

## Speaking Truth In Love

The word of God reveals two uses of the word “faith”. First, “faith” is that which *produces* in us faith or belief in God and in His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. This use of the word “faith” makes it synonymous with the New Testament. Jude wrote, “*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3). Paul was referring to himself when he wrote, “*But they were hearing only, ‘He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy’*” (Gal 1:23). Paul also explained that the gospel of Christ reveals “*the righteousness of God...from faith to faith...*” (Rom 1:17). In other words, the New Testament is a system of faith that is able to produce saving faith in men.

Secondly, “faith” is that which occurs when one believes the gospel and commits his life in obedience to Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom 10:17). “*Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped for, the evidence [conviction] of things not seen*” (Heb 11:1), wrote the writer of Hebrews. The Scripture provides the only true basis for one’s faith or belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, heaven, hell, angels, Satan, and the organization, work and worship of the church.

Is your “faith” founded on “the faith” or on the traditions of men (Matt 15:9)?

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.