

FAITH

According to the Word of God, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1)

The definition of FAITH according to Webster is "an unquestionable belief in God, religion, etc.; loyalty and allegiance in a person or thing; a religion or system of religious beliefs." ¹ According to the Word of God, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1); and, it is "*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear*" (Hebrews 11:3). Although Webster's definition fits into the worldview of what man would consider faith, it is too ambiguous and far-reaching to understand the Christian meaning of faith due to the inconsistency of what is said.

There is only one God. Although Webster sounds like he is referring to one God, we cannot be for certain that he is referring to the One and Only God. Faith is belief in the Christian God. This is the foundation for all of our reasoning as a Christian. Otherwise, a person has no foundation...just an opening in his mind for logic and reason. And that logic and reason is enmity against God. Human reasoning or presupposing your own authority is enmity against God; which is a sin against God.

The believer (the born-again Christian that knows Jesus Christ as his personal Savior) is directed to avoid philosophy which has its roots in worldly, humanistic, and non-Christian presuppositions (Colossians 2:8, "*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*") **It is imperative that the Christian who prefers to know the truth and desires the truth to set him free understands that God's word demands unreserved allegiance to God and His truth in all our thought(s) and scholarly endeavors.** Therefore, he must make every academic pursuit and every thought related to Jesus Christ. To not use the principles of Christ in our thoughts at any point is to deny the wisdom and knowledge of truth God has placed in us when we accepted Him as our Savior and Lord. Does this mean that those that fail to place Christ Jesus as the pivotal point of all relationships and all activities are non-believers or non-Christian? No... but it does mean that the Christian

that places reason or fact before faith is inviting the enemy into his thoughts, presuppositions and actions and will eventually lead to false religion or false and uncharacteristic actions of faith.

¹ Webster's New World Dictionary of American Language, College Edition, page 522.