

Thankfully, the Bible contains a clear definition of [faith](#) in [Hebrews 11:1](#): “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Simply put, the biblical definition of faith is “trusting in something you cannot explicitly prove.”

This definition of faith contains two aspects: intellectual assent and trust. Intellectual assent is believing something to be true. Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true. Flip the switch. Black out the windows with garbage bags or aluminum foil. Limit the lighting to one light that you can control with a switch. If your kids are very young, don't make it completely dark. Ask kids what they think will happen when you flip the switch. They will answer the room will go dark. Give a demonstration. Explain that they had faith that the lights would go out and come back on. It takes faith that the light will work. If you didn't have faith, you wouldn't flip the switch! Understanding these two aspects of faith is crucial. Many people believe certain facts about Jesus Christ. Many people will *intellectually* agree with the facts the Bible declares about Jesus. But knowing those facts to be true is not what the Bible means by “faith.” The biblical definition of faith requires intellectual assent to the facts *and* trust in the facts.

Believing that Jesus is God incarnate who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and was resurrected is not enough. Even the demons “believe” in God and acknowledge those facts (cf. [James 2:19](#)). We must personally and fully rely on the death of Christ as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We must “sit in the chair” of the salvation that Jesus Christ has provided. This is saving faith. The faith God requires of us for salvation is belief in what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He accomplished *and* fully trusting in Jesus for that salvation ([Acts 16:31](#)). Biblical faith is always accompanied by [repentance](#) in salvation. ([Matthew 21:32](#); [Mark 1:15](#)).

The biblical definition of faith does not apply only to [salvation](#). It is equally applicable to the rest of the [Christian life](#). We are to believe what the Bible says, and we are to obey it. We are to believe the promises of God, and we are to live accordingly. We are to agree with the truth of God's Word, and we are to allow ourselves to be transformed by it ([Romans 12:2](#)). “Without faith, it is impossible to please God” ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). Without faith, we cannot be saved ([John 3:16](#)). Without faith, the Christian life cannot be what God intends it to be ([John 10:10](#)).

1. Why is this definition of faith so important?

2. Why must trust accompany agreeing with facts?

“Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). Without faith, we cannot be saved (John 3:16). Without faith, the Christian life cannot be what God intends it to be (John 10:10).

3. What is biblical faith in salvation always accompanied by?

In salvation Biblical faith is always accompanied by repentance (Matthew 21:32; Mark 1:15).

4. Do you hold back showing or even proclaiming your faith?

5. How can we demonstrate/tell to others what faith is and the true definition?