

# THE NATURE OF BIBLICAL FAITH

## I. THE WAYS FAITH IS USED IN SCRIPTURE

1. Faith is used in a **general way** to refer to those things both **naturally** and **supernaturally** revealed to us by God (Heb. 11:1, 3, 6; Ps. 19:1-14; Rom. 1:18-22; 10:9-17).
2. There is **foundational faith** (upon which all other truths are dependent) and **saving faith**. Without foundational faith, there can be no saving faith!

**CERTAIN DOCTRINAL TRUTHS**

**UNCERTAIN FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS**

3. Scripture records at least seven distinct ways in which "faith" is used, five of which (the first five in my listing) play an indispensable role in man's salvation.

- 1) It is used simply as "belief" (John 12:42; Heb. 11:6);
- 2) Faith sometimes means "trust" (John 14:1; Rom. 4:17-20);
- 3) It often refers primarily to "obedience" (Num. 20:12; John 3:36, ASV; Heb. 10:39; Rom. 1:5, 8; 16:25-26);
- 4) It refers frequently to steadfastness, loyalty, or "faithfulness" (Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:9; Heb. 10:23, 38; Rev. 2:10);
- 5) Faith is used objectively to the content of faith; hence, it is termed "the faith" (Rom. 10:9; Jude 3; Gal. 1:11, 23);
- 6) Faith is sometimes used of a strong personal conviction (Rom. 14:2, 23); and
- 7) Faith is sometimes used of a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:8-9; Matt. 17:20; 1 Cor. 13:2).

## II. VARIOUS FALSE THEORIES OF FAITH.

1. Faith is prior to knowledge, and all knowledge is based on faith.

2. Faith and knowledge are not only distinct, but separate.

3. Knowledge is restricted to sense perception; faith is based upon testimony.

### **III. THE NATURE OF BIBLICAL FAITH.**

1. The Bible is nowhere opposed to "proofs" as is the case with some of our contemporary apologists.

2. The Bible nowhere opposes faith to knowledge.

3. The Bible nowhere teaches that knowledge is restricted to sense perception.

4. Faith is the "volitional commitment of an informed intellect."

