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# **SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE**

NORTH: Oct. 11/15 | SOUTH: Oct. 18/22 | CHAPEL: Oct. 29



## **FAITH ALONE**

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo-hope.org/resources)

# ***FAITH ALONE***

***READ:*** Hebrews 11; Galatians 2:17-21

The biblical definition of faith is “Confidence in what we hope for; assurance about what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1) Faith is the bedrock on which we stand in our relationship with God; believing in God; trusting in his promises; receiving this grace of God.

On our part, it is faith alone that makes us right with God. As Habakkuk 2:4b states, “The righteous person will live by his faithfulness.” There is nothing more important in our life with God than our faith in his promises. Because we are human, faith is challenged by doubt and the brokenness of life. Faith falters when we look away from God to our own efforts or to the advancements of humanity through reason and logic. That’s not to say that reason is not a gift from God. It is! We are created in the image of God and are to use all the gifts he has given us, including reason, which has provided all kinds of improvements for society at large. But human reason can never replace faith. Faith keeps us looking up to the one we were made to look up to. And when we place our faith in God, he himself counts that as the righteousness we need to live a life with him now on earth and forever in heaven!

## ***QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION***

1. Define faith.
2. What are the greatest challenges you face in placing your faith in God?

3. Our faith is placed in the work of Christ for us. What did Jesus do for us that makes faith in his work so crucial for our relationship with God?
4. Reflecting on Galatians, is it possible to get right with God without faith? Why or why not?
5. Reflecting on Hebrews, describe what faith looks like in action.
6. What are some of the best practices you have implemented in your life to advance your faith?
7. Why do you think faith alone makes us right with God?

## ***PRAYER***

Lord God, I confess that my words and actions will never make me good enough for you. Too often I fail in following your commandments. By my own power I cannot make myself holy and right with you. I thank you for the work of your Son, Jesus, my Lord and Savior. His sacrifice for my sin is my salvation. Today I renew my faith in the work of your Son. My trust is in your saving grace. My faith is in my Savior’s work to make me right with you. As I look up to you, I wholeheartedly place my faith in you and as an expression of thanksgiving, I commit to follow your Son with my whole life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.