

# “WHAT IS FAITH?”

*(Luke 17:1-10)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *A terrible misunderstanding about faith  
(a grandmother in Dayton, Ohio)*

**I. FAITH: NOT: “Look What I Can Do!”  
BUT: “Look What God Can Do!”**

- A. Luke 17:5-6
- B. Matthew 17:20
- C. Faith is not our good deed,  
but is recognizing that God is at work & trusting Him
- D. John 9:30
- E. **THE KEY** is not the strength of our faith,  
but **the object of our faith** (Jesus)

## **II. FAITH IN OURSELVES LEADS US TO FAITHLESSNESS**

- A. We note Peter, “The Rock”
- B. Matthew 26:35
- C. Peter became “the dust” (Luke 2:34,56)

## **III. THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS**

**TO INCREASE THEIR FAITH** (Luke 17:1-10)

- A. Faith is always God’s gift (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:17)
- B. What a wonderful reminder is given to us in *Luther’s Explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed*

**[I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified me and kept me in the true Faith . . . this is most certainly true.]**



- C. The word “Faith” has 3 common meanings:
  - 1. A person believes something (factual knowledge – James 2:19)
  - 2. A person believes in something (*I believe in Canada... in motherhood*)
  - 3. A person believes on something/someone (Acts 16:31)

D. Let’s read together hymn #575 (*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*):

**“My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood & righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand”**

**CONCLUSION:** *The real meaning of the word “Amen!”*  
[standing on a rock]