

FOR FURTHER STUDY ON UNDERSTANDING FAITH AND BELIEF (my thoughts in Italics):

Scripture

Matthew 21:22; John 2:23, 7:31, 10:38, 12:42; Acts 8:13, 26:27,28; Romans 14:2; 2

Thessalonians 2:11; James 1:6, 2:19; 1 John 4:1

Grudem's Definitions:

Belief: "refers to the acceptance of truth of something...In the New Testament this term often involves this sense of commitment (John 3:16; see also "faith").

Faith: "trust or dependence on God based on the fact that we take Him at His word and believe what He has said."

Note how Grudem lays out faith follows belief. In my own words I'd describe it as "Following our belief in Jesus as Lord, faith is the God-given ability to know His will and act on it. Consider how the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith in Luke 17:5."

Strong's Greek Concordance, HELPS Word Studies: "As in the Gospels, a person's believing (belief) is vital (cf. Heb 11:6). But a personal encounter with Christ (a true connection with Him and His Word) is always necessary for believing ("man's responsibility") to be transformed into faith (which is always and only God's word). See also Mt 8:10,13, 9:22,28,29, 15:28; Ac 20:21; Ro 9:32; Gal 3:9,22. Faith (4102/pistis) involves belief but it goes beyond human believing because it involves the personal revelation (inworking) of God. Faith is always God's work. Our believing has eternal meaning when it becomes "faith-believing" by the transforming grace of God. Reflection: Demons believe (and shudder) . . . but they do not have (experience) faith!"

Walvoord & Zuck Commentary: "The word [in their translation 'add' or in the ESV 'supplement'] came to be used of one who provides for or supports others or supplies something for them in abundance. A believer is to 'furnish, supply, or support' his life with these virtues ... *Pistis* [faith], trust in the Savior ... is the foundation of all other qualities in the Christian life." *Note how Scripture does not assign the burden of supplying/furnishing faith to us, since that is a gift from God, but directly connected to that and born out of it is our mandate to furnish these other virtues (discerning God's will and applying it to our lives).*