

# Small Group Studies



*'Bringing God and people together'*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Principles

*To help build strong and balanced people*

### Study 3: Faith

#### **Q What do you think faith is?**

Ever since the fall (when God and man separated personal contact in the garden because of sin) man's relationship with God has been on the basis of faith.

*"Without faith is it impossible to please God,*

*because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists*

*and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Heb.11:6*

The Bible gives its own definition *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen"* (Heb.11:1). In this short definition we see that faith concerns itself with both the future "things hoped for" and the invisible "things not seen".

#### **Q What are some of the things that rob us of our faith?**

At the moment we all see and hear in part. The Bible says that His ways are higher than ours as the heavens are higher than the earth (Isa. 55:9). So there is stuff we don't know and answers that may remain unanswered during our brief sojourn on earth. We are in want and are not self sufficient. We are all facing an eternal future that is way beyond our wildest imagination. Our finite minds cannot begin to comprehend how God can be all knowing, ever present and all mighty.

*"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"*

Rom.11:33 (see also 1 Cor.13:9, Rom.9:20)

**Q How can we avoid an excessive or an unreasonable faith?**

**Q Can faith and reason co-exist within the Christian. If so, how can a balance be maintained for a healthy and productive life?**

Faith can go where reason can not. Reason deals with things on earth. Faith connects with a heavenly God. Reason is not opposed to faith but it cannot go where faith can. Faith is a spiritual attribute. Reason is an attribute of the mind. Many great men of God throughout history have also been great thinkers and leaders in their communities. Our society needs more people who because of the touch of God are a positive and creative influence on those around them.

**Q How does unbelief effect our attitude, future and momentum in life?**

**Q Why may it be easier in our society not to believe, to criticize or be negative?**

Christ never rebuked anyone for having too much faith and is one of the few things that He commended within people. To believe is a virtue worth striving for (1 Tim.6:12). It is not naturally attained or kept but must be received from God (Rom.10:17). Faith is the real substance of our lives that comes from deep within us. It doesn't live on the surface of our lives or is much more than our words. It's easy for people to talk the talk but talk alone may not be evidence of real faith.

**Q How can we grow in faith and protect the faith that we already have?**