

I John 5:4-5 -- "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Summary of the various aspects in which the Scriptures present faith

In the Bible faith is viewed as trust in God's promises and power to protect and provide for human beings; as a linkage to divine righteousness and grace and power to deliver human beings from their sin and its results; as belief in Christ's person and redemptive work; as conviction of the truth of God's revelation of Himself and His works; as a resident impulse expressing itself in righteous character and conduct (sometimes heroic) that gets the victory over sin, the world, and Satan; and as the body of truth revealed by God and committed to the people of God.

In orthodox theology, faith has traditionally been seen to include three elements: knowledge, assent or conviction, and trust.

The first element of faith is knowledge. Knowledge is apprehension of truth, acquaintance with fact, recognition of information as factual, personal or factual familiarity 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" and "hope" have all changed in meaning.

Science distinguishes between scientific belief and (unscientific) faith. Modern science prides itself in believing (accepting as true) only what it knows (perceives via sense experience). Accepting a statement as true 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 (or at least there is insufficient evidence for its truth).

Philosophy distinguishes between philosophical belief and (irrational) faith. Modern philosophy prides itself in believing (accepting as true) only what is rational (agreeable to reason). Accepting a statement as true 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 (or at least there are insufficient rational grounds for its truth).

Liberal "Christian" theology also distinguishes between religious belief and faith. Liberalism prides itself in believing only what is knowable and rational (i.e., what is agreeable to modern science and modern philosophy), but in having faith in what is unknowable and irrational! Religious faith thus refers to what a person wishes were true, or hopes is true, or wills to be true, but does not know is true. Religious faith is thus transformed into hope; and hope has come to mean both a desire and a wish that somehow everything will turn out well in the end. The degree of one's religious faith is thus measured by the strength of one's hope; and the strength of one's hope is tested by the degree of risk one is willing to invest in his hope.

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