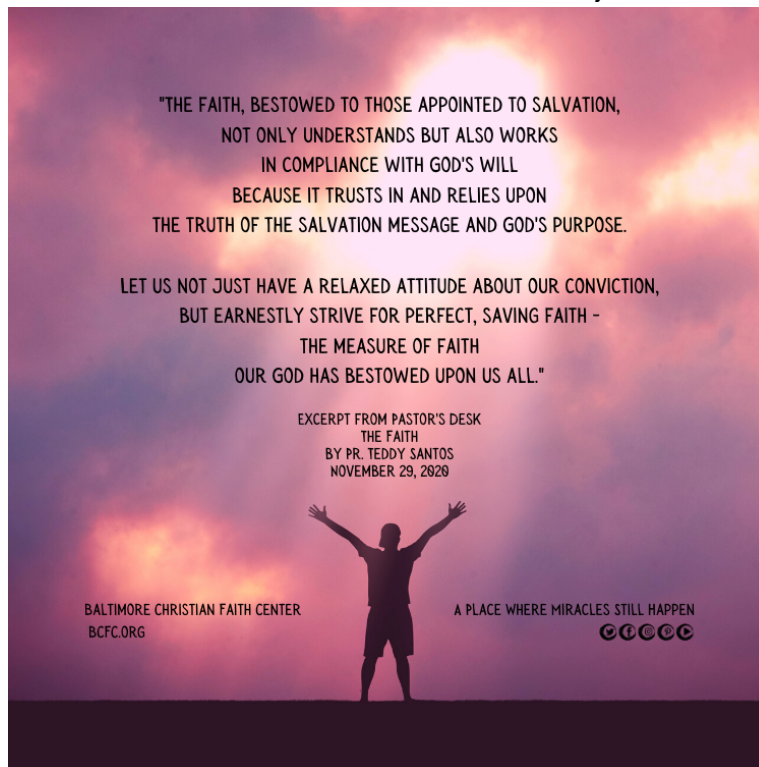


# THE FAITH

Pastor's Desk – November 28, 2020



**2 Thessalonians 3:2.** *"and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith."*

An interlinear Bible will distinctly reveal that the definite article "the" should appear before "faith," presenting this faith as a distinct kind or level of faith that's different from others. Anybody can have spiritual belief or faith in something or someone - even in the Lord - and yet not have saving faith, which is what Paul points to here. Many people believe in a Creator God and yet do not comprehend Him, do not understand His plan or purpose, do not understand the extent of the enemy's influence on them or the world, and do not practice God's commands.

This saving faith frequently appears in the Scripture:

- » **Colossians 2:7:** ". . . established in the faith."
- » **1Timothy 1:2:** "To Timothy, my true son in the faith."
- » **1Timothy 4:1:** ". . . some will depart from the faith."
- » **1Timothy 5:8:** ". . . he has denied the faith."
- » **Titus 1:1:** ". . . according to the faith of God's elect."
- » **Titus 1:13:** ". . . that they may be sound in the faith."
- » **Titus 3:15:** "Greet those who love us in the faith."
- » **Jude 3:** ". . . contend earnestly for the faith."

In each example, "the faith" registers not only a precise type or level of faith but also a particular body of beliefs or awareness from which faith begins. Paul declares this in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," interlocking perfectly with the facts mentioned in [1Jn 5:19-20](#). Saving faith springs from the knowledge God so graciously grants us by His sovereign will. The faith that saves - even that is a gift of God! It is up to us if we chose to accept this gift.

So, there is **faith** in one instance, but on the other, there's **the faith**. There is a faith that will believe, yet James defines it as "dead" ([James 2:14-26](#)). It is a dead faith because all of their labor is unproductive or nonexistent. It is dead because their faith does not oblige to God's will. The faith, bestowed to those appointed to salvation, not only understands but also works in compliance with God's will because it trusts in and relies upon the truth of the salvation message and God's purpose. Let us not just have a relaxed attitude about our conviction, but earnestly strive for perfect, saving faith - the measure of faith our God has bestowed upon us all.

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos