



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

28 July 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Faith \ˈfāth\

Belief, confident trust in, and loyalty to God; implies a vital relationship with God; one of three "theological virtues" that last forever according to Saint Paul, along with hope and love. Also, a system of beliefs; belief in the doctrines of a religion.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-faith>

CONTEXT

Through the eyes of **faith**, no two hours are alike, and the dullness and monotony [of life] disappear.

—Saint Faustina Kowalska

Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of **faith** is to see what you believe.

—Saint Augustine of Hippo

By **faith** we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

—Hebrews 11:3

Faith and Reason are like two wings of the human spirit by which it soars to the truth.

—Saint Pope John Paul II

WHY IT MATTERS

The eternal always beats the ephemeral. The things of this world are passing away, while a trusting relationship with God will never pass away. **Faith** is our lifeline to the everlasting. We can bank on today, or put our **faith** in forever.

From *The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology*: For the Old Testament the notion of **faith** centers on the belief in God's reliability.... In the New Testament, **faith** is identified with accepting Jesus as coming from God.

RELATED WORDS

Belief | Creed | Trust | Theological virtues

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does it mean to have faith?

When we put our **faith** in other people, it means we trust them to do as they say and to follow through on their promises. It doesn't mean we believe that they exist. Yet this minimalist definition of **faith** seems to be what's most often applied in the realm of religion. Contrast that with what happens if we extend the same **faith** in God that we offer to people. As Jesuit theologian Michael Cook describes it, we only surrender our trust to those with whom we have a shared history. Committing our **faith** to another person involves risk. We become vulnerable to betrayal, deceit, or disappointment. Who would take such a risk unless the one to whom we give our **faith** has proven worthy of it? This is precisely the kind of **faith** Abraham surrenders to the God who invites him to leave home and embark on a future that's unknown. God promises land and descendants. If Abraham hadn't believed God was good for it, he would never have left his father's tents.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-faith>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS (JULY 29)

A moment of truth

In the aftermath of her brother Lazarus' death—and before Jesus raised him from the dead—Christ tells Saint Martha in the Gospel of John, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." What a promise! Then he asks the crucial question: "Do you believe this?" In her answer Martha speaks the words attributed to Saint Peter in the other gospels: "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." At that moment her **faith** is revealed, probably to herself as well as others.

READINGS: Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 11:19-27 (401/607) <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/072924.cfm>. "I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

FAITH IN ACTION

When you face a moment of truth about your **faith**, what are you prepared to answer?