This is Faith

Hebrews 11:6

All faith begins with belief. There is no way we can engage in any kind of faith journey without understanding that it begins with belief. Do not misunderstand me—belief is not faith. However, belief is necessary to develop and grow faith. In order to have faith, you must first believe that something exists. You must believe that what you are believing in is real. Then you are able to proceed into faith.

Faith cannot grow in you if you have not first reconciled within yourself that what you believe in is real. It does not matter what anyone else may think. It matters what you think, and what you believe. The scripture tells us, **"Without faith, it is impossible to please God."** We must understand this scripture before moving forward.

Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God. Faith is the way we develop trust in God. Without belief that moves to faith, the road to trusting God can never be built.

Belief and faith are closely related, but they are not identical. **Belief** is intellectual knowledge. **Faith and trust** are built on that belief. Belief begins with knowledge. Before faith is established, you must first be aware of it.

For example, a person hears about God and then reads the Bible or learns about Christian teachings. They can then come to the point of intellectually accepting that God exists. However, belief at this stage is **cognitive, intellectual, and mental**—it is an agreement with fact but not necessarily trust in it.

Many people believe something exists but do not personally accept its importance. For example, a person might believe in God's existence but live without considering His influence on their life. This is the difference—this is **intellectual agreement**, but faith has not yet taken root.

Faith begins to develop or take root when we **personalize belief**. When a person begins to place trust in what they know, they begin to truly believe. For example, a person moves from just believing that God exists to reading about His promises, His character, and His guidance in their life. Then, knowledge concerning God's consistent promises and unchanging character **grows into trust**.

So let me give you a step-by-step of how faith begins:

1. **Belief vs. Faith**
   Belief and faith are closely related, but they are not the same. Belief is an intellectual acknowledgment of something as true. **Faith** is trust and reliance built upon that belief.

2. **Belief begins with knowledge.**
   Before faith can be established, one must first be aware of what they believe in. Example: A person hears about God, reads the Bible, or learns about Christian teachings. This leads them to **intellectually accept** that God exists.

3. **Belief at this stage is purely cognitive.**
   It is intellectual, mental, and factual agreement—but it does not yet involve personal trust or commitment. Example: Someone might believe in God's existence but live as if He has no real influence in their life. This is the key difference: **Acknowledging something is true does not mean trusting in it.**

4. **Faith begins to develop when belief becomes personal.**
   A person **moves beyond intellectual agreement** and begins to **place trust in what they know**. Example: Instead of merely believing that God exists, they start reading about His promises, His character, and His guidance in their life.

5. **Trust is built through experience and understanding.**
   As a person learns about God's consistent promises and unchanging character, their **knowledge grows into trust**. Faith is **not just knowing that God exists—it is trusting Him and living accordingly**.

Faith is born when belief acknowledges that something exists. This acknowledgment is born when knowledge is obtained that supports this belief. When this knowledge about God's promises and consistent character is accepted and made personal, faith begins to grow because this knowledge begins to grow your faith. Faith moves from belief to faith when the person moves from knowing to trusting, from agreeing to depending, and relying on God.

Trust is a faith that is acted out. May your faith grow to the place where it is acted out in your daily living.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool