

KNOW + TRUST + MOVE = ACTIVE FAITH

INFORMATION

+ Hear/Know



“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rm.10:17)

- To hear means to understand what is said.
- How does faith in God become part of our thinking and conduct? Faith becomes an element of our thinking by hearing words that concern the object of faith. Biblical faith has a foundation, and listening is the means by which that foundation is formed. The object is almost always God, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the Gospel specifically, or a messenger sent by God.
- Individual testimonies, as a witness of Christ, may help us to understand. Information is the base or foundation. It is a good starting point, but it must grow.



INFORMATION & EXPERIENCE

+ Believe/Trust



“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (Jm.2:19)

- Trust has a sense of assurance based on the character and track record of the one trusted upon (object).
- Trust is based on divine evidence. It is the core conviction of judgment based on knowledge, and experience.
- How does believing become trust? We see spiritual evidence or substance, that the object of our faith is trustworthy.
- What is the difference between believing and trusting? More positive information concerning the object of our faith allows us to spiritually “see” the evidence and substance. Now we can trust or rely on that information enough to apply it. So trust is a higher level on a vertical continuum (series).
- We need Biblical truth as our foundation. Further, we need to believe the truth, and learn to trust that truth into action.



ACTION

+ Application/Move



“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (Jm.2:17)

- Faith must be coupled with works. Faith in action, over time, becomes a solid, but spiritual, substance.
- Many claim to believe God, but what influence does this belief have on our behavior? If it has little or no influence, they are unconvinced people seeking only intellectual righteousness. But the people of Hebrews 11 lived righteous lives in the present, but also moved and acted with a steady eye on the future.
- James dead and living faith: The one with living faith is influenced to submit to what he has learned. The one with dead faith remains only informed. So the one with dead faith may enjoy his Biblical knowledge to discuss a given concept. However, it remains only information because the influences to submit and do something in relation to God are lacking. The spiritual evidence and substance influence us to move from intellectual assent to volitional submission.
- God gives us the opportunity to build our faith by learning to trust Him in our actions. As we act in faith, our faith grows.
- We may sense a need to apply something, but we still have to act on it.
- We may know what to do, but fail to apply it (Paul, Romans 7:18-20,24).



INFORMATION, EXPERIENCE, ACTION

= Faith



“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hb.11:1)

- Faith is being sure (assurance) of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see (Hb.11:7, 27). None of this is blind!
- Faith involves learning to coexist with all the questions and issues that life generates.
- Faith is influenced by experience of the past, and hope for the future, to mold our life in the present (Hb.11:39).
- Many men and women were not delivered from difficult circumstances (Hb.11:36-38). God honored their faith. Remember the three Hebrew children were willing to obey even if God did not deliver them (Da.3:16-18). It takes more faith to endure than to escape.
- When we learn to trust God He gives us direction and spiritual “eyes” to see what He wants us to do.

