that is very knowledgeable about something** didn't get by thinking they knew everything about it, but rather acknowledge they didn't and pursued more
 2. **One of the quicksets to lack understanding** about something is to think you know everything about it
- C. **It's not what you know, but what you do**-It's not what you know about faith, but are you actually practicing faith from situation to situation and seeing your faith yield results in your life-**2Th1:3-Grew exceedingly**
- III. **What is faith? Faith is being confident and convinced that something you're expecting based off of something God said will come to pass and it's being sure of it and bold about it with no fear in sight**
- A. **The faith vs. faith in God**-These are not referring to the same thing
1. **The faith**-**1Tim4:1-In latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Jude1:3-AMP-Contend for the faith...[the faith which is the sum of Christian belief]; Thayer-The religious beliefs of Christians; Webster-A system of religious beliefs;**
 2. **Faith In God**-**Mk11:22-Have faith in God**-This is personal confidence and conviction that God will do what He said in His Word
 3. **General faith vs. Faith in God**-There's general faith in the reality and the existence of God and that Jesus is your Lord; There's faith in God that He'll be my source and shield based on what He said in His word

B. What is trust?-Trust is bold, sure, confident, firm belief, assurance

1. Trust-H982-To trust, **be confident, sure**: - **be bold** (confident, secure, sure); BDB-Have confidence, be confident, be careless; W1828-Trust-**Confidence**; a reliance or **resting** of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person; W1828-Confidence-An **assurance** of mind or **firm belief** in the integrity, stability or veracity of another; assurance of safety; boldness
2. Trust is confidence-The scripture parallels trust with confidence because they are one in the same-**Ps118:8**-*It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes*; **Mic7:5**-*Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide*; **Ph3:4**-*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more*
 - a. Genuine trust is always accompanied by confidence-If you're trusting the Lord you'll be confident
3. Trust is connected to an absence fear-The presence of trust is seen in the absence of fear-**Ps56:4,11**-*In God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me; 11 In God I have put my trust: I will not be afraid of what man can do unto me*; **Is12:2**-*God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid*
 - a. If you're being overtaken by worry and fear then you are not trusting-In that state you can want to trust and know you should be trusting and even be repenting for not trusting, but you are not trusting

C. What is faith?-**Hb11:1**-Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for-Faith is the confidence or assurance of your expectation-Substance-G5287-A setting under (support), that is (figuratively) concretely essence, or abstractly **assurance** (objectively or subjectively): - **confidence, confident**; Thayer-Confidence, **firm trust**, assurance; Things hoped for-G1679-To **expect** or confide; FromG1680-To anticipate, usually with pleasure; **expectation** (abstract or concrete) or confidence; Thayer-**Expectation of good; joyful and confident expectation**
 - a. Real faith has an expectation and confidence-If it's lacking either it's not real faith according to the Bible
2. Faith is the evidence of things not seen-Faith is being convinced about something you don't see or that you don't see yet-Evidence-G1650-Proof, **conviction**: - evidence; Thayer-A proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested From G1651-Of certain affinity; to confute, admonish: - convict, **convince**, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove

D. The basis of faith is the Word of God-Faith is to have an expectation based on the Word of God and then being confident and convinced that your expectation will come to pass; **Rm10:17**-*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*

1. Faith in God has to be based on the Word of God-You can't confidently expect God to do something He never said He would do
2. Faith or presumption-To confidently expect God to do something He didn't say is not faith it's presumption
 - a. Based on these words they can have faith to possess the land-**Ex33:1**-*The LORD said to Moses, Depart, and go up hence, you and the people which you hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: ²I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: ³Unto a land flowing with milk and honey*
 - b. Who can have faith to go into the land now?-**Nm14:22**-*Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; ²³Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: ³⁰Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. ³²But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness ³⁴...ye shall know my breach of promise.*
 - c. Confidence and conviction without the Word of God is presumption-**Nm14:40**-*⁴⁰They rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned. ⁴¹And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper. ⁴²Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. ⁴³For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you. ⁴⁴But they presumed to go up unto the hill top...⁴⁵Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah*
3. Once you've heard from God you can stake your life on it-God's word is sure footing

IV. One of the best examples of faith you'll find is in the life of the three Hebrews-Daniel 3

- A. Whatever the three Hebrews did, we know it was faith-We know that because the Bible calls it faith-**Hb11:33**-*Who through faith...quenched the violence of fire*
- B. What did they believe?-They believed if He threw them in God would deliver them-**Dn3:17**-*If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and he will deliver us out of your hand*
- C. What is the basis for their belief?-Faith has to be based on the Word of God-**Is43:2**-*When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shalt not be burnt; neither shall the flame kindle upon you*
1. If God gave them His Word should they take him at his word and believe the fire will not hurt them?
- D. They are operating in real faith-They have an expectation based on the Word of God, they are confident and convinced that they expectation they have, but can't see yet will come to pass
1. The presence of trust is seen in the absence of fear-**D3:16**-*We are not careful to answer you in this matter*
- E. But if not
1. But if not what?-When the writer doesn't specify "but if not what?" then it's the job of the reader to read on and based on the context to discern "but if not what?"; English grammar teaches you to specify "but if not what" in the text so as to not leave the reader to decide – There are 2 options so contextualize
 - a. 1.If God doesn't deliver us-If God doesn't deliver them they will be ashes at the bottom of the furnace and the option to bow will no longer be a viable one and at that point to say we won't bow is pointless
 - b. 2.If you don't throw us in-If he doesn't throw them him they'll be alive and the option to bow will still be in play and so it would be reasonable to say, "If you don't throw us in we won't worship your gods."
 2. Say what you mean: If God doesn't do what He said-Their words are based on a promise God made to Israel-If God doesn't do what He said He would do; If what God promised us in Is43:2 isn't true; If God is a liar and doesn't deliver us like He said He would; If after giving us His Word God recants on His Word
 3. Nebuchadnezzar's Anger-He gave 2 options 1) Bow and don't burn 2) Don't bow and burn; They gave 2 options 1) Throw us in and we're not bowing or burning 2) Don't throw us in and we're not bowing; He got mad because they are defying his authority by saying we're not doing either of those things (bow or burn)
 4. What is faith?-It's having an expectation from the Word and being confident and contest that it will come to pass; Trust is being sure, bold, confident, assured – But if He doesn't deliver us is none of those things, but rather it's wavering, it's vacillating, it's doubt, it's double-mindedness
- F. Real faith works-Real faith produces