

## Faith

“Whoever believes in the Son has life eternal.”  
(John 3:36)

**Consider the following statement: God has given us the gift of faith so that we can respond to His love.**

### Scripture :

Luke 1:26-38, 45	Mary believed that the Lord’s words to her would come true.
Mk 9:17-27	With faith all things are possible; we need to ask God to increase our faith.
Matt 16:17	Faith is a gift from God.
John 3:36	Belief in Jesus leads to eternal life, but failure to obey leads to condemnation.
Mark 16:16	We will be saved in believing and being baptized.
John 3:36	Faith requires obedience.
John 6:40	God gives us the desire for faith.
Col 1:23	Hold fast to the faith that has been given to you.
Eph 1:18	<i>Faith seeks understanding</i>
Eph 2:1-10	We are saved by our response of faith; this response is a gift of grace from God.
Eph. 6:16	Faith is a shield of protection against Satan.
Heb 11:1 – 12:2	We have many ancestors and witnesses who lived deep faith in God
James 1:3-8	We should persevere in faith and our prayer must be without doubt in God.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church:

<i>Main Section</i>	CCC, 143-167
Faith is a gift – grace	CCC, 153, 179, 234
Faith is certain & necessary for salvation	CCC, 157, 161
Faith seeks understanding – faith & reason united	CCC, 153, 156-159
Faith can grow, be lost and/or regained	CCC, 29, 162, 1003
Faith – the beginning of eternal life	CCC, 163-165

### Key Terms: (from the *Glossary* to the Catechism)

<i>Faith:</i>	An infused gift of God & a human act by which a person responds to God.
<i>Reason:</i>	The natural gift of human understanding that allows us to know God.
<i>Grace:</i>	A share in God’s Divine Life that enables the soul to grow in virtue.
<i>Salvation:</i>	The forgiveness of sins & restoration of friendship with God.

“When we contemplate the blessings of faith even now, as if gazing at a reflection in a mirror, it is as if we already possessed the wonderful things which our faith assures us we shall one day enjoy.” St. Basil