

# THE FAITH

The inspired word of God uses the word *faith* to communicate both personal conviction and persuasion as well as the body and composite of ideas, principles and teachings that are acknowledged and accepted as true. The collection of teaching from God through Christ the Son is identified in the New Testament as *the faith*. Jude wrote, “*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*” (Jude 3) The faith has been delivered by divine revelation. “*But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*” (Galatians 3:23) The apostle Paul explains in chapter three of the Galatians’ letter how God’s promise to Abraham, the Law of Moses and the system of faith in Christ Jesus are all part of the heavenly plan to bring blessing to all men. Every individual must choose for himself whether or not he will believe *the faith*.

This revealed and delivered faith was accomplished through holy men of God speaking as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). The Holy Spirit guided Christ’s apostles into all truth (cf. John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 13). Therefore, the revealed faith is the body of truth from Christ that ought to be acknowledged, accepted and adhered to. When we read what has been delivered in the divinely inspired Scripture, we can know the truth is to be believed and obeyed that we may be made free.

The faith is complete, needing no revisions. It is for all peoples for all times. The faith that the apostles believed and preached is the same faith that we must believe and practice today. We should not add to it nor subtract from it. Are we standing in the faith? We can be disqualified if we are not truly standing in the one faith. “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.*” (2 Corinthians 12:5)

The call to contend is in view of the fact that all believers do not keep the one faith. The apostle Paul warned Timothy about departure from the faith. “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith*” (1 Timothy 4:1). “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth*” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). To depart from the faith is to depart from the truth, and be cut from God and Christ.