

## Samarpan: What is the importance of faith and devotion in our lives?

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First of all, what is faith? What is devotion? Faith is, in religious ways, a strong belief of one's god(s) and/or one's religion, which in this case, is Jainism. Devotion is what you could say comes after faith, and is religious worship, observance, and prayers. Though faith and devotion might not sound very important, faith and devotion give you a meaning in life. They also give you a definite truth, something to live by and act by, like an instruction manual for life. Most importantly, though, they help you be on the right path to achieving Moksha.

Before I talk about the importance of faith and devotion, how do you achieve these two anyway? Faith is achieved when you truly believe in Jainism and its principals. Faith doesn't just come when you mildly believe in Jainism or simply acknowledge the fact that it's real, you have to really believe in it. Once you have full faith in Jainism, devotion follows. Devotion is achieved when you wholeheartedly worship Jainism and follow its practices.

So how do faith and devotion give you a definite truth anyway? If you truly believe in Jainism, then every part of it automatically becomes a definite truth in your mind. You wouldn't even think of contradicting it, because it's set in stone, never to be changed. Faith and devotion give you something to believe, something that you know is the complete truth and nothing else. This definite truth becomes an important part of your life, and pretty soon, you are using it every day. This definite truth is then etched in your mind forever, never to be erased. Once you know what the real truth is, you are probably going to use it to answer questions that you have about your life and why things work the way they do. This is exactly what you would do with an instruction manual, look at it to find out questions about the product it came with. In this case, the product is life, and the instruction manual is the truth based on your faith and devotion. This fact makes faith and devotion a very important aspect of your life.

The most important part about faith and devotion is probably the fact that it puts you on the right path to achieving Moksha. If you have true faith and devotion in Jainism and its every principal, fact and rule, then you are already on the right path. According to Jainism, as we all should know, there is one, single truth that you have to strongly believe to achieve Moksha, the fact that the body and soul are different. Once you have started believing that fact, you are automatically on the right path, leading straight to Moksha. This makes faith and devotion of utmost importance in our lives because attaining Moksha is the ultimate goal of every soul.

What I truly hope you learned and took away from this essay, is the true meaning of faith and devotion and what their importance is in our lives. To recap, faith and devotion give you a definite truth, act like an instruction manual for life, and put you on the correct path to achieving Moksha. All three of these things are just some of the main importances of faith and devotion. Overall, true faith and devotion are two things that should be part of everyone's daily life.