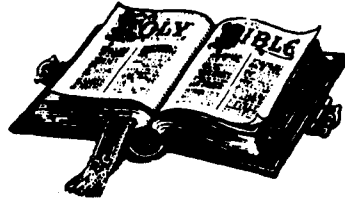


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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Number 1

## WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "belief and trust in and loyalty to God." THAYER'S LEXICON defines "faith" as follows:

"Conviction of the truth of anything, belief, . . . in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it . . ." (p. 512)

"When it relates to God . . . the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ: . . ." (p. 513)

"In reference to Christ, it denotes a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God . . ." (p. 513)

"Used esp. of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e. a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah — the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ: . . ." (p. 511)

The inspired writer of Hebrews said, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence

of things not seen." (11:1) The word "substance" suggests the foundation under. The word "evidence" is rendered "conviction" in the American Standard Version (& others).

Faith is the full persuasion that God means what He says and will do what He promises! Concerning Abraham the apostle Paul declared: "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be, And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." (Romans 4:18-21) NOTE: Abraham is a good example of faith.

Faith is conviction and trust "conjoined with obedience." When God speaks through His Word we are to believe what He says and with trust in Him obey what He commands. Note: Abraham is a good example of faith. "By

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial . . .*

## LET US RESOLVE

The year of 1993 has ended! It is over! It will not return! It is gone forever! We cannot re-live it! However, we can resolve to examine our hearts and search our souls in the light of God's inspired revelation and reflect on the past year. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:22-25). As we reflect on it, we may regret some things that we did, but we cannot "undo" them. We can and should repent of any sins we committed and should bring forth "fruits meet for repentance." (See Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16; Matthew 3:5-9). Those who are not Christians should believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, repent of their sins, confess with their mouths faith in Christ and be baptized for the remission of their sins. (See John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:36-41; Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

We can profit by the "mistakes" we made in matters of "judgment"; if we resolve **not** to repeat them.

We can and should be exceedingly **grateful** for the gift of life and the many wonderful blessings that we receive that sustain us and bring us joy. These blessings are

both physical and spiritual in nature because "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**" (Matthew 4:4). We should always be aware of the fact that "**every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**" (James 1:17).

Let each of us seriously reflect on the uncertainty, brevity and the purpose of life here on earth and make some sincere resolutions that will help us fulfill our **purpose** here on earth. **Let each of us resolve to:**

1. **BECOME MORE SPIRITUAL!** Christians "**are built up a spiritual house**" to offer up "**spiritual sacrifices.**" (See 1 Peter 2:5). "**. . . To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**" (See Romans 8:6). Also see Gal. 6:1; 1 Co. 3:1-2; Eph. 1:3 and 1 Cor. 14:37.

2. **STUDY THE SCRIPTURES MORE!** In order to properly divide and understand the Word of God we must "**give diligence**" in our study of the Scriptures. (See 2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 3:2-6; Ephesians 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:7 and Psalms 119:130).

3. **HAVE A STRONGER FAITH!** True faith is the victory! By faith we can overcome the world! John declared: "**For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**" (1 John 5:4). A Study of Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 20:30-31; Romans 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Romans

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5:1 and Galatians 5:6 will show us that we need a strong faith in God and in His Son Jesus Christ. Also see Mark 16:15-16; James 2:14-26 and Gal. 2:20.

4. **WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY FEELINGS!** Paul said: **“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”** as recorded in 2 Cor. 5:7. We learn from Jer. 17:9 that **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”** A proverb tells us that **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”** (14:12). Another one says: **“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool. . .”** (28:26). It should be obvious from these passages (and such passages as Acts 26:9-11; 23:1; 1 John 5:13; Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 10:38-39) that it is **faith, NOT feelings**, that saves us! We cannot afford to trust our feelings. We must put our trust in God and **“walk by faith!”**

5. **FEAR THE LORD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!** A long time ago the wise man Solomon said: **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”** (Eccl. 12:13). Jesus admonished His disciples to **“. . . Fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.”** (Matthew 10:28). Please meditate on such passages as Hebrews 12:28-29; 11:7; Matthew 7:21; John 14:23; 1 John 5:2-5 and Hebrews 5:8-9.

6. **BE MORE ZEALOUS AND PUT FORTH MORE EFFORT IN THE LORD’S WORK THIS YEAR!** Please carefully consider the teaching in Rev. 3:14-22; Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58 and James 4:13-15.

7. **BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY!** Peter admonished: **“. . . And be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grade to the humble.”** (1 Peter 5:5). Arrogance and pride are not compatible with humility and meekness.

**“. . . What shall I do? . . . I am resolved what to do, . . .”** (CRS)

## CAN THE DEAD HEAR?

Those who believe the doctrine of total hereditary depravity will often say that sinners (those who are dead in sin) cannot hear and believe the gospel which is God’s power to save (Cf. Romans 1:16) unless God miraculously operates upon their hearts by the Holy Spirit. To prove the necessity of the direct, miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit upon sinners some people will say, **“Sinners are dead. Dead men CANNOT hear the gospel because dead men CANNOT HEAR!”** Is this teaching true?

Without question, those who have never become God’s children are **“dead in trespasses and sins.”** (Cf. Eph. 2:1-7). Although they are **“dead”** they can hear the gospel when preached to them because **“it is the power of God unto salvation.”** (Rom. 1:16). That’s why Jesus commanded the apostles to **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”** (Mark 16:15-16). We learn from Romans 10:13-17 that a person must **hear** in order to believe and that the gospel must be preached to enable a person to hear. This is God’s arrangement! It is contrary to man’s wisdom!

Although sinners are **“dead”** (spiritually) they are able to bury those who are dead physically. Jesus said: **“Let the dead bury their dead. . .”** (Luke 9:60). If a **“dead”** man can bury a dead man, why is it thought incredible to some to believe that a **“dead”** man **CAN hear and believe the gospel and live?** (Also see Mk. 4:9, 24; Lk. 8:18).

There is **no** passage of Scripture that teaches that a sinner (one who is **dead** in sin) must receive a direct, miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit (separate and apart from God’s Word) to enable him to hear, believe and obey the gospel!

If you are dead, **HEAR and LIVE!**  
(See John 5:25). (CRS)

## ADAM AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Some Sabbatarians contend that God gave "the ten commandments" from the beginning, i.e., to Adam. They do this in an effort to prove that the seventh day sabbath has been kept since the beginning of man on earth. Of course, Nehemiah 9:13-14 informs us that God made the sabbath known unto the Israelites at mount Sinai.

Adam (and Eve) did **not** keep "the ten commandments" as Sabbatarians contend. There is absolutely **no evidence** that "the ten commandments" were given to Adam and Eve. There is **no evidence** that they kept the sabbath holy as the Israelites were later commanded to do. **Adam and Eve could not have kept the fifth commandment** which said, "**Honour thy father and thy mother: . . .**" (Exo. 20:12) because they had **no father and mother to honour.** (CRS)

## WHAT IS FAITH?

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**faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**" (Hebrews 11:8).

Although **faith** is a noun and **believe** is a verb they convey the same thought. They are used interchangeably in Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 10:13-17.

**Do YOU really have faith in God and in His Son Jesus Christ?**

(CRS)

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### — SENTENCE SERMONS —

One of the main ingredients of sin is selfishness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Greet the Word of God with an open mind and receptive heart.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you are not a dog, don't spend all of your time growling.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ability is of little account without opportunity. (Napoleon)

\* \* \* \* \*

Prayer is an attitude of gratitude.

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