

Faith And Faithfulness

"The righteous will live by faith." Hab. 2:4

Is there a relationship between faith and faithfulness?

In Hebrew, the word for both "faith" and "faithfulness" is "emunah". The Hebrew language makes no distinction between "faith" and "faithfulness" and neither, technically, does the Greek - "pistis". There may be a difference in the case endings, but the word for "faith" and the word for "faithfulness" is the same. This means that if somebody's faith is genuine, they are faithful.

A saving faith is not a mere, intellectual faith. Where there is saving faith, there will be faithfulness. The problem is that instead of following the Hebrew or Greek, our translations generally follow the Latin Vulgate of Jerome. "Faith" and "faithfulness" are different in Latin hence, in English, we get the wrong perspective.

Hab. 2:4 says, *"The righteous will live by faith"*, and could be translated, *"The righteous will live by faithfulness."*

Heb. 11:6 says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."*, and could be translated, *"Without faithfulness it is impossible to please God."*

We make a distinction between "faith" and "faithfulness" because of translational complications.

So, faith and faithfulness go hand in hand. Real faith is accompanied by faithfulness. If someone claims to have faith but is not faithful then they have a dead, worthless faith because James 2:26 tells us that *"faith without deeds is dead."*

In the parable of the faithful and wise servant, in Luke 12:42-46, Jesus said that if the Master returns and finds that the servant had remained faithful then the servant would be rewarded but if that same servant had turned to sin then he would be condemned and assigned a place with the unbelievers.

Faith = Faithfulness = Obedience.

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