

## The Beatitudes

“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” Romans chapter 10 verse 17

Jesus once asked, “When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on the earth?” Well, there is no shortage of people who believe in things, but, of course, Jesus had a more specific meaning in mind. He was wondering about faith in him.

Most people believe what they do because of things they have heard or read that have captured their imaginations. Isn't it amazing how many conspiracy theories there are around these days, how quickly they spread and how ready people are to believe them? They seem to feed into something in us that loves to know the 'real story' of who is really in control or what really happened that the media or the government or the establishment is not telling us. Such is our fascination with the 'real story' behind the reported news that we are ready to believe the slimmest evidence without ever checking the real facts.

So more important than having faith is what we have faith in. A person can have as much faith as they like, but it is useless if the object of that faith is not true.

What undermines faith in God, even if people believe in him, is doubt about his word. With the secular world so confident in its scientific world view, its philosophies, its psychologies, its ideals and its values, it is no surprise that claims that the Bible is the measure of all truth fall on sceptical ears. I know that took me many years of exploring the connection between secular truth and the Bible before I came to the conclusion that all claims to truth must be evaluated in the light of the Bible's ultimate truth; for forty years God's word has illuminated and guided my life and has never let me down.

What brings people to faith is hearing God's truth about Jesus from his word, the Bible, to which God adds the conviction of his Holy Spirit. What brings believers into everything that God wants for them in this life is believing what his word says about who God is, who we are in the light of that, and consequently how we are to live our lives. If faith comes from hearing, who are we listening to?

### Prayer

Father, thank you for your word of truth. I confess to having been blown about by many claims to truth in the past, which has often left me confused, or believing in things that have led me the wrong way. Please work by your Spirit in my heart to enable me to look into the Bible understanding it to be your word of truth for me. By this means, bring me to faith and cause me to grow in faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*