

# Superficial Faith

## I. Introduction:

### A. Defining our terms:

1. The term "superficial" means: "1 a (1) : of, relating to, or located near a surface (2) : lying on, not penetrating below, or affecting only the surface superficial wounds b British, of a unit of measure : square superficial foot 2 a : concerned only with the obvious or apparent : shallow b : seen on the surface : external c : presenting only an appearance without substance or significance" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/superficial>).

2. By faith, for these lesson, we are not talking of faith as most commonly understood (**Hebrews 11:1**), but rather the practice/actions of faith (**Colossians 1:4** and **I Thessalonians 1:8**).

3. By speaking of people of superficial faith, I am not saying they are entirely fake, faithless, and hopeless, but rather that their faith is very shallow (i.e. **Matthew 16:1-11**).

B. Actions, that appear to be of the faith; are sometimes just a pretentious, outward show, without any depth (**Deuteronomy 5:22-29** and **Isaiah 58:1-2**).

1. Superficial faith, if not repented of, won't last (**Hosea 6:4**).

2. When tested, those of superficial faith fail (**Luke 8:13**).

3. Most superficial people will even stand and lie to the Lord our God (**Psalms 78:31-37**).

## II. Body: Is Your Faithfulness Shallow (**Psalms 1:1-6**)?

A. Your faith must have depth to survive (**Mark 4:3-6**).

1. You have to be rooted and grounded (**Ephesians 3:17** and **Colossians 2:5-7**).

a. Deep roots make you unmovable (**Proverbs 12:3**).

b. To be unmovable, you have to put in the work (**I Corinthians 15:58** and **Colossians 1:23**).

2. Being rooted and grounded in the faith means you are "stablished" [stable] (**Colossians 2:7**).

B. Putting on the "face" [makeup, outward appearance] of faith (**Matthew 23:25-28**), will only get you so far (**II Timothy 3:1-9**).

1. Superficiality is often rooted in self-deception (**Galatians 6:3**; cf. **Matthew 26:26-35**).

2. You have to honestly look within yourself to know (**II Corinthians 13:5**).

3. If you're only spiritually "skin deep", make a choice (**Revelation 3:14-19**).

4. Understand that little faith, if you have any at all, can grow if you choose to really be converted (i.e. Peter who went from little faith, denying Jesus, etc. to a faithful man able to be an elder - **Matthew 14:22-33**, **Matthew 26:69-75**, **Luke 22:31-32**, **Galatians 2:11-17**, and **I Peter 5:1-4**).

C. Those who want to be superficial do not belong among the congregation of the righteous (**Ephesians 5:25-27**; cf. **Ecclesiastes 9:18** and **Galatians 5:9**).

1. To be an effective member in the congregation you cannot be shallow, easily moved (**Ephesians 4:14-16**).

2. When the superficial is exposed (**Luke 6:43-45**; cf. **Matthew 7:15-20**), the righteous congregation will take proper action (**II Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15**).

3. If not exposed in this life, the Lord will sort it out (**I Timothy 5:24-25**).

D. The Lord knows us (**John 2:23-25**).

1. You cannot put on a face and fool the Lord (**I Chronicles 28:9, John 5:15-18; 42, and Hebrews 4:13**).

2. With God, there is righteous and wicked with consequences for either or (**Isaiah 3:10-11**).

3. Ultimately, regardless of the face we wear among people (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**), the Lord will judge us as we really are (**Romans 2:16** and **II Corinthians 5:10**).

III. Conclusion: Don't be superficial, be planted, abiding and fruitful in Christ (**John 15:1-8**).