

Word Study: Faith and Belief, are they Different?

In short, there is NO difference between faith and belief. Additional meaning has been added to the English word "faith" over time, but in the Greek, the *verb* for believe is πιστεύω "pisteuo," and the *noun* form is πίστις "pistis." The Greek word "pistis" could just as legitimately be translated "belief" in any place the word "faith" has been used by the translators in the New Testament. It is the same thing as in English, "believe" and "belief" have the same meaning, they are just the verb and noun forms.

In the KJV [and also the NIV & ESV], there is one verse that translates the Greek word "pistis" as "belief:" *"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief [pistis]** of the truth: [2 Thessalonians 2:13].* I would assume it is because "faith of the truth" sounds strange, however, some translations actually do translate it like that.

I recently heard a well-known Pastor on a Youtube video say something like *"You can't be saved by belief, you have to have faith!"* What? The entire video was actually a little confusing.

However, if he had looked for the definition of belief in the BlueletterBible in the definition of "pistis" he would have found the same confusing definition *"**belief** with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, **springing from faith in the same.**"* [Belief springs from belief?]

The first part of the definition of pistis in the BlueLetterBible is correct, belief in Jesus Christ is putting

your trust or confidence in His finished work on the cross, which reconciled us to God, and His resurrection from the Dead which saves us. [Romans 5:10]

When Paul talks about Abraham's faith the word "faith" is not found in the Genesis account. And even the Septuagint does not use the word "pistis" in that passage. Genesis 15:6 states that "Abraham **believed** God and it was counted to him for righteousness." In Romans 4:9, Paul called Abraham's belief, "pistis" which is translated "faith" in the New Testament.

The screenshot shows a Bible study application interface. At the top, there's a browser-like header with "King James Version" and a tab for "Romans 4:9". Below this is a navigation bar with "Home", "Search", "Notes", "Formatting", "View", "Tools", and "Share". A secondary bar contains "Contents", "Favorites", "History", "Verse", and "Link set". The main content area displays the text of Romans 4:9 in English and Greek. The English text reads: "Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that **faith** was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness." The Greek text is: "οὗτος ὁ μακαρισμὸς οὐκ ἐπὶ τὴν περιτομήν • ἢ ἐπὶ τὴν ἀκροβυστίαν καὶ γὰρ λέγομεν ὅτι ἡ πίστις ἔλογίσθη Ἐλογίσθη Ἀβραάμ εἰς δικαιοσύνην". The word "faith" in the English text is highlighted in yellow, and the corresponding Greek word "πίστις" is also highlighted in yellow.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith [belief]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.