

Building a Biblical Faith
Lesson 3 - Build Your Faith in God
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Introduction: Most people do not have a correct concept of the one true God.

- A. The Old Testament prophets would try to reason with those who worshipped idols.
1. Think! Is this what God is really like? (**Isa 44:16-20**)
 2. Idolaters did not want the knowledge of God in their thoughts.
 3. They did not know God and their lives showed it. (**Gal 4:8; 1 Thess 4:4-5**)

“The essence of idolatry is the attempt to make God manageable.”

- B. Sadly there is the same problem facing people today by that which is falsely called “Christianity”.
1. One may speak of a “Jesus” that is “another Jesus”. (**2 Cor 11:3-4**)
 2. The man who knows God will show it in his life. (**Titus 1:16; 1 Jn 4:7-8**)

I. We have faith in a God who is able.

- A. When we begin to know and trust the true God we cannot imagine the power that He can bring into our lives. (**Eph 3:20-21**)
1. The key is not God but our faith. God will always be faithful. (**Mt 21:21-22**)
 2. God is described as faithful, able and just. Why? So that we might believe, obey and be blessed.

B. God is able to accomplish His will without the proud. (Mt 3:8-9)

1. God will not help the proud! (**1 Pt 5:5-6**)

“God will inevitably appear to disappoint the man who is attempting to use him as a convenience, a prop, or a comfort for his own plans. God has never been known to disappoint the man who is sincerely wanting to cooperate with his own purposes.”

2. We need to be careful not to let our experience as “members of the church” cause us to be blind to our sins and make us think that God serves us.
3. How can men be leaders and then justify obvious wrongs? (**Jn 18:28**)

C. God is able to deliver us from temptation that overwhelms. (Heb 2:17-18)

1. We need to see the real danger we face from Satan. (**Lk 22:31; Mt 6:13**)
2. The overconfident think they have no need. Here is where Satan wins.
3. God’s very nature is emphasized in this promise. (**1 Cor 10:12-13**)
4. If we do not know the struggle and threat of sin then we may not be trying at all.

D. God is able to forgive us when we repent and turn to Him. (Psa 51:7-12)

1. God is faithful to forgive us!
2. We are baptized with faith in His promises. (**Acts 2:21, 38-39, 22:16**)
3. We confess our sins for forgiveness of a God who is faithful. (**1 Jn 1:7-9**)
4. Have you ever doubted the forgiveness of a man? (Ex. Joseph’s brothers)
5. We need the assurance that God gives us in His word. HE is able!

E. God is able to increase our faith and make us stronger. (Jude 24-25)

1. Do you remember what it was like when you first became a Christian?
2. Please remember this warning to those who see as men do. (**Rom 14:4**)
3. Let us be tools in this great work! (**Rom 15:1**)

4. We each should go through a process from being weak and vulnerable to being strong and knowledgeable. (**Acts 20:32; Rom 16:25-27**)
5. The test of this growth will be seen in action. (**2 Cor 9:8**)

F. God is able to bring us to an eternal place with Him. (2 Tim 1:12)

1. We are looking to be raised from the dead to be with Christ. (**Phil 3:21**)
2. We cannot know how to live until we know how to die.

II. We trust in God's light as our only guide

A. Jesus set the example of how we handle the light from God.

1. Jesus whole life was focused on "doing the will of the Father who sent Me." (**Jn 5:19-21, 30**)
2. There was not a single thing Jesus did without the fellowship and authority of the Father. (**Jn 8:28-29**)
3. Jesus' light was delivered in the form of words. They were recorded for us to see and respond to. Jesus showed us the response He expects! (**Jn 12:46-50**)

B. From these verses Jesus teaches us how to view and handle His word.

1. If we do not have positive authority from God's word then we do nothing!
2. God has given us "all things" for us to follow.
3. The respect we have for Jesus' word is the respect we have for Jesus.
4. Are you following the footsteps of Jesus?

C. Consider the implications of the inspiration of God's word. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

1. What does perfect mean? What does "every good work" mean?
2. What should we do when the Bible does not speak on a subject?
 - a. Some say it is allowable as long as the Bible does not condemn it.
 - b. Jesus taught us to do nothing that is not to practice it.
3. We are not allowed to act when the Bible is silent! (**Col 3:17**)

D. As a young man I started a Bible reading on my own one summer.

1. I had earlier prayed to God to help me find His way.
2. A prayer for light is a prayer that God will answer! (**Ps 89:13-18**)

III. Some common substitutes men make for God

A. Some trust in human effort and outward rules. (Eph 2:8-9)

1. On what basis will I enter into heaven?
2. Am I trusting in baptism when I say it is necessary to become a Christian? (**Col 2:11-13**)

B. Some trust in religious traditions and institutions. (Jn 5:38-44)

1. Why did John the Baptist rebuke the Jews? (**Mt 3:8-9**)
2. Can we trust in "the church of Christ?"
3. Relationships are one of the most powerful tools in Satan's arsenal.

C. Some trust in their superiority to others. (Lk 18:9-14)

Conclusion: Are you willing to trust God? (Isa 50:10-11)

- A. God's light will require that you take a stand!
- B. In whom do you trust?