

Faith Advent Candle

A second Advent candle at many churches is for Faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (from Hebrews 11:1). Faith is based on confidence and trust and is a foundational pillar of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Without Faith, we are merely hearing a story but are not convinced of its truth and reality.

We read some fantastic stories in the Bible: Peter walking on water, Jesus' resurrection, healing of the leper, Moses parting of the Red Sea, Jonah and the whale, Jesus turning water into wine, etc. How do we know these things are real? We know because the Bible tells us so. Biblical writers were inspired by God, recording His word for us. The Bible is the infallible Word of God. Modern man has validated many of the settings and events described in the Bible through archeological digs. The Bible tells us of His promises. We can be confident that God delivers on *all* His promises. We can be assured that the miracles recorded in the Bible undoubtedly occurred. Furthermore, God can have Faith that He can do miracles in our lives according to His will.



The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association said faith “starts with a belief that God exists and that He loves us, so He sent His son into the world to save us.” Our faithful response is the “decision to place our lives in His hands to save us.”

It is not about us – it is about God. Faith is putting aside the expectation that we can do something and trusting that God can.

Faith is personal. No one can have Faith *for* you. When you have Faith, it is life-changing. It is a call to action to be more like Jesus. Sometimes, we need to step out in Faith and trust if we sense that God is calling us to action.

As I gaze at our family's lighted Christmas tree this morning, I sit in anticipation of the coming light of the world, Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's gift to us, who came to earth to show me how to live, how to serve others, and how I can be a light in a dark world. All this is possible because of my Faith that Jesus is the Son of God, and my personal Savior. Here is the call to action: He changes me to be a light in this world and to encourage others.

May Christmas bring you a deeper understanding of Jesus in your life because of your Faith.