

⦿ What is Faith?

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◎ “Faith means putting up with God’s incomprehensibility for a lifetime.”

- Karl Rahner

German Theologian

◎ Faith is knowledge and trust. It has seven characteristics:

- Faith is a sheer gift of God, which we receive when we fervently ask for it.
- Faith is the supernatural power that is absolutely necessary if we are to attain salvation.
- Faith requires the free will and clear understanding of a person when he accepts divine invitation.

- Faith is absolutely certain, because Jesus guarantees it.
- Faith is incomplete unless it leads to active love.
- Faith grows when we listen more and more carefully to God's Word and enter in lively exchange with him in prayer.
- Faith gives us even now a foretaste of the joy of heaven.

- YOUCAT 21, CCC 153-165,179-180,183-184

- ◎ How does one go about believing?
 - Someone who believes is seeking a personal union with God and is ready to believe God in everything that he shows (reveals) about himself. (ccc 150-152).
 - Is there a contradiction between faith and science?
 - There is no insoluble contradiction between faith and science, because there cannot be two kinds of truth. (ccc 159)

◎ John 20:29-

- Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
- Hebrew 11:1
 - Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen.

- ◎ Faith is a personal act-the response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself.
- ◎ No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life.
- ◎ The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others.
- ◎ Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith.

-CCC 166

- ◎ Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others. -ccc 166