

## Faith of (subjective genitive) or Faith in (objective genitive)?

Graham Thomason, 23 August, 2014; Revised 19 April, 2018

We present a table of instances of a genitive with the noun πίστις (faith), showing where the Authorized Version (AV) and Far Above All (FAA) translations render as a subjective or objective genitive. Our table indicates whether the definite article (def. art.) is used in the construction.

### Notes

- Where the article is absent in the Greek and has been inserted in the English, we mark it in blue as follows, *the* or *the* (the FAA italicises these occurrences).
- Where the article is present in Greek and has been omitted in the English, we mark it in red as follows: **^**.
- Where AV and FAA differ on the subjective/objective genitive, we highlight the summary cell in **yellow**.
- Where the AV rendering itself raises questions of interpretation of the English, we highlight the cell in **pink**.
- Where πίστις is not translated by "faith" (AV: "belief" or "to believe"; FAA: "faithfulness"), the word is coloured **purple**.
- There are many other verses where the word for faith, πίστις, is constructed with a preposition (εἰς or ἐν). These are always an objective construction. Occurrences: Acts 20:21, Acts 24:24, Acts 26:18, Rom 3:25, Gal 3:26, Eph 1:15, Col 1:4, Col 2:5, 1 Tim 3:13.

Verse	RP	AV	FAA	AV	FAA	def. art.	Remarks
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### The following are FAA "faith of"

Rom 3:3	Μὴ ἡ ἀπιστία αὐτῶν τὴν πίστιν τοῦ θεοῦ καταργήσει;	shall their unbelief make <b>the faith of God</b> without effect?	Their disbelief does not make <b>God's faithfulness</b> void, does it?	of Subj	(=of) Subj	Y	--
Eph 3:12	ἐν ᾧ ἔχομεν τὴν παρρησίαν καὶ τὴν προσαγωγὴν ἐν πεποιθήσει διὰ τῆς πίστεως αὐτοῦ.	In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by <b>the faith of him</b> .	in whom we have assurance and access in confidence through <b>his</b> faithfulness.	of Subj	(=of) Subj	Y	Disputable
Phil 1:27	μὴ ψυχῇ συναθλοῦντες τῇ πίστει τοῦ εὐαγγελίου,	with one mind striving together for <b>the faith of the gospel</b> ;	striving together with one mind for <b>the faith of the gospel</b> ,	of Epex	of Epex	Y	Epexegetic
2 Tim 2:18	ἀνατρέπουσιν τὴν τινῶν πίστιν.	and overthrow <b>the faith of some</b>	and they are overturning <b>the faith of some</b> .	of Subj	of Subj	Y	--
Titus 1:1	κατὰ πίστιν ἐκλεκτῶν θεοῦ	according to <b>the faith of God's elect</b>	according to <b>the faith of God's elect</b>	of Subj	of Subj	N	--

Verse	RP	AV	FAA	AV	FAA	def. art.	Remarks
James 2:1	μη̄ εν̄ προσωποληψίαις ἔχετε τὴν πίστιν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ τῆς δόξης.	have not <b>the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ</b> , the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.	do not hold <b>the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ</b> of glory with partiality.	of Subj/ Epex	of Subj/ Epex	Y	Disputable; perhaps epexegetic
Rev 13:10	ὧδέ ἐστιν ἡ ὑπομονὴ καὶ ἡ πίστις τῶν ἁγίων.	Here is the patience and <b>the faith of the saints</b> .	This is the patience and <b>the faith of the saints</b> .	of Subj	of Subj	Y	--
Rev 14:12	οἱ τηροῦντες τὰς ἐντολάς τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὴν πίστιν Ἰησοῦ.	they that keep the commandments of God, and <b>the faith of Jesus</b> .	those <i>who</i> keep the commandments of God and <b>the faith of Jesus</b> .	of Subj	of Subj	Y	perhaps = <i>given by</i>

*The following are FAA "faith in"*

Mark 11:22	Ἔχετε πίστιν θεοῦ.	Have <b>faith in God</b>	Have <b>faith in God</b> .	in Obj	in Obj	N	--
Acts 3:16	Καὶ ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ,	And ... through <b>faith in his name</b>	And by <b>faith in his name</b> ,	in Obj	in Obj	Y	--
Rom 3:22	δικαιοσύνη δὲ θεοῦ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ	the righteousness of God which is by <b>faith of Jesus Christ</b>	<i>the</i> righteousness of God through <b>faith in Jesus Christ</b>	of Subj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Rom 3:26	δικαιοῦντα τὸν ἐκ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ.	and the justifier of him which <b>believeth in Jesus</b>	and a justifier of him <i>who is a partaker</i> of <b>faith in Jesus</b> .	in Obj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Gal 2:16a	οὐ δικαιούται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ	a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by <b>the faith of Jesus Christ</b> ,	a man is not justified by works of <i>the</i> law but by <b>faith in Jesus Christ</b>	of Subj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Gal 2:16b	ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου	that we might be justified by <b>the faith of Christ</b>	in order to be justified through <b>faith in Christ</b> and not by works of <i>the</i> law	of Subj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Gal 2:20	ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ,	the life which I now live in the flesh I live by <b>the faith of the Son of God</b>	The <i>life</i> I now lead in <i>the</i> flesh, I lead in <b>faith in the son of God</b>	of Subj	in Obj	N+	Disputable

Verse	RP	AV	FAA	AV	FAA	def. art.	Remarks
Gal 3:22	ἵνα ἡ ἐπαγγελία ἐκ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ δοθῇ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν.	that the promise by <b>faith of Jesus Christ</b> might be given to them that believe.	in order that the promise by <b>faith in Jesus Christ</b> might be given to those <i>who</i> believe,	of Subj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Phil 3:9	ἀλλὰ τὴν διὰ πίστεως χριστοῦ, τὴν ἐκ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει	but that which is through <b>the faith of Christ</b>	but that <i>which is</i> through <b>faith in Christ</b> , the righteousness from God <i>based on</i> faith,	of Subj	in Obj	N	Disputable
Col 2:12	διὰ τῆς πίστεως τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ θεοῦ,	through <b>the faith of the operation</b> of God	through <b>^ faith in the exertion of power</b> from God	of Subj?	in Obj	N	AV = ??
2 Thes 2:13	καὶ πίστει ἀληθείας	and <b>belief of the truth</b>	and <b>faith in the truth.</b>	of=in ? Obj?	in Obj	N	AV =??

### Concluding notes

- Based on the FAA rendering, we note a strong correspondence between
  - the use of the definite article (ἡ πίστις, τῆς πίστεως) and subjective genitives
  - the absence of the definite article and the objective genitives.
- We note the following verses which substantiate God's/Christ's (etc.) faithfulness more explicitly (FAA translation):

1 Cor 1:9	Πιστὸς ὁ θεός, δι' οὗ ἐκλήθητε εἰς κοινωνίαν τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν.	God, by whom you were called into fellowship with his son Jesus Christ our Lord, <b>is faithful.</b>
1 Cor 10:13	Πειρασμὸς ὑμᾶς οὐκ εἴληφεν εἰ μὴ ἀνθρώπινος· πιστὸς δὲ ὁ θεός, ὃς οὐκ ἐάσει ὑμᾶς πειρασθῆναι ὑπὲρ ὃ δύνασθε, ἀλλὰ ποιήσει σὺν τῷ πειρασμῷ καὶ τὴν ἔκβασιν, τοῦ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς ὑπενεγκεῖν.	Temptation has not got a grip on you, except for the human kind. But God is <b>faithful</b> , and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can take, but rather will also fashion the outcome with the temptation so that you can endure it.
1 Thes 5:24	Πιστὸς ὁ καλῶν ὑμᾶς, ὃς καὶ ποιήσει.	He <i>who</i> calls you <b>is faithful</b> , and he will also perform <i>it</i> .
2 Thes 3:3	Πιστὸς δὲ ἐστὶν ὁ κύριος, ὃς στηρίξει ὑμᾶς καὶ φυλάξει ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.	But the Lord is <b>faithful</b> , and he will strengthen you and protect you from evil.
2 Tim 2:13	εἰ ἀπιστοῦμεν, ἐκεῖνος πιστὸς μένει· ἀρνήσασθαι ἑαυτὸν οὐ δύναται.	If we do not believe, he remains <b>faithful</b> ; he cannot deny himself.”

Heb 2:17	“Ὅθεν ὤφειλεν κατὰ πάντα τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ὁμοιωθῆναι, ἵνα ἐλεήμων γένηται καὶ <b>πιστὸς</b> ἀρχιερεὺς τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, εἰς τὸ ἰλάσκεσθαι τὰς ἁμαρτίας τοῦ λαοῦ.	Hence he needed to become like his brothers in all respects in order to become a merciful and <b>faithful</b> high priest of things relating to God, to propitiate the sins of the people.
Heb 3:2	<b>πιστὸν</b> ὄντα τῷ {RP P1904c TR:ποιήσαντι} [P1904u: ποιήσατι] αὐτόν, ὡς καὶ {RP P1904: Μωϋσῆς} [TR: Μωσῆς] ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ.	who was <b>faithful</b> to him who appointed him, as Moses was in all his house.
Heb 10:23	κατέχωμεν τὴν ὁμολογίαν τῆς ἐλπίδος ἀκλινῆ, <b>πιστὸς</b> γὰρ ὁ ἐπαγγειλάμενος·	Let us hold on to the confession of our hope unwaveringly, for he who promised is <b>faithful</b> .
Heb 11:11	Πίστει καὶ αὐτὴ Σάρρα δύναμιν εἰς καταβολὴν σπέρματος ἔλαβεν, καὶ παρὰ καιρὸν ἡλικίας ἔτεκεν, ἐπεὶ <b>πιστὸν</b> ἠγήσατο τὸν ἐπαγγειλάμενον.	By faith Sarah herself also received power to conceive seed and when past the prime of life she gave birth, because she considered him who made the promise <b>faithful</b> .
1 Pet 4:19	“Ὡστε καὶ οἱ πάσχοντες κατὰ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, ὡς <b>πιστῷ</b> κτίστῃ παρατιθέσθωσαν τὰς ψυχὰς {RP P1904: αὐτῶν} [TR: ἐαυτῶν] ἐν ἀγαθοποιίᾳ.	So also let those who suffer according to God's will commit their {RP P1904: - } [TR: own] lives in well-doing to him as to a <b>faithful</b> creator.
1 John 1:9	Ἐὰν ὁμολογῶμεν τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἡμῶν, <b>πιστὸς</b> ἐστὶν καὶ δίκαιος ἵνα ἀφῆ ἡμῖν τὰς ἁμαρτίας, καὶ καθάρισῃ ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀδικίας.	If we confess our sins, he is <b>faithful</b> and just in forgiving us our sins and in cleansing us from all unrighteousness.
Rev 1:5	καὶ ἀπὸ Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ, ὁ μάρτυς ὁ <b>πιστὸς</b> , ὁ πρωτότοκος {RP P1904: - } [TR: ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ὁ ἄρχων τῶν βασιλείων τῆς γῆς. Τῷ {RP-text P1904: ἀγαπῶντι} [RP-marg TR: ἀγαπήσαντι] ἡμᾶς, καὶ λούσαντι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ·	and from Jesus Christ, the <b>faithful</b> witness, the firstborn {RP P1904: - } [TR: out] of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who {RP-text P1904: loves} [RP-marg TR: loved] us and washed us from our sins
Rev 3:14	Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς {RP P1904: ἐν Λαοδικεῖᾳ ἐκκλησίας} [TR: ἐκκλησίας Λαοδικέων] γράψων, Τάδε λέγει ὁ Ἄμην, ὁ μάρτυς ὁ <b>πιστὸς</b> καὶ ἀληθινός, ἡ ἀρχὴ τῆς κτίσεως τοῦ θεοῦ·	And write to the angel of the church {RP P1904: in Laodicea} [TR: of the Laodiceans], ‘The amen, the <b>faithful</b> and true witness, the source of God's creation, says this:
Rev 19:11	Καὶ εἶδον τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεωγμένον, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἵππος λευκός, καὶ ὁ καθήμενος ἐπ’ αὐτόν, καλούμενος <b>πιστὸς</b> καὶ ἀληθινός, καὶ ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ κρίνει καὶ πολεμεῖ.	Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse, and one who was sitting on it, called <b>Faithful</b> and True, and he judges and wages war in righteousness.