

March 4, 2012

Intro: Faith, is in the list of three things which I Cor. 13:13 says, will never fade away. We began this week by reviewing the purpose of faith. Faith is relational by nature, which automatically eliminates much of the thinking and “catch phrases” we’ve often used to conceptualize its purpose and function.

We considered the following scriptures, **in their following order**, prior to launching into our study on faith, with the intention of setting the course of our study on the relational nature of faith in view.....

1. **Heb. 12:2** – originates with Jesus and matures by His guidance and direct involvement.
2. **Jn. 5:39** – the logos of the scriptures have NO LIFE – they lead you TO LIFE – Who is Christ.
3. **Gal. 3:21** – The whole purpose of the new birth is not to bring righteousness to the unrighteous, but to bring life to the dead.
4. **Jn. 17:3** – You know this one right? “*This is eternal life that they might KNOW...*”
5. **II Cor. 5:17-21** – the purpose of ‘The Faith’ is reconciliation, or to use Jesus’ words, “for **Life**”.

Key Words:

4102 - *Pistis* πίστις

gen. *písteōs*, fem. **noun** from *peithō* (G3982), to win over, persuade. Faith.

Subjectively - meaning firm persuasion, conviction, belief in the truth, veracity, reality or faithfulness (though rare).

Objectively - meaning that which is believed, doctrine, the received articles of faith.

4100 - *Pisteuo* πιστεύω

pisteuō; fut. *pisteúsō*, from *pístis* (G4102), faith. To believe, have faith in, trust. NT meanings:

(I) Particularly, to be firmly persuaded as to something, to believe, With the idea of hope **and certain expectation** (Acts 18:8).

(II) Of God, to believe in God, to trust in Him as **able and willing** to help and answer prayer. Generally, to believe in the declarations and character of God as made known in the gospel by the inward revelation from the Holy Spirit of God - with the dat. (John 5:24; Acts 16:34; 1Jn. 5:10). Followed by *eis*, in, with the acc., meaning to believe and rest upon, to believe in and profess (1Pet. 1:21); by *epí*, on, with the acc. (Rom. 4:24).

(III) Of a messenger from God, to believe on and trust in him (rather, when applied to a merely human messenger of God, to credit and trust him, as coming from God and acting under divine authority).

Stir-up Sheet:

We spent our entire time dealing with 4102 along with brief references to 4100 by way of comparison. So these questions are geared towards 4102.

1. What are some words or phrases which typically appear with this word for faith?
2. Does this word usually describe faith as a relational term or as a method, tool and principle?
3. Is 4102 ever used as true saving faith?
4. As far as results go, is there necessarily any real difference between 4102 and 4100?
5. Grammatically, 4102 functions as:
 - a. Noun
 - b. Verb
 - c. Adverb
 - d. Adjective
 - e. Pronoun
 - f. I have no idea what you are talking about (This is the wrong answer even if it is true).
6. 4102 as a word for faith – is used 244 times in the New Testament. Since all scripture is inspired by God, 4102 (as distinct from 4100) **MUST** be important. So, what purpose does it serve in scripture?
7. Just because 4102 presents faith as though it were a means to an end or a tool – do you think that this was the actual idea God was trying to get across? Why or why not?
8. What WAS God trying to get across by using 4102 instead of 4100?
9. Is it safe to always take the Bible literally?
10. Is it safe to always believe what the Bible teaches?
11. What is the difference between these two questions? (See Matt. 5:45; Ps. 91:4)
12. What does 4102 mean in the following verse? **Romans 1:5** .
13. When 4102 is used in the following scriptures, what does that mean? (**Mark 11:22; Rom. 3:21,22; Eph. 3:12.**)