

# Faith – definition

Greek word for Faith:

- πίστις - **pistis** /*pis'tis*/ - meaning faith, firm persuasion. “Faith” or , is a conviction based upon hearing
  - Translated as
    - “faith”, “belief”, “trust”, “confidence”,
    - and, also, “fidelity” and “faithfulness
  - Secular Koine Greek pistis referred to a guarantee or warranty.
  - The root of **pistis** is **peitho** which itself means “to persuade” and “to be persuaded.
  - The noun form of **pistis** (or, verb **pisteuo**) brings out these clear meanings or phases of application of the word “faith” to the context:
    - A firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God’s revelation or truth (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
    - A personal surrender to Jesus (John 1:12)
    - A conduct inspired by such surrender (2 Corinthians 5:7)
  - Abraham had faith in God Himself, which means Abraham could exercise his faith or confidence in God by believing the promise God made. (Romans 4:17, 20, 21)
    - The object of Abraham’s faith was NOT the promise, but God who made the promise.
    - There is always something already proven or known behind faith.
    - There is no such thing as blind faith. This is biblically impossible. There must be some previous knowledge or experience.

Two English words can be used to explain the concept of faith (*pistis*):

1. BELIEF – is “intellectual assent, based on a sufficiency of evidence.”
  - a. It is not accounted to us for righteousness like Abraham’s, for we have not believed God but evidence.
  - b. No matter how much evidence we accept, our belief, or this level of faith, is no greater than the faith of Satan, fallen angels and demons. (James 2:19)
  - c. Knowledge can compel the intellect but it cannot compel the act of the will to go to the level of trust.
  - d. But . . . knowledge and knowledge are the basis for belief which is a precondition to trust.
  - e. To scorn knowledge and mental assent is to make faith a purely subjective experience which is fatal
2. TRUST – is the reliance upon and commitment to.
  - a. Trust is of the heart not the head.
  - b. “for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.” (Rom. 10:10)

### Five Hebrew Words for Faith

1. **Prop** - Genesis 15:6, the word for “amen.” It means to use God as a prop. To use God as a foundation, to lean on Him.

## Genesis 15:6

<p>6666 [e]          sə·dā·qāh.          צְדָקָה          for righteousness  <small>N-fs</small></p>	<p>lōw          לוֹ          to him  <small>Prep   3ms</small></p>	<p>28          way·yah·šə·l          וַיַּאֲחֲזֵק          and He accoun  <small>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3rr</small></p>	<p><b>AWMAN</b>          - confirm          - support          - prop          - stand firm</p>	<p>599 [e]          wə·he·'ē·min          וַיִּשְׁמַע          6          And he believed  <small>Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-3ms</small></p>
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2. **Confident Trust** - Psalm 37:3, the word translated “faith” or “trust.” Used of Hezekiah facing Sennecherib, David facing Goliath and three Hebrew men facing Nebuchadnezzar’s fire. *Batach* usually anticipates deliverance Putting their trust on the Lord each of these expected deliverance. In all three of these cases the men were confident and bold in trusting the Lord instead of circumstances or mankind. They put

their confidence/trust/faith on the Lord and expected deliverance.

# Psalm 37:3

530 [e] 'ē-mū-nāh. אֱמוּנָה: His faithfulness N-fs	7462 [e] ū-rē-‘êh וּרְעָה and feed on Conj-w   V-Qal-Imp-ms	776 [e] 'e-reṣ, אֶרֶץ in the land N-fs	7931 [e] šə-kān- שָׁכַן Dwell V-Qal-Imp-ms	2896 [e] ṭō-wb; טוֹב good N-ms	<b><i>Batach</i></b>  - to trust - be bold -confident - put	982 [e] be-ṭah בִּטָּחָה 3 Trust V-Qal-Imp-ms
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3. **Flee** – Psalm 57:1, used to say “flee like a bunny.” As a rabbit would flee from a large animal. The rabbit does not stay and fight the predator, instead he flees. Right before he is about to be overtaken the rabbit sees a rock with a crack in it or a cleft. He goes in and is safe.

# Psalm 57:1

6440 [e] mip-pe-nê-šā- מִפְּנֵי from Prep-m   N-mpc	1272 [e] be-bā-re-hōw בְּבָרְחוֹ when he fled Prep-b   V-Qal-Inf   3ms	4387 [e] miḳ-tām; מִכְתָּם a Michtam N-ms	1732 [e] le-dā-wid לְדָוִד of David Prep-l   N-proper-ms	516 [e] taš-hét תַּשְׁחֵת Destroy V-Hifil-Imperf. Jus-2ms	'al- אֶל- Set to do Not Adv	5329 [e] lam-naš-šê-ah לְמַנְצֵחַ 1 To the Chief Musician Prep-l, Art   V-Piel-Prctpl-ms	
5315 [e] naḫ-šī נַפְשִׁי my soul N-fsc   1cs	2620 [e] hā-sā-yāh הִסִּיָּה trusts V-Qal-Perf-3fs	be-kā בְּךָ in You Prep   2ms	<b><i>Chasah</i></b> <b><i>/khaw-saw/</i></b>  - to flee for protection -to seek refuge - flee to shelter -go aside, apart	30 [e] ·hīm אֱלֹהֵי God N-mp	2603 [e] hān-né-nī הַנְּנִי Be merciful to me V-Qal-Imp-ms   1cs	4631 [e] bam-me-‘ā-rāh. בַּמְעֵרָה: into the cave Prep-b, Art   N-fs	7586 [e] 'ul, שָׂאוּל Saul N-proper-ms
1942 [e] haw-wō-wṭ. הַזֹּאת: [these] calamities N-fp	5074 [e] ya-‘ā-bōr יָאֵבֹר have passed by V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	'ad, עַד Until Prep	2620 [e] 'eh-seh; אֶחָסֶה I will make my refuge V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	3671 [e] ke-nā-pe-kā כַּנְּפֵיךָ of Your wings N-fpc   2ms	6738 [e] ū-be-šél- וּבְצֵל- and in the shadow Conj-w, Prep-b   N-misc		

4. **Withstand** – Job 13:15, means to trust though in extreme pain. Habbakkuk 3:17,18 and Daniel 3:17, 18.

# Job 13:15

3198 [e] 'ō-w·kî·ah.	6440 [e] pā·nāw	<b>Yachal</b> <b>/yaw-chal'/</b> <b>- to wait</b> <b>- have hope</b> <b>-waste time</b> <b>- await expectantly</b> <b>- to be patient</b>	3176 [e] 'ā·ya·hêl; אֵיחַל yet will I trust	3808 [e] lōw (לוֹ) Him	lō [לא]	6991 [e] yiq·tə·lê·nî יִקְטְלֵנִי He slay me	2005 [e] hên הֵן 15 Though
I will defend	the face of Him		V-Piel-Imperf-1cs	Prep   3ms	Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms   1cs	Interjection

5. **Hang on** – In Isaiah 40:31 “Those who hope in the Lord. . .” This word originally used in making rope. There is first just a little strand, which is easy to break. These are the “faint” in verse 30 (tired, weary, stumble and fall). But the word is reference to the process of making a rope with that one little breakable strand. The word “hope” in Isaiah 40:31 means to be a strand twisted into a great rope and therefore made strong and came to mean “trust.” It means not just to “hope” but to “keep on hoping” as you become a gigantic, powerful rope which nothing can break.”

# Isaiah 40:31

5404 [e] kan·nə·šā·rîm;	83 [e] 'ê·ber	5927 [e] ya·'ā·lū	3581 [e] kə·ah,	2498 [e] ya·hā·lî·pū	3068 [e] Yah·weh	6960 [e] wə·qō·w·yê וְקִוּוּ 31
like eagles	with wings	they shall mount up	[their] strength	shall renew	Yahweh	but those who wait on
Prep-k, Art   N-mp	N-ms	V-Hifil-Imperf-3mp	N-ms	V-Hifil-Imperf-3mp	N-proper-ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc

  

ḡ	3286 [e] yî·'ā·pū.	3808 [e] wə·lō	1980 [e] yê·lə·kū
פ	וְיִעָפוּ:	וְלֹא	וְיֵלְכוּ
-	faint	and not	they shall walk
Punc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w   Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp

  

**Qavah**  
**/kaw-vaw'/**  
- originally mean "to collect" or gather";  
twisting, tension, binding together  
- to wait for  
- enduring  
-eagerly waiting  
-expecting