

## FAITH TOWARDS GOD

Read carefully through this document so that you will easily be able to fill in the gaps in paper 3.B (Candidates Answer Sheet)

### Key Scriptures:

(NKJV)

**Hebrews 11:1-6** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead, still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him" "for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

**Romans 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Matthew 17:20** *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you*

**Romans 1:17** *"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'."*

### 1. WHAT IS "FAITH?"

- a) It is to believe or have confidence in what God has said - to the extent of acting on it. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1)
- b) The beginning of faith is the acceptance of the existence of God. We must believe that God exists. *"...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must** believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6)
- c) Faith is built up by the Word of God. (Hearing or reading.)  
*"...faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ."* (Rom. 10:17 NIV).

### 2. FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD

- a) We cannot work ourselves up to achieve it. We must simply believe it.  
*"For in Him you have been enriched in every way....therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift...He will keep you strong to the end."* (1 Corinthians 1:7-8)
- b) Anything apart from faith in God is dead. *".... Everything that does not come from faith is sin."* (All **work** that does not come from faith is sin. Have faith that God will guide you in the work of the ministry.) (Romans 14:23)

- c) Faith involves an exchange of trust from self, to Him
- d) Faith involves an attitude of humility and submission to the will of God and we need to confess this attitude. *“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.(Php.2:4-5)*

### **3. THE DEFINITION OF FAITH**

It is to believe or have confidence in what God has said to the extent of acting on it.

- i) Faith is substance and reality.
- ii) Faith is not the imagination or the wishing of things into being.
- iii) Faith is the conviction of the truth by the inner working of the Holy Spirit.
- iv) The Holy Spirit places the ability to believe God, within our hearts.

### **4. FAITH DEVELOPS THROUGH OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF GOD**

- a) You cannot trust anyone you do not know.
- b) The more we know God and His faithfulness the more we will be able to trust Him
- c) We must experience:
  - i) His love
  - ii) His character
  - iii) His ways
  - iv) His truth
  - v) His awesome greatness.

### **5. THE BASIS OF TRUE FAITH.**

“We get to know God as the Holy Spirit gives us revelation of Him through the Scriptures, and through direct revelation to us that is in line with the Scriptures.” *“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” (Deuteronomy 7:9)*

- i) This is reinforced through life’s experiences as we, by faith, prove God.
- ii) We cannot really get to know anyone, unless we speak to them.

### **6. PRAYER IS THE MEANS OF GETTING TO KNOW GOD.**

- a) Pray that all we do is in the will of God
- b) Pray and confess our total dependence on Him

- c) God's faithfulness is unfailing and eternal.

**7. FAITH IS A RESPONSE TO HEARING**

- a) God communicates His thoughts through the spoken word, i.e. preaching, teaching, prophecy etc., as long as what is being said, lines up with the written word of God, the Bible.
- b) When we hear what is being said, and know that it lines up with the Scriptures, then the Holy Spirit, enables us to respond by believing and we then know that what is being said is, indeed true. Faith comes by hearing the Word.
- c) We confess the word of faith given to us and stand upon it.

**8. FAITH COMES BY READING THE WORD OF GOD**

- a) We will find the creative power of God working in and through the Word of God and by faith we believe that He will bring to pass what has been promised. *"Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides."* (Psalm 119:90).
- b) Pray and ask God to give you understanding of His Word as you read. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.* (Proverbs 3:5)

**9. JESUS TELLS US THAT NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE : "....**

*for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."* (Matthew 17:20)

- a) Having faith is to rely on a higher source of knowledge, rather than just **sense** (or head) knowledge, i.e. Revelation knowledge.
- b) Sense knowledge is all knowledge that comes to the natural man through his five senses. This is limited knowledge and is described as the "wisdom of man." *"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.* (1Cor.2:4-5)
- c) Revelation knowledge, is not based on natural reasoning, but upon a higher source, the truth of the Word of God. It is revealed by the Holy Spirit to the spirit of man. It is described as 'the wisdom of God' - *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."* (1Cor.2:7-8)

**10. SCRIPTURAL DEFINITION OF FAITH.**

- a) *"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality - faith perceiving as real fact, what is not revealed to the senses."*  
Heb.11:1

- i) Faith comes by experiencing God and His faithfulness
- ii) God has also given us the gifts of healing and miracles which increases our faith. *“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him”.* (John 2:11)  
*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* (John 14:12).
- iii) Faith grows as we remember past faithfulness  
*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”* (Hebrews 11:3 NIV)

**Conclusion:**

Faith is not a mental attitude towards problems. It is the very nature of God. The person, who is born again by the Spirit of God, has received the potential of the nature of God.

**11. THE OLD NATURE VERSUS THE NEW NATURE.**

- a) The old nature of every man is dominated by negative forces, such as:
  - i) Fear
  - ii) Doubt
  - iii) Confusion
  - iv) Error
- b) The new nature, God's nature, is creative, bringing order:
  - i) out of chaos.
  - ii) in the universe
  - iii) in our lives.

**12. THE POWER OF FAITH IS BELIEVING**

- a) God's power brings :-
  - i) Life out of death,
  - ii) Health out of sickness,
  - iii) Prosperity out of poverty,
  - iv) Truth out of error
  - v) Righteousness out of sin.
- b) Faith - is the new nature, expressed.  
*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."* (Romans. 1:17)  
Those who are “Born Again” will live by faith in God for **everything**.
- c) Faith towards God is the lifestyle of every disciple of Jesus.