

# ***Biblical Faith # 6***

## ***As a Principle***

Given July 15, 2001

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**Holly Hills Bible Church**

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## Biblical Faith – As a Principle - Biblical Faith # 6 - July 15, 2001

This morning what I would like to do is talk about our walk by faith. So if you'll turn in your bibles to Colossians, chapter two, verse six. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.

Now, here is my question: How have we received the Lord Jesus Christ? By faith, we have received Him by faith. How are we to walk? The same way: by faith.

Now, observe something. In verse six the word faith is never mentioned, but it is implied that we received him by faith. We are to walk by faith.

### 4 MAJOR ASPECTS OF BIBLICAL FAITH

1. **FAITH - ITS ESSENCE**
2. **FAITH - THE FAITH**
3. **FAITH - PERSONAL**
4. **FAITH - AS A PRINCIPLE**

We have seen as we have gone through this study that there are four major aspects of Biblical faith. The essence of faith, faith in terms of *the* faith where there is a definite article with faith, in terms of personal faith, and then faith as a principle of faith.

So far, as we have gone through this we have defined the first three terms, but we have never defined the principle of faith. We've looked at passages, though, on the principle of faith, just to show you that this is one of the major aspects of faith.

In Romans 3:27 it contrasts the law of works with the law of faith. You could translate the word law as principle, "nomos", law or principle. It contrasts the principle of works versus the principle of faith.

Romans 3:27  
Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the **law** of **faith**.

The context of the passage says this: that we are justified by God's grace through faith. So the whole context in that passage is the principle of faith.

### What is the principle of faith?

The word "principle" means "the way something functions" or "the way something operates". God has set up a system as to how we function in respect to Him, and it is by this principle of faith. Faith as a principle is talking about all of the three things above: faith in its essence, *the* faith, and faith in terms of personal faith.

### Faith as a principle: Faith in it's essence = the Faith + personal Faith

In Colossians 2:6, when it says, "As ye have, therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord", and you received Him by faith; by the principle of faith, "so walk ye in Him", the same way: by the principle of faith; faith in its essence, *the* faith, and personal faith.

When we talked about the essence of faith we looked at Hebrews 11:1, that faith is the substance of *things* hoped for and the evidence or proof of *things* not seen.

And we saw that the word substance means reality. That faith is reality. And it is the reality of *things* hoped for.

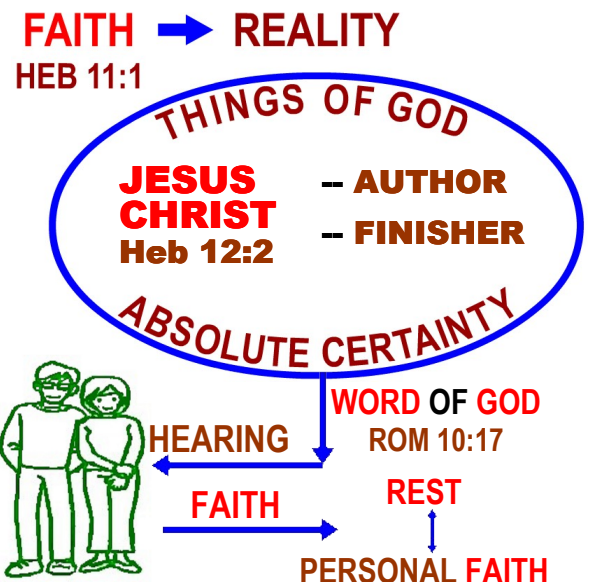
We saw that the *things* were the *things* of God. What is reality are the *things* of God, and those are the *things* that are hoped for; those are the *things* that are *absolute* certainty.

We have also seen that Jesus Christ is the source of faith. He is the author; He is the originator of faith. He is the finisher; He is the One Who completes it.

### The essence of faith is God's total revelation to man

So this is the essence of faith: everything that God reveals, the totality of God's revelation is the essence of faith.

The way we know about it is by God's revelation to us, through the Word of God. Man hears it. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So man hears the Word of God. He hears the essence of faith.



Biblical faith, it is independent of man, it has nothing to do with man. It is totally to do with God, Who He is, what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do; His ways, His thoughts, His mind, His eternal purpose, and who we are, and who we were in Adam. All of that is part of the essence of faith, God's total revelation to man.

But as part of that revelation comes the bad news. In Romans 5:12 it says, for by one man sin (the sin) entered into the world. The sin nature entered into the world and death by sin. And death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.

In the context of Romans chapter five, we find that there is death and there is condemnation. Because we are in Adam as an unbeliever, there is death and there is condemnation. We were condemned as an unbeliever to be separated from God forever, eternally..

But then there is the good news, and the good news is about God's will. God's will is that not one should perish. As part of that essence of faith, it talks about God's love. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting, or eternal life.

There is the good news. And part of that good news is that Jesus Christ came and died and paid the penalty for your sin and for my sin on the Cross at Calvary. .

And we also know that Jesus Christ is the propitiation, the satisfaction, not for our sins only, but for the sins of the entire world.

That's the good news that comes out from the essence of faith.

And it is interesting the way God comes at us. Usually, there is the man of God or the woman of God with the word of God. They come to us and explain this essence of faith. They specifically explain the faith, which is the Gospel, that portion of the total essence of faith.

They come at us with that portion of the essence of faith, which is the faith (definite article), and then the Spirit of God comes along side us as unbelievers and convicts us as the Word of God is presented to us. He convicts of sin, because we do not believe on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

That is the way we receive Jesus Christ. There is a decision to make: We hear the Word of God, now what do we do with it? The faith, here in Romans 10:17, as we have seen, is the personal faith which comes out of, springs out of hearing, hearing the Word of God. What the Spirit ministers to us, we just believe.

Believing is just resting, resting in what the Spirit of God reveals to us. So personal faith is just resting in the facts that have been presented to us by the Holy Spirit.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." You received Him by this whole principle of faith, the essence of faith, the specific word of faith, the Gospel. You heard it and you responded. You just rested and trusted in the Lord.

You could say, "I've entered into the truth that Jesus presented and I believe it. That's me; I've come short of your glory. I'm a sinner and I trust that Jesus Christ came and died and paid the penalty for my sin". That is personal faith.

Now, as ye have therefore received the Lord Jesus Christ, walk the same way.

So let's just summarize this. We received Christ by faith, faith in His person, that He is the eternal Son of God and in His Work on the Cross.

What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Rest in the truth. Rest in the truth about His Person and His Work and you shall be saved.

## **OUR WALK BY FAITH (PRINCIPLE) COL 2:6**

### **I. WE RECEIVED CHRIST BY FAITH -- IN HIS PERSON -- IN HIS WORK ACTIVE VOICE – YOU PARTICIPATED (BELIEVED VIA THE HOLY SPIRIT) JUSTIFICATION - FACT**

I want to highlight something: That it is active voice. That you participate in this. You believe via the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. You participate, active voice.

The result of this is justification. Justification simply means that God declares us righteous when we believe in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 2:2

And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

Romans 10:17

So then *the faith cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the *word* of God.

Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so *walk* ye in Him.

## II. SO **WALK** IN CHRIST BY **FAITH** -- IN WHO CHRIST IS -- IN WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST ACTIVE VOICE – YOU KEEP ON (PRESENT TENSE) RESTING IN CHRIST (WHO IS YOUR LIFE) SANCTIFICATION - PROCESS

Now, that's the way we received Christ, and the second part of verse six says, so walk the same way, by faith.

But now the walk is in Who Christ is, and who you are in Christ. Again, it's in the active voice, you do the walking. And it's in present tense; you keep on resting in Christ Who is your very life. When you trusted Christ He became your life, and you rest and you walk in Him Who is your very life. This is a process. This is called sanctification, being set apart moment by moment.

**We receive His life** by resting in what God reveals about Himself  
and His Work on the Cross.

**We walk in His life** by resting in Who Christ is  
and who we are in Christ.

I want you to observe one thing: that there is distinctiveness in the ministry of the Holy Spirit with respect to an unbeliever and a believer. In our receiving Christ, the Holy Spirit bore witness to us of God's love. He bore witness to us of what Christ did on our behalf, and the efficacy, or the value, of the Cross and His death, burial and resurrection.

Now, as we walk by faith there is a distinctiveness that the Holy Spirit reveals to us, Who Christ is, who we are now in Christ. In that process He forms Christ in us. He conforms us to the very image of Christ.

But I want you to notice. The response is the same. For the unbeliever, the response is by faith. For the believer, the response is by faith. The response is always the same, even though there is distinctiveness in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. So we respond by the principle of faith. That's how we walk: by the principle of faith.

Now, what is this walk that we have by the principle of faith, in Colossians chapter 2? Let's go back to verse 6 to get a little context.

Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore **received Christ Jesus** the Lord, so **walk** ye in Him.

7 **Rooted** and **built up** in Him, and **established** in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding** therein with thanksgiving

As ye therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith. Notice that the word faith is there. In *the* faith – notice the definite article. As ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving.

**Here personal faith is “ye received”, you believed -- indicative, aorist, active – fact in the same way, “walk ye”, you be walking -- imperative, present, active – process**

**4 participles tell what “you were taught” -- indicative, aorist, passive -- fact**

Verse seven describes four aspects of our walk and it describes it by using four participles, that have tense and voice, like a verb does. Tense and voice are important in this passage and I want to show you why.

### 1. **“rooted” in Him = planted, have been identified in Him -- perfect, passive -- position**

So, there are four statements, and the first says this: by having been rooted in him. The word rooted here means to be firmly planted. To be established in Him.

This is speaking of our position in Christ. Our position in Christ is immutable; it will never, ever change. It's eternal. It's for all eternity. We are rooted, or established in Christ. So this is talking about our position in our walk.

When were you rooted and firmly established in Christ? And the next question is how were you rooted and established in Christ?

The answer to “when” is when you received Christ. When you rested and trusted in the truth that the Holy Spirit ministered to you in terms of the Gospel, in terms of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ, you became rooted in Christ. Really rooted? Yeah, really rooted. Full roots.

How did God do that? The “how” is when we were put into Christ. When we were baptized into Christ. Romans chapter six verse three, says that we were baptized into the Person of Christ.

The word baptize “baptizo”, means to be immersed and that immersion is to be immersed and never taken out. You were immersed into Christ and never taken out.

Romans 6:3

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also *in the likeness of His* resurrection:

So we were baptized and identified with the Lord Jesus Christ, put into this living union with Christ, which is our position in Christ. It's immutable, it will never ever change, and it's for all eternity.

No one can dig down and cut those roots. No one. We can never be uprooted from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to observe that it's in the perfect tense, which simply says that it's a completed action in the past and it has abiding results up until the present time. The completed action in the past is when you and I trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. At that very moment we were rooted into Christ and it has abiding results right up into the present.

Notice something else: it is in the passive voice. Passive voice simply means that you didn't do anything. God did it. You were acted upon. You didn't do it. If I say that I hit the ball; that is active voice. But if I get hit by the ball, then that's passive voice, I was hit by the ball, the subject received the action.

## 2. **“built up” in Him = are being edified spiritually in Him -- present, passive -- purpose**

So that is our position in Christ. Look at verse seven. It says rooted and built up in Him, in Christ. So the second statement is by being built up. The word “built up” is to be edified, to be edified spiritually. We are built up, edified in Him.

Now, this is talking about the purpose of our walk. This is God's purpose; to edify us, to build us up in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now it's present tense. it's a process, and who's performing the action?

It's a passive voice. God is performing it! God is the One Who is building us up, edifying us in the Person of Christ and Who He is.

Turn over to Ephesians four. I want to show you two things in Ephesians four concerning God's purpose in edifying us, building us up, in Christ, and also establishing us in the faith. And I think Ephesians four beautifully summarizes this.

Look at verse eleven, And He gave some apostles, and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers. Why? For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ.

Notice that God gives gifts to men for the edifying or for the building up of the Body of Christ, which includes you and me.

So if God has a purpose, if His purpose is to build us up and to edify us, guess whose responsibility it is? It's His

responsibility to carry that out. If that's His purpose, (passive voice, we receive the action) then He is going to fulfill His purpose. And He is going to fulfill His purpose by supplying gifts to men to edify the Body.

Colossians 2:7

7 Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving

Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ:

## 3. **“established” in the faith = are being fixed, stabilized -- present, passive -- result**

Next, in verse seven of Colossians two, the third thing is this: “by being established or fixed in the faith”. It's talking about the result of our walk. Now the word “established” or “fixed” means to be immovable; immovable in the faith; to be stable; to be certain; to be sure.

Why is it critical that we be established, fixed, and certain, in the faith?

The question is, which aspect of faith is that? Is it the essence of faith?

Is it your personal faith, to be fixed, certain, sure?

There's the definite article, the faith. Remember what we talked about that this aspect of “the faith” could mean one of three things.

Colossians 2:7

7 Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving

### **“the faith” can mean one of three things**

**1 The totality of the revelation of God**

**2 A portion of the revelation of God, like the gospel**

**3 Your personal faith**

It could mean the totality of the revelation of God. Or it could mean a portion of that revelation, like the faith or the gospel. Or it could mean personal faith, the faith, referring to one's personal faith.

I believe that it is the first, to be established, fixed, certain, immovable in the faith, in the total revelation of the Word of God. That's where we are to be fixed.

Why are we to be fixed in that? Why are we to be grounded in the total revelation of God?



Look at Ephesians chapter four verse thirteen, til we come in the unity of the faith. Again, this is the whole body of truth here, the essence of faith and of the knowledge. The word there for knowledge is “*epignosis*”, which is intimacy. Until we have that intimacy with the Son of God. Unto a perfect man, a complete man, unto a measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Why? That we henceforth be no more little children who cannot speak, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men and the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive.

So we are to be established in the faith so that someone can't come along with some wind of doctrine.

In our men's Bible study a question has come up about the prayer of Jabez. They have put out this book on the prayer of Jabez and are coming at believers and saying, you should be praying the prayer of Jabez.

Let me read it to you, it says, Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from evil that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

So, the message that is going out to believers is, if you want to be blessed, then you repeat the prayer of Jabez. But look at what it says, Oh, Lord that you would bless me. Do we have to ask for the Lord's blessing? Or has he already blessed us?

We are in Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. Every single one and not one has been left out; not one. What blessing are we to pray for?

Enlarge my borders. Lord, I'm on a quarter acre now; I would like that to be 40 acres. I think that when it says, “enlarge my borders” it is talking about the physical ground. But, are we to be praying for *things*?

Where should our focus be? Should our focus be here on earth or focused on things above in the heavenlies where we reside spiritually, and not on things of the earth?

Your hand be with me. Is God's hand with you and with me?

In Hebrews, what does it say, that I'll never, never, never (a triple negative, in the Greek the strongest, most emphatic way you can say something), I'll never, never, never leave you.

Is He with you? Is He with me? He said He is never going to leave us.

Romans chapter eight verses thirty-four thirty-five.. it says that nothing, nothing in this entire universe will ever separate us from the love of Christ. Whether it be height or depth, principalities or powers, there is nothing that will ever separate us from the love of Christ. Do we have to pray to the Lord for Him to be with us? Absolutely not.

So, as we're built up and edified in Christ, there is a result: that we get established. We get fixed in the faith, in the totality of the faith. It's an ongoing process in the present tense, passive voice. God does it so we don't get tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by every book that comes out.

Have you noticed that in all these aspects so far, it has been passive voice, passive voice, passive voice? We are acted upon. What did we do? We started out by walking by faith. Active voice. That's all God has required of us so far. Just to walk by faith, rest and trust in what He has revealed to us and what He is revealing to us. In fact, all of the rest He does.

Ephesians 4:13

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. 14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Chronicles 4:10

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep *me* from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Colossians 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never, never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Romans 8:34

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall **separate us** from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? .... 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to **separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**4. “abounding” therein with thanksgiving = overflowing -- present, active -- response**

But there is one more active voice that we participate in: “by abounding with thanksgiving.” So the response of our walk is that we abound with thanksgiving; that we are grateful to Him; that we abound with gratitude; we abound with thankfulness. That is our response and we are the ones who participate in that.

**We receive His life by resting in what God reveals about Himself and His work on the Cross.  
We walk in His life by resting in Who Christ is and who we are in Christ.**

**4 ASPECTS OF OUR WALK BY FAITH COL 2:7**

<b>4 STATEMENTS</b>	<b>4 ASPECTS</b>	<b>4 VERBALS</b>
<b>1. BY HAVING BEEN ROOTED (FIRMLY PLANTED) IN HIM</b>	<b>OUR POSITION IN OUR WALK</b>	<b>PERFECT – PASSIVE</b>
<b>2. BY BEING BUILT-UP (EDIFIED) IN HIM</b>	<b>THE PURPOSE OF OUR WALK</b>	<b>PRESENT – PASSIVE</b>
<b>3. BY BEING ESTABLISHED (FIXED) IN THE FAITH</b>	<b>THE RESULT OF OUR WALK</b>	<b>PRESENT – PASSIVE</b>
<b>4. BY ABOUNDING WITH THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>THE RESPONSE OF OUR WALK</b>	<b>PRESENT - ACTIVE</b>

So we talked about our walk. We have a responsibility. Our responsibility is to walk by faith, active voice. God’s responsibility is that He does the rest. As we walk by faith in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and Who He is and who we are in Him, and respond to the ministry of the Holy Spirit as He reveals the Person of Christ to us and conforms us to the very image of the Son, our only response to all of that is one of being thankful.

Thank you, Lord. Amen? Amen.