



*“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”*

## **The Hebrew Root of Faith**

Unfortunately, the word faith is one of the most commonly misunderstood words in the Bible. Even in the English language, the word faith is used in so many ways that it really carries a very subjective understanding. In a lot of ways, it can be difficult to make sense of the word.

When attempting to define Biblical words it makes sense to determine how our Creator originally gave us the word in the language He chose to use.

The word for “*faith*” in the Hebrew is “*emunah*” (H530). It is often translated as faithfulness, steadiness, or trustworthiness.

We see the first occurrence in Exodus 17.

### **Exodus 17:12**

But Moses’ hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady (*emunah*) until the going down of the sun.

And then we see it in Deuteronomy:

### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

The word “*emunah*” is linguistically rooted in the Hebrew word “*amon*,” meaning “*secure*” or “*firm*.”

This word is used in Isaiah 22:23 for a nail that is fastened to a “*secure*” place.

### **Isaiah 22:23**

And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father’s house.

Isaiah 7:9 uses “*amon*” in an interesting way, three times in one sentence, demonstrating the linkage

between “*firmness*” and “*faith*.”

### **Isaiah 7:9**

If you are not firm (*amon*) in faith (*amon*), you will not be firm (*amon*) at all.

The word for craftsman is “*emun*” and is also linguistically rooted in the Hebrew word for faith, “*emunah*”

A craftsman is so secure and firm in his knowledge or skill that he demonstrates that knowledge or skill by what he does.

Perhaps now you can see how that is fitting with the Biblical definition of faith.

In modern theology, faith is loosely attached to hope or knowledge, or hope based on knowledge. This definition is merely a mental exercise and is not attached to any real change in behavior.

Real biblical faith is one who is so secure and firm in what He understands as truth that he practices that truth.

That is why James said the following:

### **James 2:18-26**

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

In this, James was discerning the difference between the Greek understanding of faith, and the Hebraic understanding of faith, something that many still struggle with today.

In this, James is not teaching that our works saves us, but simply iterating that true faith in the Word of God will be evidenced by those who desire to practice the Word of God, and then do the Word of God.

This is why our Messiah said, “*You shall know them by their fruits.*” Those in the faith will do the works set forth by our Creator as outlined in the Word.

John said something similar. John starts off here by reminding us that our sins are covered should we sin, however, those that are truly in the faith will live a lifestyle or walk that resembles the Word of God.

### **1 John 2:1-6**

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, (Yeshua HaMashiach) Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by

this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

All of this understanding of faith is rooted in the Torah.

Paul took note of this in Romans 10:6, in which he said:

”But the righteousness based on faith says...”

And then he proceeds to quote Deuteronomy 30 to define the righteousness that comes from our faith.

So since Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30, we should perhaps read it to understand this righteousness.

### **Deuteronomy 30:11-15**

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules...

So according to Paul, the righteousness of faith is rooted in obeying the commandments.

If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules...

Again, this is not to say that our obedience saves us.

Our firm faith in the Word of God leads to our salvation by His grace, however our firm faith, if true faith, also yield obedience to our Creator’s instructions.

Faith is seen. It is evidenced by our behavior. If we have faith, then those around us should see the Word of God in our actions.

### **Hebrews 11:1**

Now **faith** is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Faith is not what is hoped for. Faith, according to the author of Hebrews, is not the thing which is not seen. It is not invisible. It is certainly not blind. It is not something that we are trying to get. Faith is the “*substance*” and “*evidence*.”

It is through our faith that the Law of God should become established and a part of our daily lives:

**Romans 3:31**

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

EMAIL: [Info@119ministries.com](mailto:Info@119ministries.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/119Ministries](http://www.facebook.com/119Ministries)

WEBSITE: [www.TestEverything.net](http://www.TestEverything.net) & [www.ExaminaloTodo.net](http://www.ExaminaloTodo.net)

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/119Ministries#](https://twitter.com/119Ministries#)