

with a person. This is a difficult concept to communicate to people today, chiefly because the biblical terms have lost their significance in the English language. The words "belief" and "faith" have changed in meaning.

Modern science distinguishes between scientific belief and (unscientific) faith. Modern science prides itself in believing (i.e., accepting as true) only what it knows (i.e., perceives via sense experience). For modern scientists, accepting a statement by faith amounts to believing what one does not know, but wishes were true, or hopes is true, or wills to be true, but is not true (i.e., that there is insufficient scientific evidence to establish its truth).

Modern philosophy distinguishes between philosophical belief and (irrational) faith. Modern philosophy prides itself in believe (i.e., accepting as true) only what is rational (i.e., agreeable to reason). For modern philosophers, accepting a statement by faith amounts to believing what is not rational, but which one nevertheless wishes were true, or hopes is true, or wills to be true, but is not true (i.e., that there are insufficient rational grounds for its truth).

Biblical Christianity does not distinguish between belief and faith. Belief is a response to truth, a human response to divine revelation.

*Overhead*

FAITH IS A BELIEVING RESPONSE TO A WORD FROM GOD.

Biblical faith believes (i.e., accepts as true) only what it knows on the basis of divine authority (i.e., via revelation). Faith (belief) grasps truth; thus faith (belief) includes knowledge.

2. The second component of faith is assent or conviction. It is a persuasion and an assurance of truth. This appears to be the sense in Hebrews 11:1, where we read: "Now faith is assurance of things hope for, conviction of things not seen." It is a conviction that is wrought in me by the Holy Spirit by means of the truth. It is an assurance so great that it becomes the dominant influence in my life.

3. The third component of faith is trust or commitment. It is a resting, a putting of one's full weight on, the truth. This appears to be the sense in a number of Old Testament references to trust, as well as the leading element of faith in the New Testament.