

## CHRISTIAN FAITH (part 1)

We are currently studying a series entitled, **Teleiology** (A study of spiritual growth maturity).

We are studying twelve meat doctrines of the church age that are essential for spiritual growth maturity.

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food (he stereos trophe) is (eimi/ p.a.ind.3ps) for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good from evil.”

We learned from our first study on **Dispensations (parts 1)** that human history can be viewed through four periods of time within which God interacts uniquely with both believer and unbeliever, specifically during the Gentile Age and the Jewish Age..

Our forth study, in our series of twelve meat doctrines will cover the doctrine of Christian Faith

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Today’s lesson will study four important aspects of the Christian’s Faith essential to spiritual growth maturity.</b></p>
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### 1. There are two systems of faith in the world that are in opposition to one another:

- **The World’s Belief System:** (Cosmos Diabolicus (CD) or worldly thinking based on the devil. (2 Cor.4:4)
- **The Christian’s Belief System** (Divine Viewpoint (DV) or spiritual thinking based on The Word of God.

(1 Cor.2:13-14) “Now we have received, **not** the spirit of the world, **but** the Spirit who is from God, **that** we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, **not** in words taught by human wisdom, **but** in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

(Prov.23:7) A person builds his beliefs about life, people and God from one or both of these two faith systems. **Principle:** Belief to Behavior.

(1 Cor.2:4-5) “And my message and my preaching were **not** in persuasive words of wisdom, **but** in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **that your faith** should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”

Paul referred to this worldly view (CD) as still present in the life of a believer- “That, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and **that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Eph.4:22-24; Col.3:8-10)

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

### 2. Very often these two systems are in conflict in a Christian’s life (Matt.4:1-11)

(Matt.4:4) “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Two examples of such a conflict were **Stumbling Block Peter** in (Matt.16:21-23) and **Doubting Thomas** (John 20:24-29).

**3. All the religions of the world have some form of faith systems. The question is - faith in what?**

**What** do you believe to be the truth and **why** do you believe it?

**Paul to the Athenians:** “Because He has **fixed a day** in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31)

**Another example** was a legalistic movement in early Christianity known as the **Judaizers** who taught that you had to believe the gospel and be circumcised in order to be saved.

“And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**” (Acts 15:1; Gal.2:16; Eph.2:8-9)

**Paul to Judaizers:** “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creation.**” (Gal.6:15)

“Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus that we may be **justified by faith in Christ**, and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal.2:16)

**4. Therefore the essential factor of the Christian’s faith is identifying the working object – “Faith in the what and the why?”**

For the Christian, the ‘what’ is always the Word of God – “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom.10:17; Col.2:6-7)

The Christian’s Faith (Belief System) is always based upon **categories of doctrine** of the Word of God.

**For example**, the ‘what’ or the ‘working object’ of salvation is faith in **the gospel** of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; John 3:16; Eph.2:8-9) (Rom.3:21-26).

**Legalism:** “But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up. Saying, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.’” (Acts 15:5)

**Grace:** “But we believe that we are saved through grace of the Lord, in the same way as they also are.” (Acts 15:11) “Who (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim.2:4)

- Faith in what and why? **And it is true?**

“Be diligent to preserve yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (2 Tim.2:15)

“And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God**, which also **performs its work in you who believe.**” (1 Thess.2:13; Rom.4:21)

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is **the Spirit of Truth**, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me.” (John 14:26)

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.’ And **you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” (John 8:31-32)