

YEAR OF GROWTH

FAITH WEEK 1

EXPLANATION

Definitions:

There are two Hebrew words that are translated as “faith.”

The first – *emun* (pronounced “ay-moon”) means “faithful, established, trusty; or, faithfulness, trustworthiness.”

The second is closely related – *emunah* – meaning “firmness, security, stability; thus, moral fidelity, steadfastness.”

The Greek word for faith – *pistis* – means, “Persuasion, credence, conviction of truth, trust; fidelity, or faithfulness.”

This word is also translated as: “assurance” (Acts 17:31), “belief” (2 Thes. 2:13), “believe” (Heb. 10:39), “believeth” (Rom. 3:26), and “fidelity” (Titus 2:10).

Day One – Sunday

Think about the definitions of the words that God used to describe faith. Pray for wisdom in understanding correctly God’s terms. Examine yourself. Do you possess this characteristic? Do you need to grow stronger in it? Pray for strength as you prepare for a week of study.

Day Two – Monday

Deuteronomy 32:1-20

The first time the word “faith” is found in the Bible (KJV) is in Deut. 32:20. Surprisingly, it is a statement about those who have “no faith”! In this chapter, Moses describes all the good things that God had done for the children of Israel. Yet, they disobeyed Him, rebelled against Him, and worshipped idolatrous gods!

How does this passage help explain the meaning of “faith”? How does it help to define the term?

Day Three – Tuesday

Habakkuk 2:1-4

The only other time the word “faith” is found in the Old Testament is Habakkuk 2:4. This verse shows that faith is necessary to be “just” – that is, righteous before God. It also teaches that faith is something one lives by – it influences every aspect of one’s life. Finally, it states that faith cannot be present in a heart lifted up with pride. Faith demands humility and submission to God.

This verse is quoted three times in the New Testament – Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38. It would be good to write these verses out and commit them to memory. Each one details a different aspect of the faithful life – Justification, Trust, and Steadfastness.

Day Four – Wednesday

Exodus 17:8-16

This passage contains the first use of the Hebrew word translated as “faith” in Habakkuk 2:4. It is found in verse 12, rendered as “steady.” With the support of Aaron and Hur, the hands of Moses were steady – that is, “faithful.”

How does this help us understand the idea of faith? Do we sometimes need support in our faith? Should we help encourage others in their faithfulness?

Day Five – Thursday

Matthew 8:1-13

The word “faith” is found 245 times in the New Testament. This passage contains its first use in the New Testament. *{Actually, the word “faith” is found first in Matthew 6:30. However, that Greek word refers to those who did not trust – those “of little faith.” It is interesting to note the differences between those described in these two passages.}*

How did the Centurion demonstrate faith? What do his words and actions teach about the meaning of faith?

Day Six – Friday

Hebrews 11:1-6

How does the writer of Hebrews describe faith in verse 1? How does faith fill the role described here? How do the examples of Abel and Enoch help to explain faith? How does verse 6 define faith?

Galatians 5:6

According to this verse, what two other things are involved in one’s faith?

Day Seven – Saturday

2 Peter 1:5-8

The Christian Graces are all built upon faith. Faith is the starting point and the foundational characteristic of the Christian life. Everything begins with faith and faith permeates all that the disciple of Jesus thinks, says, or does. We should pray as the Apostles did, “Lord, increase our faith” (Luke 17:5).