

Trust

a person on whom or thing on which one relies

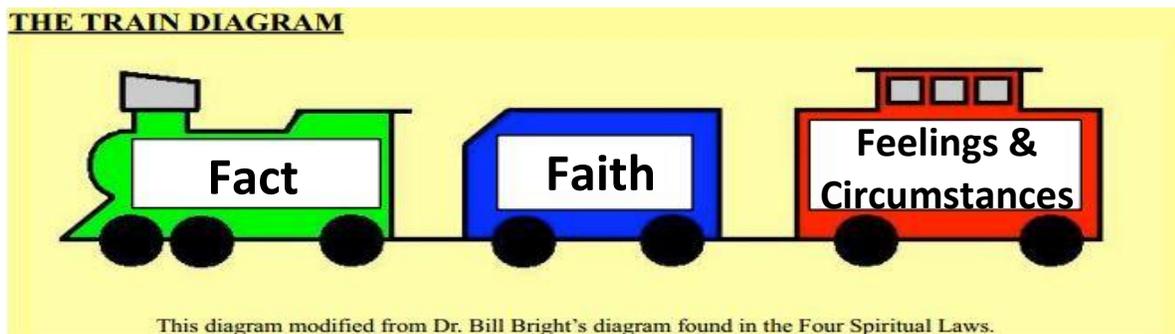
What are one or two things you've placed your faith in in the past?

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". But what do Christians put their faith in? As a child of God, it is important to know your faith is based on the Word of God, the Bible, and not on feelings and experiences that arise out of the circumstances of life. Sometimes feelings can be in conflict with sound reasoning, which actually hinders the growth of a Christian who may be basing his faith in feelings rather than the infallible truth of the Bible.

Also, there are many believers who are striving for an emotional experience to validate their faith, rather than building their faith on Christ. For example, immature Christians want to "feel" that God is in their life. Feelings come and go and can be activated by the flesh and circumstances. Usually valid feelings come from the result of our faith and obedience. It has been said, "Don't feel your way into action, act your way into feeling."

Faith is the ability to trust Christ with every detail of our life. Our trust develops over time as we get to know God better and better, and act on the faith we do have. The bottom line will always be, can I trust God with this decision, issue or circumstance? The ability to trust deeply regardless of how things look comes from the Bible and the Holy Spirit. As we trust God with the details, He transforms our minds and guides us into His perfect will.

THE TRAIN DIAGRAM



To see a video of this go to www.MasterPlanMinistries.net/diagram-video-tutorials

1. If you experience a really good circumstance, like winning a free car, how would you feel? How would that feeling affect your faith in Christ? Would it go up or down?
2. Conversely, if a bad situation occurred like losing your driver's license, how would you feel? How would that feeling affect your faith? Would your faith in Christ go down?
3. Why should feelings and circumstances be the caboose and not the engine?
4. Why is it important to put your faith in God's Word, the Bible?

Share a real life example of a time you either put your faith in your feelings and circumstances and a time you put your faith in the truth of God's Word.

The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, as Christians we do not depend on feelings or emotions but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**

What role did faith play in your salvation?

Read **Hebrews 11:6**

1. What are we to put our faith in?
2. What are two things about God we must believe if we want to please God?

Read **Romans 10:17**

1. Where does faith come from?
2. If you wanted to grow in your faith what would you do?

James 1:22

Why must we apply what God's Word says?

2 Corinthians 5:7

Can you think of a life example where it would be beneficial to trust God and His Word even if it went against what your eyes and heart told you to do?

Galatians 2:20

1. Who is to be the object of our faith?
2. What did Jesus do for us?

Next Step:

Continue reading John and make note of things you see to be true about God. Continue to write down questions that come up and bring them up next week.