

The Ten Dimensions of Faith

Faith is what we believe. It is the relationship we have with God through Jesus because of Jesus' death, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

First to understand faith you need to understand God's love for you - Agape love. This love is 100% unconditional. It is a sacrificial infinite love that God has for us.

Imagine the best father - child relationship you can think of - father to son or father to daughter. The father loves the child 100% unconditionally. Remember when you become a Christian, you become a child of God.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John

3:1

But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. *John 1:12*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. *John 3:16-17*

The original Greek translation says in John 3:16 that whoever "pisteuo" in Him... Pisteuo is Greek for the word faitheth - to have faith in. The exact translation is that whoever Faitheth in Jesus should not perish but have everlasting life. The word faitheth got dropped out of middle English hundreds of years ago and became replaced by believeth.

The bottom line is whoever faitheth in Jesus has salvation. Believeth = Faitheth = To have faith in. Whoever has faith goes to heaven.

1) **Love**— The most important dimension of faith is love. All Jesus wants is for you to love Him and to have a personal relationship with Him

We love Him because He first loved us. *1 John 4:19*

All a father really wants from his child is for that child to love him. He doesn't care if the child is a sinner or makes mistakes. All the father wants is for the child to do things with him, to talk to him, and to be involved in his life.

Jesus wants this relationship with us. Jesus wants to "know" us. We as Christians are, in fact, considered the bride of Christ. The believers in Christ are the true church, not a building or denomination.

The relationship that Christ has with us is as a husband has with a bride. It is that close of a relationship.

All Jesus wants is for the believer to love Him, and love is a decision of the heart. God gave us free will as a gift; we are not robots. Jesus can not make a human love Him. It is our decision to have a personal relationship with Him or not. It is the most important decision you will ever make in your life.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is talking to His disciples. Then one of the disciples asks Him:

“Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me.’” *Luke 13:23-27*

The word “know” in the original Greek has the meaning as a husband “knows” his bride. It is that close a relationship. Greek is a much more exact language than English. The New Testament was written in Greek by the disciples of Jesus and later translated into English.

Here, Jesus is describing the door to heaven. Only those people who Jesus knows are in heaven. My question to any person is, “Does Jesus know you?” I hope the answer is yes. In your lifetime, hopefully today, make sure Jesus knows you. Have a personal relationship with Him; want Him in your life and need Him in your life.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. *John 10:27-28*

Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:7-9*

God is love. *1 John 4:16*

“ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself’ ” *Luke 10:27*

2) **Commitment**— is extremely important. When you become a Christian you make a commitment to Christ. In love you commit your heart to someone. In Christianity, you commit your heart to Christ and give your heart over to Christ. As a Christian and a believer, your life is now committed to Christ.

Again, in the most perfect father - child relationship, the child is committed to the father and the father is committed to the child 100% unconditionally.

3) **Acceptance**— When you become a Christian, you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” *Romans 10:8-13*

You need to accept Jesus into your heart. James, the brother of Jesus, also talks about acceptance. Our relationship with Christ is more than just belief Even demons and Satan believe that Jesus is who He is. They just refuse to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. They refuse to accept Him into their lives.

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!
James 2:19

Remember you are accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. First, you are making Him Lord. Letting Him rule and guide your life - turning your life over to Him, putting Him in control. This is a tremendous relief when you put God Himself in charge of your life. You accept Christ's Lordship of your life - His God-given absolute authority. You then accept Jesus as your Savior. Only Jesus can save you. Only Jesus can give you Salvation (being in heaven with Him).

4) **Belief**- You need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ and the Messiah. Faith is what we believe. Christianity is the only belief system that makes sense. No other religion has proof of its validity. Christianity is the only religion that authenticates itself It is the only religion that tells history in advance and then it happens.

From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. *2 Timothy 3:15*

Jesus was spoken and written about for thousands of years in the Old Testament. He fulfilled over 300 conditions (requirements) for the Messiah. (See our web page regarding the 300 conditions of the Messiah fulfilled by Jesus.)

Belief is believing that Jesus is who He says He is - the Christ and the Messiah. It is also believing that Jesus is Absolute truth - that who He says He is and what He says is Absolute Truth.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." *John 14:6*

[Jesus] "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." *John 3:36*

[Jesus] "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."
John 6:47

5) **Belief without Seeing**— Faith is believing something you have not seen. We have not seen Jesus on earth in our lifetimes, yet we believe that He exists and we believe in Him.

[When Thomas the disciple saw Jesus resurrected from the dead, Jesus said to Thomas:] "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." *John 20:27-29*

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. *John 20:31*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarded of those who diligently seek Him. *Hebrews 11:6*

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. The answer to this life on Earth is that when we die, we can go to heaven and live eternally with Jesus.

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13

Even though we have not seen heaven, we as Christians, believe we are going to heaven because of our faith in Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." *John 11:25-26*

6) **Trust**— You must trust in Jesus. You must have no fear, and you must believe that God will never leave you. He will take care of you, protect you and cause no harm to come to you. You must know that everything will be OK 100%.

In any good relationship, you trust the other person.

That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:12-14

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. *Romans 8:28*

Your relationship with Jesus is one of love, trust and dependence. We know that God will do the right thing for us. He knows what is best for us. Giving your life over to Jesus is a relationship of trust. We know He will never let us down. He will also look out for us, protect us, guide us, comfort us, support us and lead us through life.

A child trusts his or her father. Jesus says in Matthew 6:8, "For your Father knows the things you need before you ask them." You have nothing to fear. God will take care of you.

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened... How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" *Luke 11:9-13*

7) **Belief in the Promise**— Jesus has promised us eternal life with Him forever. We believe that Jesus will keep His word and that He will give us the Promise of eternal life.

And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life. *1 John 2:25*

In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. *Titus 1:2*

There are three things God can not do:

- 1) He can not learn; He is God.
- 2) He can not lie.
- 3) He can not make us love Him.

God can not lie once, and He knows this. If He lies once, we can never trust Him again. If God lies to us, we can never believe in His promises to us. This belief in the promise that God gives us is so important to God that He actually holds His word above His own name. His word is Absolute Truth.

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. *Psalm 138:2*

So when God promises you eternal life, by faith in Jesus His Son, you can count on this 100%.

8) **Confidence**— We have confidence in Jesus, that He will never let us down and that He will also do the right thing for us. For example, with a chair we have confidence or faith in that chair. It won't break; it won't let us down.

We have confidence in Christ. We obtain a wonderful sense of security the moment we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The most wonderful feeling in the world is knowing 100% that you are going to heaven and that you are saved.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

This confidence of going to heaven gives the believer such a peace and joy that it is impossible to explain it to a non-believer. The eternal security of salvation to the believer is everything to him or her.

The stresses and hassles of life become extremely minor when you know that life on this Earth is but a very temporary moment and that you are going to live forever with Jesus in heaven.

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. *2 Corinthians 5:8*

9) **Knowledge of Christ**— Faith is believing and knowing that Jesus is Absolute Truth and that who He says He is and what He says is Absolute Truth. Complete faith is when you know 100% that Jesus is Absolute Truth, and our faith grows as Christians. As we get older our relationship with Christ becomes stronger and closer.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." *John 14:6*

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." *John 8:31-32*

10) **Faithfulness**— You must be loyal to Jesus. Do not follow other false gods. Your allegiance is to God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) - not to Satan, the antichrist or the false prophet. Your loyalty is to the only true living God. Do not follow the enemy called Satan or the enemies of God (such as false religions).

Be faithful to Jesus as Jesus is faithful to you. Revelation describes the Second Coming of Jesus.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True... He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. *Revelation 19:11,13*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. *John 1:1-3*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

Conclusion - I would like to close this discussion of the ten dimensions of faith with commenting on the most important aspect of faith. That is love.

The highest form of love is agape love. This is the love that Jesus has for you - 100% unconditional deep sacrificial love. Jesus gave His life for you. He died on the cross for you so that you could have salvation (life in heaven). Hopefully your love towards Him grows and develops to the level that you too have agape love for Him (a deep sacrificial love). This love is where you would do anything for Him. This occurs with very advanced faith. Not all Christians reach this level in their faith.

Remember, faith is a growing process that continues to develop in ourselves up to the moment we die and then live with Christ forever.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:17*

And receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
James 1:21

People need to hear the word of God by ministers or from other Christians who speak and witness to them. Then slowly but surely they come to understand who Jesus is and what salvation is all about. Then suddenly at some point in the individuals life, he or she is ready to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This is the most important moment in a Christians life - his or her salvation - the moment of spiritual birth into eternal life.

As a minister, I have to tell you that this is the most critical decision in your life. It determines where your soul will live for eternity.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Mark 8:36

Did you know that you can miss heaven by 1-2 feet? That's the difference between your mind and your heart. You know who Jesus is, but you don't accept Him in your heart. Don't make this mistake. Ask Jesus to come into your life and into your heart.

You must get saved to be in heaven. God wants you to be in heaven. He wants you to be His child, but it is your decision.

Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." Remember Jesus is the door to heaven and the door knob faces you. You must open the door. You need to make the first move. Salvation is your decision.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. *James 4:8*

Think of an example such as this: you see a great river. You are on one side and heaven is on the other. You need to step towards the river then Jesus will carry you across to salvation. To be in heaven you need to have TGIF - Thank God I'm Forgiven. You want to be a child of God.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. *Revelation 3:20*

Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart. Please let Him in and do it today. Jesus loves you and He wants to be in your life each and every day. Faith in Jesus is all you need to have this happen to you.

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. *2 Corinthians 6:2*