

## THE A, B, C'S OF FAITH

**INTRODUCTION:** There must be at least a zillion books and articles written about FAITH! Thousands of sermons have been preached and Bible Studies taught, and Sunday School lessons written, and songs sung about FAITH!

You're probably thinking, "What in the world does he think he can say about FAITH that hasn't already been said?"

Honestly - I realize that I can't plow the FAITH field any better than all the others. There have been many before me, many in my generation, and many more will be in the future.

But what I hope to do is stir up your good mind - to awaken you to the fantastic reality of the GIFT of FAITH that God has made available to you.

Any student of Scripture understands that God always puts responsibility and right behavior caveats on His gifts. He doesn't simply throw them out like bait on a hook hoping to snag a big one. Nor, does He hide them

along the pathway as He waits in the shadows to see who stumbles upon them. And He surely doesn't give them out like a government commodity just to please the people and get their vote.

His gifting and anointing come with predetermined behavioristic requirements. Anything less would simply not be the real thing.

Cheap grace and cheap holiness are figments of the human imagination. Nothing God offers is cheap. It all comes with a price and a responsibility.

Such is the reality of FAITH. For FAITH to be a workable tool in a Christian life, certain criterion must be in place.

The very first imperative is: **YOU MUST BELIEVE IN GOD.**

**Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)**

**But without faith it is impossible to please Him. For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**

**<sup>6</sup> And 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.**

**To any who might think it is unfair that God requires FAITH, since humanity is incapable of FAITH without God's help - I refer you to Paul's declaration in:**

**Romans 12:3 (KJV)**

**3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

**With that imperative in mind,  
I want to share with you my A, B, C's of FAITH.**

## **A - ATTEND TO CHRISTIAN LIFE VALUES WITH STEADFAST DETERMINATION AND ZEAL**

1. Be vigilant about your Christian life. Reject anything that would bring dishonor to your Christian testimony and your walk with Christ.

2. Maintain a meaningful prayer life. Keep the communication line with the Lord open and static free.

**Scriptures:**

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)**

**“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

**Colossians 3:5-10 (ESV)**

**“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ...”**

**1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)**

**“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”**

**B - BELIEVE GOD’S WORD - THE BIBLE - WITH UNSHAKABLE ASSURANCE**

- 1. Don’t be ambivalent about your confidence in the veracity and authenticity of the Bible.**
- 2. Don’t fall into the secular trap of Bible hating unbelievers and secular revisionists. Do your own research if you need to validate your belief in the Bible and reject the research of any so-called scholar who impugns the Bible. Almost all Bible deniers are also Christ deniers.**

**Scriptures:**

**John 6:63**

**“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.**

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.”

### 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

### 2 Peter 1:19-21

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

### Romans 10:17 — (KJV 1900)

<sup>17</sup> “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

**C - CONFESS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS MERCY  
WITH UNAPOLOGETIC OPENNESS**

1. Don't be ashamed of your Christian life. God calls you His child and you shouldn't be negatively affected by what people call you.

2. God's love for you is the heartbeat of your faith. Your love for Him is proof that your life has been changed. His mercy makes your faith possible.

**Scriptures:**

**Psalm 103:8**

**"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."**

**1 John 3:1**

**"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"**

**Psalm 145:8-8**

**"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works."**

**Lamentations 3:22-23.**

**"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."**

**Ephesians 2:4-5.**

**“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ...”**

**Hebrews 4:14-16.**

**“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**

**CLOSING:**

**Faith doesn't have to be difficult, and it is certainly not meant to be mythical. It is simply believing and trusting in the very One who offers blessings in this life and eternal joy in the life to come.**

**Faith means you trust God. Faith means you accept God's answer. Faith means that you know and**



understand that He knows best and that He will give you, His best.

The big wrecking-ball to Christian faith is materialism. Many people only want to use faith to get things. That attitude is a killer of faith. Whereas God does bless materially, the better gauge of faith is how He blesses spiritually. Your overcoming Christian life is proof that your faith is working correctly

My A, B, C's of faith - one more time:

**A - ATTEND TO CHRISTIAN LIFE VALUES WITH STEADFAST DETERMINATION AND ZEAL**

**B - BELIEVE GOD'S WORD - THE BIBLE - WITH UNSHAKABLE ASSURANCE**

**C - CONFESS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS MERCY WITH UNAPOLOGETIC OPENNESS**

Let's pray.

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