

Faith That "Works"

NYR 2017

As usual, let's start with a couple definitions for how we use the word "faith." According to Merriam-Webster, these are some primary definitions of faith:

2. a (1) : belief and trust in and loyalty to God (2) : belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion .

b (1) : firm belief in something for which there is no proof: clinging to the *faith* that her missing son would one day return (2) complete trust

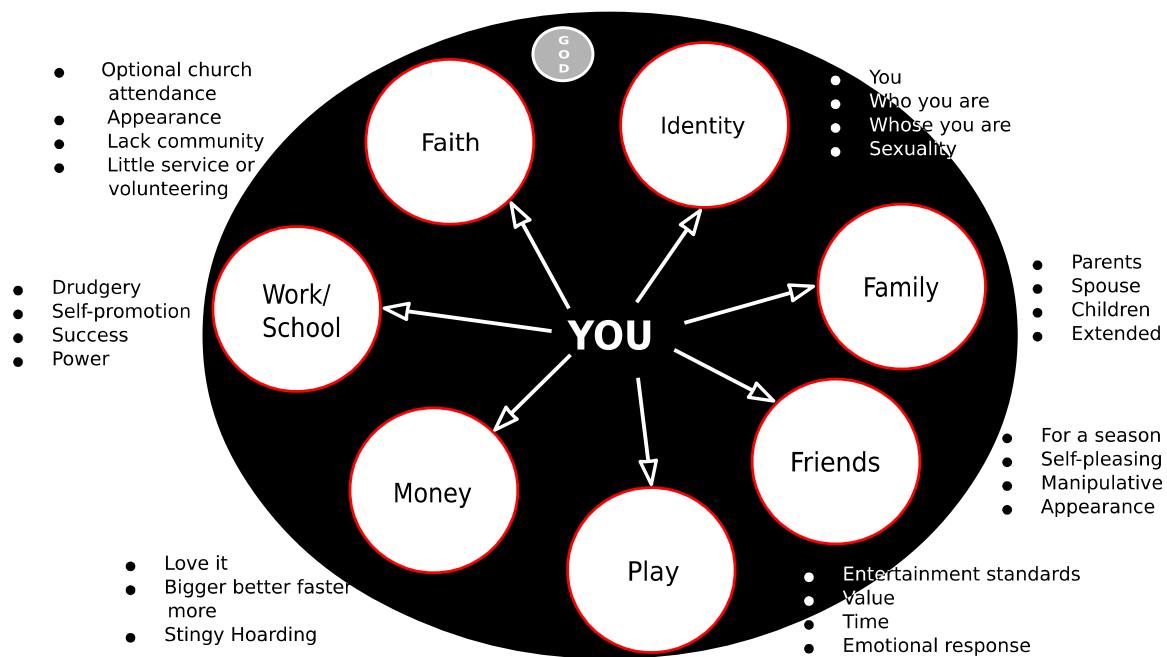
3: something that is believed especially with strong conviction; *especially* : a system of religious beliefs the Protestant *faith*

Three "Strands" of Faith:

Repentance

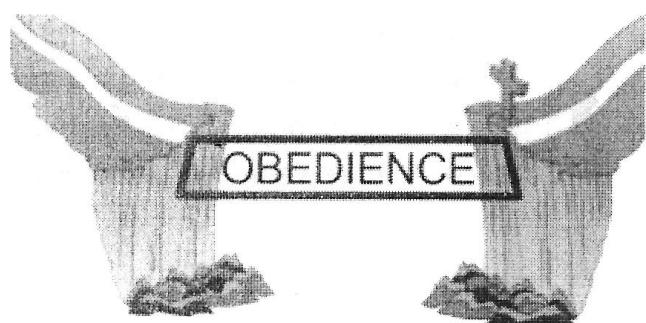
- Ezekiel 18:30-32--Repent and let God give you a new heart
- Romans 12:1-2--Repentance is our (greatest?) act of worship
- Acts 26:19-21--Produce fruit in keeping with repentance
- II Corinthians 7:9-11--Godly vs. worldly sorrow and repentance
- Revelation 2:5, 16: 3:3, 19--Jesus' call for the churches to repent

- When you place yourself in the center you reject God and His design on your life and instead you inform all aspects and you decide what is right/wrong (moral relativism). God is tucked away and kept in a box influencing nothing and only pulled out when desperate and want something.



Belief & Action (the other definition of "faith" often known as "obedience")

- Hebrews 11:1.6--Faith is the key to *experiencing* the reality of our faith
- Romans 10:9-10--Confession and belief for salvation
- James 2:14-26--Faith without deeds is dead

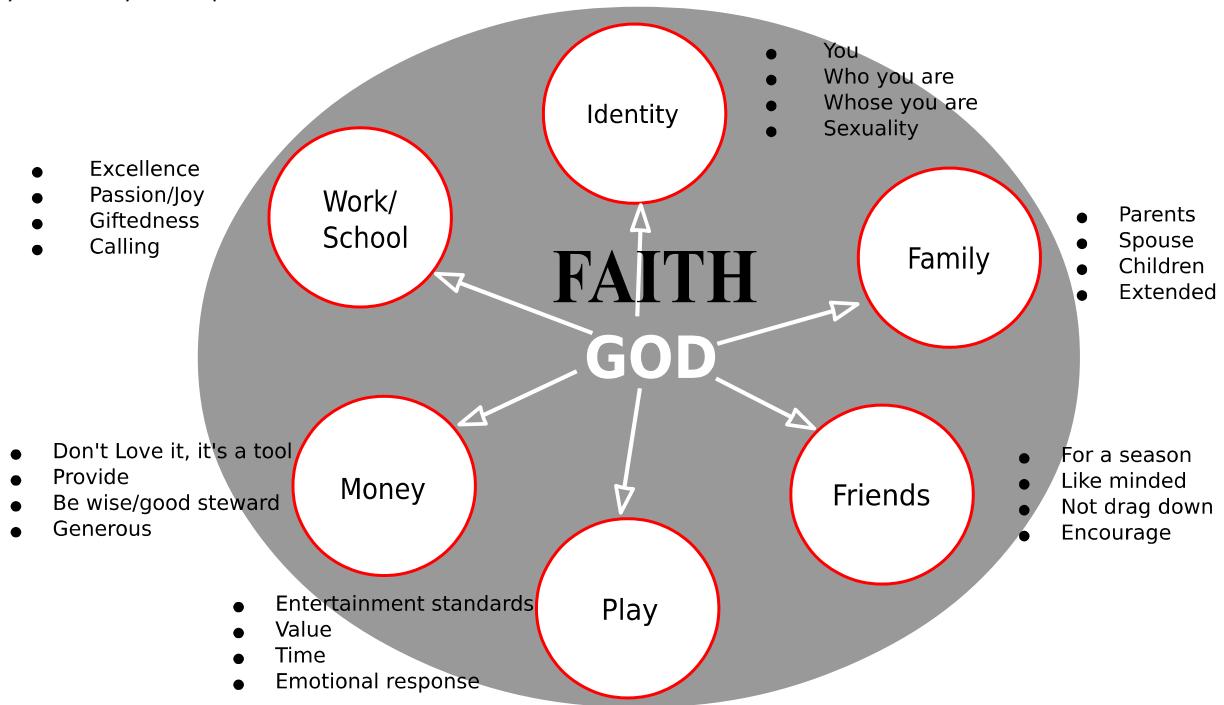


- John 14:15 & 15:10--Obedience is fruit of and motivated by love for Jesus
- Philippians 2:12-13--Our obedience is key to God's work in our will and actions

What is the difference between "knowledge" and "faith"?

Faith	vs	Knowledge
Characteristics, benefits, indicators, Scriptures, etc.		

- God informs all aspects of our life and has designs on it
- Gal 5:1-15
- Story of reality book p. 135-138



Word of God

- John 5:37-40--Just knowing/studying the Scriptures is NOT enough for salvation
- John 6:63--Words are Spirit and they are life
- Rom. 10:17--Faith comes by hearing the message, and the message comes from the word(s) of Christ
- Colossians 3:16--Let the Word dwell in you richly
- John 15:7--Let Jesus' words remain (dwell) in you
- Ephesians 6:17--The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God
- Hebrews 4:12--The word of God is sharper than any 2-edged sword