

## **Problems, trials, testing of faith producing genuine faith and where does faith come from?**

Recap – Last meeting we talked about the importance of faith and being careful not to drift away and to hold fast without wavering to hope. Believe and continue to believe! **Heb. 10:23 (AMPC); Col. 1:23 (NLT)**. We dug into **Heb. 10:19-39 (AMPC)** which addressed the Apostate but had good news at vs. 39 (*But you true believers are not like that*). We talked about the four soils explained in **Matt. 13:18-23**. Soil 1 = Don't understand or receive. Soil 2,3 = Receive but does not remain or take root, bares no fruit. Soil 4 = Those who truly hear and understand. True believers produce a harvest much more than what was planted. We had some good discussion about what conditioned the soil of our hearts prior to salvation. Now I want to dig a bit more into faith.

### **1. Problems, trials and testing of faith**

- a) In the middle of **Rom. 5:1-11** discussed above we have this section in **Rom. 5:3-4 (NLT)** that talks about rejoicing when we run into problems? Why should we rejoice about trials and problems? Because they build endurance and strength of character and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. **Rom. 5:3-4 (AMPC)** explains it better: *“...pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unwavering endurance. Endurance develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity) and this character produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.”*
- b) **Testing of your faith will show if your faith is genuine.** - Let's read through **Jas. 1:2-4 (AMPC)** and **1 Pet. 1:3-10 (AMPC)** and see how they line up with **Rom. 5:3-4**. Also, in **Heb. 10:22-25** we see a way to make it through these trials. Note the *“seize and hold fast and retain without wavering”* in **Heb. 10:23**. And to go along with this: **Col. 1:23 (NLT)** – *“Continue to believe, stand firm, don't drift away.”*

### **2. Where does this faith come from?**

Author and finisher of our faith. **Heb.12:2 (KJV/AMPC)**. Read and discuss...

- a) Author of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] – He is the creator of our faith. We hear the good news about Christ dying on the cross for our sins and it gives us an incentive to believe in Him. Hearing creates faith. **Rom. 10:17 (NLT)** *“Faith comes by hearing the good news about Christ.”* I see this as the measure of faith we all have been given from God our creator from birth then when we hear the good news about Christ we can access this faith to believe in or reject Jesus Christ. God wants all men to be saved and he wants them to believe in His son. (**1 Tim. 2:3-4**). And there is also the Father in Heaven drawing us to the Son (**Jn. 6:44 AMPC**) giving us a measure of faith and the “first incentive for our belief”. The Father wants us to choose/believe in the Son so we can receive salvation.
- b) Finisher of our faith [bringing it to maturity and perfection] - being conformed to the image of Christ after salvation.
- c) **Rom. 10:9-10 (AMPC)**. With faith we Confess with our mouth and believe with your heart that Jesus is Lord. With our heart we believe (adheres to, trusts in, and rely on Christ) and

as a result are justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God). With our mouth we confess (declares openly and speak out freely our faith) and confirms [our] salvation.

- d) **Rom. 15:13 (NLT)** – Paul’s prayer for believers: *filled completely with joy and peace and overflowing with confident hope.*
- e) **Eph. 3:16-19 (AMPC)** – Paul’s prayer for believers: *strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit. Christ dwelling in your hearts through your faith. To fully understand the breadth, length, height and depth of God's love and to really come to know the love of Christ which far surpasses mere knowledge and to become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.*
- f) **Rom. 12:12 (NLT)** - "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying." Believers have a confident hope.
- g) **2 Thes. 2:16-17 (NLT)** - Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope. The prayer by Paul in vs. 17 (AMPC) – "*May God Comfort and encourage your hearts and strengthen them [make them steadfast and keep them unswerving] in every good work and word.*"
- h) **1 Jn. 5:11-13 (NLT)** – Those who believe in Christ have eternal life.
- i) **Eph. 1:16-21 (AMPC)** – Another prayer of Paul’s for believers: that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, insight into mysteries and secrets, deep and intimate knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, that you can know and understand what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength.

**Where will be heading next in our upcoming meetings:**

*Our union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit because we believe in Christ and*

*The Finished Work of the Cross (what was finished? What was the work?*

Homework: Read through the following scriptures on faith:

**Mark 1:15; John 3:1-8,16-17,36, 4:10-14, 5:24, 6:29,40,47,63, 10:28, 11:25-26, 14:6, 15:15, 17:3, 20:31; Acts 3:19, 4:12, 16:17,31; Romans 3:23-24, 5:1-2,15, 6:23, 10:3, 9-13, 17, 15:13; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 3:14; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:8-10, 2:13-15, 3:12; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 11:1-6; 1 John 4:15, 5:4-5.**

See also these two articles I have written that go along with faith. Something to slowly digest: "[Believe in Him](#)".

## **Deeper Study:**

This is a breakdown of the homework noted above.

No, not all of these passages explicitly use the words "faith" or "believe," but every single one relates directly to the biblical theme of faith—either by teaching it outright, showing its object (Jesus Christ), contrasting it with works, or describing its results and implications.

Here's a quick breakdown to show the connection:

**Directly mention "faith," "believe," or equivalent (confess, trust in Christ for salvation):**

- Mark 1:15 (believe the gospel)
- John 3:16-17, 36; 5:24; 6:29, 40, 47; 11:25-26; 20:31 (all center on believing in Jesus for eternal life)
- Acts 16:31 (believe in the Lord Jesus)
- Romans 5:1-2 (justified by faith); 10:9-13, 17 (believe/confess, faith comes by hearing); 15:13 (hope through believing)
- Galatians 2:16 (justified by faith in Christ)
- Ephesians 1:13-14 (believed and sealed); 2:8-10 (saved by grace through faith, not works); 3:12 (bold access through faith in Him)
- Hebrews 11:1-6 (classic definition and examples of faith)
- 1 John 4:15 (confesses Jesus); 5:4-5 (whoever believes Jesus is the Son overcomes the world)

**Do not use the word "faith" or "believe" explicitly but clearly tie into the faith message:**

- John 3:1-8 (born again by the Spirit—regeneration that accompanies true faith)
- John 4:10-14 (Jesus offers living water leading to eternal life—points to receiving Him)
- John 6:63 (the Spirit gives life; Jesus' words are spirit and life—context is believing His hard teaching)
- John 10:28 (eternal security—no one can snatch believers from His hand)
- John 14:6 (Jesus is the only way to the Father—salvation is through Him alone)
- John 15:15 (Jesus calls believers friends, revealing the Father—intimacy that flows from faith/abiding)
- John 17:3 (eternal life is knowing God and Jesus—true faith results in relational knowledge of God)
- Acts 3:19 (repent and turn to God—repentance is the flip side of faith)
- Acts 4:12 (salvation in no other name—implies trusting in Jesus alone)
- Acts 16:17 (proclaims the way of salvation—context of believing)
- Romans 3:23-24 (all sin, justified freely by grace—sets up faith vs. works)
- Romans 5:15 (grace gift through Christ)
- Romans 6:23 (wages of sin vs. gift of eternal life in Christ)

- Romans 10:3 (failing to submit to God's righteousness—contrast to faith)
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 (Christ became our righteousness, sanctification, redemption)
- 1 Corinthians 3:14 (works tested; reward for what endures—built on the foundation of faith in Christ)
- Ephesians 2:13-15 (brought near by Christ's blood, made one new man—reconciliation received by faith)
- 2 Timothy 1:9 (saved by grace, not works)
- Titus 3:5 (saved by mercy and washing of regeneration, not works)

Overall, this is an excellent curated list for a study on faith. The passages that don't use the exact word still reinforce the core gospel truth: salvation and eternal life come by grace through faith in Christ alone, not by human effort, and faith produces fruit like knowing God, security, and overcoming. None of them are off-topic—they all illuminate different facets of what faith means and how it operates.

### **Even Deeper study:**

**Note/Disclaimer:** Below is an A.I. response to my challenging question and is pulling from the entire text of the Bible in these versions AMP, AMPC, ESV, KJV, NASB, NIV, as well as many commentaries, it is always wise to dig into the Word of God yourself and read the scriptures in full context while allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you as you dive in. Ask this same question yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth as you dig into the word for the answers. Use the question and answer below for deeper study and a starting point for your own study.

To go along with our study, I asked A.I. to reconcile **Jas. 1:2-4 (AMPC)** and **1 Pet. 1:3-10 (AMPC)** with **Rom. 5:3-4; Heb. 10:22-25** and **Col. 1:23 (NLT)**.

### **A.I.'s answer:**

This is a powerful collection of scriptures that creates a comprehensive "roadmap" for the Christian experience of trials. When you lay these passages side-by-side, they form a clear progression: the **purpose** of the trial, the **internal result** of the trial, and the **practical strategy** for navigating it.

Here is a summation and reconciliation of these texts.

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#### **1. The Purpose: Refining the "Gold" of Faith**

While **James 1** and **Romans 5** focus on the internal character built by trials, **1 Peter 1** explains the "why" behind the intensity.

- **1 Peter 1:6-7 (AMPC):** Peter compares faith to gold. Just as gold is put into a furnace to burn away impurities, our faith is tested by "trials of various kinds." The goal isn't destruction, but proof of genuineness.
- **The Reconciliation:** James and Paul (in Romans) pick up where Peter leaves off. If the trial is the "furnace," then the resulting "patience" and "character" are the pure gold that remains.

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## 2. The Process: The Chain Reaction of Growth

There is a striking mathematical-like precision in how James and Paul describe the progression of a trial. They essentially argue that a trial is not a dead end, but a starting line.

Scripture	The Starting Point	The Process	The Final Result
James 1:2-4	Trials of many kinds	Testing of faith Endurance/Patience	Completeness, lacking nothing.
Romans 5:3-4	Tribulation/Pressure	Patience Character/Experience	Hope that does not disappoint.

**The Summation:** Both authors agree that the "joy" mentioned in James 1:2 isn't about the pain itself, but about the **guaranteed output**. We can be "full of joy" because we know the "machinery" of God's grace takes the "raw material" of trouble and turns it into "mature character."

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## 3. The Strategy: How to "Hold Fast"

You noted **Hebrews 10** and **Colossians 1**, which move the conversation from *theology to action*. If James, Paul, and Peter describe the "process," these verses describe our "posture" during that process.

Seize and Hold Fast (Hebrews 10:22-25)

The AMPC uses the word "seize." This implies a "violent" or intense grip. When trials create "wavering" (the feeling of being tossed by waves), Hebrews gives us three anchors:

1. **The Vertical:** Draw near with a "true heart" (v. 22).
2. **The Internal:** "Seize and hold fast" your confession (v. 23). This is a mental and verbal refusal to let go of God's promises.
3. **The Horizontal:** "Stir up" and "assemble" (v. 24-25). You cannot "hold fast" in isolation; the community provides the extra strength to keep you from drifting.

Stand Firm and Don't Drift (Colossians 1:23)

The NLT phrasing here is the perfect bookend. If Hebrews tells us to *clutch* the truth, Colossians tells us where to *plant our feet*.

- **"Continue to believe":** This is the intellectual decision.
- **"Stand firm":** This is the emotional/spiritual stability.
- **"Don't drift away":** This acknowledges that drifting is often subtle. We don't usually jump away from hope; we slowly leak it until we find ourselves far from the "Good News."

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The Synthesis: A Unified View

Reconciling these verses gives us a "Full Cycle of Faith":

**The Trial (1 Pet 1)** tests the quality of your faith **The Pressure (Rom 5)** produces a refined patience **The Endurance (Jas 1)** leads to a finished, mature character **The Strategy (Heb 10 / Col 1)** is to actively seize the promise and lean on the community so that you don't drift before the process is complete.

The "seizing" in Hebrews 10 is what allows the "patience" in James 1 to finish its work. Without the active "holding fast," we might exit the "furnace" of the trial before the gold is fully refined.