

FAITH

Faith is the very foundation of our lives as Orthodox Christians. Without faith, God cannot fully reveal Himself to us through Jesus Christ.

FAITH ENABLES US TO KNOW GOD.

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, (gives) you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe (Ephesians 1:16 -19).

IT IS THE KEY TO SALVATION...

Without having seen Him you love Him; though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:8,9).

...AND ESSENTIAL FOR ETERNAL LIFE

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life... He who believes in Him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God (John 3:16,18).

MODELS OF FAITH

Jesus exalted the faith of

- **the centurian** whose servant was healed: "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith" (Matthew 8:10).
- **the hemorrhaging woman** who was also healed: "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well" (Matthew 9:21).
- **the Canaanite woman** who begged Jesus to cast a demon out of her daughter: "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire" (Matthew 15:28).

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Ephesians 1:11).

A LIVING FAITH

Trust and belief are not just mental exercises. Faith must **actively affect our lives.**

- *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).*
- *Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the words themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do... (John 14:11-12).*

A TRUSTING FAITH

Faith involves **trust** in God.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain... By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark... By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son... By faith Moses left Egypt... By faith he kept the Passover... By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land... What more shall I say?... (Hebrews 11:4,7,17,27-30,32).

A BELIEVING FAITH

Christian faith involves more than trust. If God is to reveal Himself to us, we must first **believe** in Him.

Without faith it is impossible to please Him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).