

## PROGRESSING FROM FAITH TO TRUST

1. The Definition of Faith. Dictionary: “Unquestioning acceptance of something in the absence of proof.” Biblical Faith: “Acceptance of something based on many different kinds of evidence but in the absence of absolute proof.”
2. What are the evidences? Go to [www.scel.com/lit](http://www.scel.com/lit) , for “Publication” select “Growing,” for “Volume” enter “1”, click on “Search,” then select the articles “The Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures,” Parts 1 through 4.
3. Hebrews 11:1. Not exactly a definition of “faith,” but the result of having faith.
  - a. “The substance of things hoped for” (KJV). We all have a hope for eternal life in heaven. This hope is substantiated or made firm by our faith that the Bible is truly the Word of God and our faith in the finished work of Christ—as declared in God’s Word—for our eternal salvation.
  - b. “The evidence of things not seen” (KJV). “Evidence” is not the correct word since Biblical faith is founded upon evidence; “conviction” or “assurance” is better. No one has ever seen God and no one living today has talked to any of the writers of the books of the Bible. By faith we have assurance that God exists and that the Bible is God’s Word in spite of not being an eye-witness.
4. Ephesians 2:8-10. We are saved by grace through faith, not of works. Verse 10: the works come as a result of our salvation. See also Romans 3:28 and 4:1-8 for salvation by faith and not works.
5. James 2:14-26. “Faith without works is dead.” Does this contradict Eph. 2:8,9 and Rom. 3:28?
6. Can we give up our faith or lose our salvation? I believe the Scripture teaches that we cannot: this is the doctrine of eternal security, or “once saved, always saved.” For more information on this doctrine, go to [www.scel.com/lit](http://www.scel.com/lit), for “Publication” select “Growing,” for “Volume” enter “6”, click on “Search,” then select the articles “Eternal Security,” Parts 1 through 3.
7. Ephesians 6:10-18. “Put on the whole armor of God ... the shield of faith.”
8. James 1:2-4. Not only Satan but also God Himself tests our faith for our spiritual growth and benefit (see Job 1:8; 42:5,6).
9. The daily exercise of our faith. “Faith” is an action word (see all of the Old Testament examples in Hebrews 11). What begins as *faith*—belief that the Bible is the Word of God and that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died for *my* sins—develops into *trust* and dependence upon God in our daily lives.
  - a. Praying, seeking guidance, and being thankful in everything without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17,18; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6,7).
  - b. Learning and doing God’s will (Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9; 4:12; Hebrews 13:20,21).
  - c. Seeking God’s help with home work, studying for exams, safety while driving, repairing the car, baking cookies, spending money, making friends, understanding the Bible, witnessing for Christ, exercising our spiritual gift.
  - d. Seeking wisdom every time we open our mouths (Nehemiah 2:4; James 1:19).
  - e. Seeking God’s will every time we sit in front of the computer, surf the Internet, turn on the TV, order/watch videos, read novels (Matthew 5:29,30).
  - f. Seeking God’s help if we have a problem with anger, swearing, teasing, impatience, disobedience, worry (Ephesians 4:28-32; Philippians 4:6; Galatians 5:22,23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).