



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#115)
Defective faith: Dead, lifeless faith. (2)

DEFECTIVE FAITH

⇒ Is this my FAITH?

- Genuine fact-based living FAITH is a saving faith.
- But what if my faith is...

✓ Defective in its **FACT** foundation?

- ✓ **False** (= deception)
- ✓ **Rejected** (= unbelief)
- ✓ **Missing** (= ignorance) TODAY (PT. 2)

✓ Defective in its **LIVING** expression?

- ✓ **Small** (= "little faith")
- ✓ **Wavering** (= doubt)
- ✓ **Absent** (= not there)

THE ABSENCE OF A LIVING FAITH.

In many respects, ALL the different types of defective faith belong in this category.

SOME have no fact foundation on which to build a living faith.

OTHERS have some form of a fact foundation (often weak and crumbling), and possibly an attempt at expressing life (wavering, defective, temporary).

NONE reach the point of having a fact-based, living faith.

EVEN THE BEST "FACTS-ONLY" FAITH:

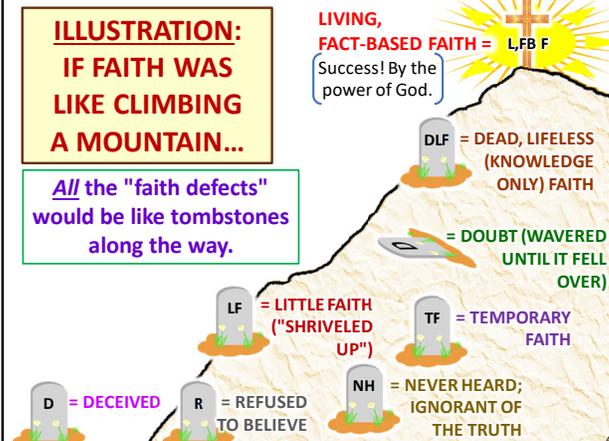
- ✓ It may accept facts that are a part of genuine faith.
- ✓ It may look more like the genuine, than do the other types of defective faith.

★ BUT IT'S STILL AS DEAD AS THE REST. ★

ILLUSTRATION: IF FAITH WAS LIKE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN...

LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH = L,FB F
(Success! By the power of God.)

All the "faith defects" would be like tombstones along the way.



- DLF** = DEAD, LIFELESS (KNOWLEDGE ONLY) FAITH
- D** = DECEIVED
- R** = REFUSED TO BELIEVE
- NH** = NEVER HEARD; IGNORANT OF THE TRUTH
- LF** = LITTLE FAITH ("SHRIVELED UP")
- TF** = TEMPORARY FAITH
- = DOUBT (WAVERED UNTIL IT FELL OVER)**

The Bible says a lot about people "not believing" – and it can occur at different "levels."

- ✓ Some never had the faith.
- ✓ Some are exposed to the faith, but reject it.

... not everyone shares our faith.
2 Thessalonians 3:2b (GW)

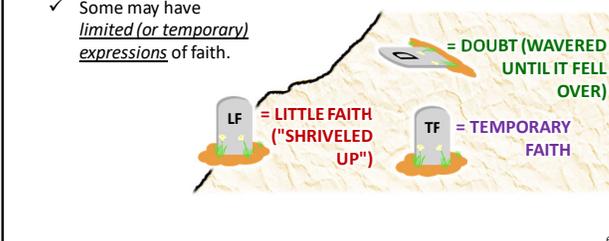


- ✓ Some will abandon the faith. (They had it and left it.)

ESPECIALLY IN TIMES LIKE OURS:

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV)

- ✓ Some may have limited (or temporary) expressions of faith.



✓ Some won't oppose the faith facts, but will fail to live them. (They may also be involved in religious activities.)

"The scribes and the Pharisees teach with Moses' authority. So be careful to do everything they tell you. But don't follow their example, because they don't practice what they preach."
Matthew 23:2-3 (GW)

DLF = DEAD, LIFELESS (KNOWLEDGE ONLY) FAITH

IT'S MORE THAN JUST KNOWING GOD'S WILL. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

THE END RESULT OF KNOWING WITHOUT DOING: "Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"
Matthew 7:23 (NIV)

✓ Only those with a living, fact-based faith will reach the goal.

LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH = L,FB F
(Success! By the power of God.)

... because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.
1 Peter 1:9 (NET)

⇒ **HOW WILL THEY DO IT?** Only by relying on the power of God!

THEY PUT FORTH THE NEEDED EFFORT... ... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14 (NIV)

... AWARE THAT GOD IS AT WORK IN THEM. ... God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Ephesians 3:20b (GW)

People can have many REASONS for NOT having a LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH...

1. They may be following false teachers and their lies.

- Going after false teaching.
 - ... what is falsely called knowledge. By professing it, some people have departed from the faith.
1 Timothy 6:20b-21a (CSB)
 - ... those who indulge in [godless chatter] will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. [They] have departed from the truth... and they destroy the faith of some.
2 Timothy 2:16b-18 (NIV)
- Opposing the truth (and its power).
 - [People] having a form of godliness but denying its power. ... [who] oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.
2 Timothy 3:5a, 8b (NIV)

2. They may be unwilling to accept the truth.

- Enjoying signs and wonders... but not interested in the realities that the signs and wonders point to.
 - Although they had seen Jesus perform so many miracles, they wouldn't believe in him. **THEY SHOULD HAVE PAID ATTENTION – JOHN 10:38.**
John 12:37 (GW)
- Not accepting even Jesus' words – which proves that they are not God's children.
 - "For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. ... So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."
John 8:44a, 45-47 (NLT)

- Rejecting eyewitness testimony – especially when it goes against their expectations.
 - EVEN SOME OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS WERE GUILTY OF THIS... BUT ONLY FOR A WHILE.** And when they heard that [Jesus] was alive and had been seen ... they did not believe. After this [Jesus] appeared in a different form to two [others]. They went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.
Mark 16:11-13 (NET)
(See John 20:25, 29 for another example.)
 - I WASN'T THERE. SO YOU CAN'T SAY I REJECTED THE EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY!**
 - THE BIBLE GIVES YOU AN ACCURATE RECORD OF IT! IF YOU REJECT THE RECORD YOU HAVE NOW, YOU WOULD HAVE REJECTED THE TESTIMONY BACK THEN.**

3. Their unbelief may be the result of previous defective faith.

- Unbelief in one matter may result in unbelief in another matter.
 - If I [Jesus] have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe, if I tell you about heavenly things?
John 3:12 (CSB)
 - You don't have [God's] word residing in you, because you don't believe the one he sent. [= Jesus]
John 5:38 (CSB)
 - "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what Moses wrote, how will you believe my words?"
John 5:46-47 (NET)
- The wavering of doubt is not compatible with the steadfastness of trust in God. You can't have both – Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-24.

4. Their focus may be on things that are incompatible with faith.

- A love for money. (See also Matthew 6:24.)
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the **faith** ...
1 Timothy 6:10a (NIV)
- Love for the praise of people.
How can you **believe** when you accept each other's praise and don't look for the praise that comes from the only God?
John 5:44 (GW)
- Fear of circumstances – not trusting God to take care of them.
Then [Jesus] said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no **faith**?"
Mark 4:40 (CSB); see also Luke 8:25.
- Moral compromise.
For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their **faith** has been shipwrecked.
1 Timothy 1:19b (NLT)

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5. If they did have faith, it was temporary.

- Destroyed/overturned because of following false teachers.
[False teachers]... who have departed from the truth... and they destroy the **faith** of some.
2 Timothy 2:18 (NIV)
- Shipwrecked because of moral compromise.
For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their **faith** has been shipwrecked.
1 Timothy 1:19b (NLT)
- Abandoned because of persecution.
They believe for a while, but when their **faith** is tested, they abandon it.
Luke 8:13b (GW)
- Proven to be fake (in the case of false teachers).
... these teachers oppose the truth. ... men of depraved minds, who, as far as the **faith** is concerned, are rejected.
2 Timothy 3:8b (NIV)

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YES...

People can have many REASONS for NOT having a LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH ...

But regardless of the reason for it...

NO reason is good.

Furthermore,

NONE of the CONSEQUENCES are good.

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The are many CONSEQUENCES for NOT having a LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH...

1. It creates a barrier – hostility between us and God.

- It's impossible for us to please God.
No one can please God without **faith**.
Hebrews 11:6a (GW)
- It's proof that God's Word is not in us.
You don't have his word residing in you, because you don't **believe** the one he sent.
John 5:38 (CSB)
- By not believing what God says, we are basically calling him a liar.
Whoever does not **believe** God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not **believed** the testimony God has given about his Son.
1 John 5:10b (NIV)

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2. It results in a horrible judgment.

- We are already condemned.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, ... but whoever does not **believe** is condemned already, because he has not **believed** in the name of the only Son of God."
John 3:16a, 18b (ESV)
- The Holy Spirit (who has now come) also convicts us as guilty.
And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not **believe** in me; ...
John 16:8-9 (ESV)
- Like the religious people of Jesus' day, we will die in our sins.
"Thus I told you that you will die in your sins. For unless you **believe** that I am he, you will die in your sins."
1 John 8:24 (NET)

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- Like the religious people of Paul's day, we will perish. [in this passage, Paul quotes prophecy as a warning.]

"Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not **believe**, even if one tells it to you."
Acts 13:41 (ESV)

- Like many of the Israelites in the wilderness, we will be destroyed.

The Lord once saved his people from Egypt. But on another occasion he destroyed those who didn't **believe**.
Jude 1:5b (GW)

(According to Jude, we should learn from what happened to Israel. He later tells us what will happen if we *don't* learn this lesson.)

"The Lord has come with countless thousands of his holy angels. He has come to judge all these people. He has come to convict all these ungodly sinners for all the ungodly things they have done and all the harsh things they have said about him."
Jude 1:14b-15 (GW)

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Is there ever a time when "NOT believing" is good?

Only when it involves not believing something false.
Then, "not believing" is mandatory.

- ✓ Don't blindly accept (= trust) what people tell you; first determine the spirit that controls them.

Dear friends, **do not believe** every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
1 John 4:1 (CSB)
- ✓ Don't follow (= trust) people who are said to be the "answer" ("Messiah") to the world's problems.

"Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' **don't believe** it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones."
Mark 13:21-22 (NLT)

When it involves God, the Bible, righteousness, truth, and similar matters, the absence of a LIVING fact-based faith is ALWAYS sin.

DON'T BELIEVE THIS MERELY BECAUSE I SAID SO... BUT BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO! **HERE IS WHAT JESUS SAYS:**

LIFE! → "Therefore everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

NO LIFE! → But everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."
Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION:

What will YOUR faith be like?

JESUS LEAVES US WITH A QUESTION TO PONDER:

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
Luke 18:8b (NIV)

PAUL SHOWS US HOW TO FIND THE ANSWER:

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?
2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

WHY would anyone who claims to **BELIEVE** the truth choose to not **LIVE** by the truth?

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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