

## Faith Revisited

**Hebrews 11:1** – *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

- **AMP**: *Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.*
- **NCV**: *Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.*

## Basics of Faith

**The Time-Span of Faith** – “**Now faith is ...**”

- **Mark 11:24** – “*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask **when you pray**, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*”
- **TCNT** – “*...have **faith** that whatever you ask for in prayer **is already granted you**, and you will find that it will be.*”]

**The Assurity of Faith** – “**... the substance of things hoped for, ...**”

- **CEV** – “*Faith makes us sure of what we hope for, ...*”
- **Hebrews 10:23** [**AMP**] – *So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.*

**The Evidence of Faith** – “**... the evidence of things not seen.**”

- **II Timothy 3:16, 17** – “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” [**Same word** – scripture is profitable for evidence!!]
- **II Corinthians 4:17, 18** – “*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup>**while** we do not look at the things which are seen, BUT at the things which are unseen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*” [**Faith** is like a “sixth sense” – it can see the unseen!!]
- **AMP** – “***Faith** perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.*”

**Every believer has a measure of the God-kind of faith.**

- **Romans 12:3** – “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of FAITH.**”
- **II Peter 1:1** – “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious **faith** with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**This faith is of the heart and not the head.**

- **Romans 10:10** – “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- **Proverbs 3:5, 6 [NLB]** – “Trust in the LORD with all your **heart**; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.”
- **Principle** – Get it from your head into your heart by meditating the Word.

**Hebrews 11:1** – *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

- **Faith:**
  - Firm persuasion; a conviction based on hearing. [Vines]
  - (Root) To induce one with words to believe. [Strong’s]
  - [Richards] – being sure of deed, i.e. proof of ownership. “I have the deed, of course its mine!”
  - The Word of God, my mind, my heart and my words are unified, they are in harmony, fully agree, and are therefore immovable.
  - This comes from heart meditation.
- **Substance** – ground; confidence; that which has actual existence.
- **Things hoped for** – (one word) confident expectation with joy.
- **Evidence** – to convict, refute, generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted; by conviction to bring to the light, to expose.
  - Conviction – why didn’t you believe this?
  - Proof; that by which a thing is proved or tested; [Thayer’s] – “that by which invisible things are proved and we are convinced of their reality.”]
- **Things (not seen)** – reference to things that have been accomplished. [Note – even though they have been accomplished, they can’t (yet) be seen.]

**Quote #1** – “Each time I ask God to give me what He has already given me, in Jesus, I am at the same time making a statement that God has not given it to me in Christ. The more passionately I seek to get what I already have, the more deeply I persuade my heart that I do not, in fact, possess it.”

**Quote #2** – “When the mind has been renewed to an accurate and precise knowledge of what Jesus has accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection; when our heart has been fully persuaded with the facts, confession, i.e. saying or acknowledging this truth, will be a harmonious, natural expression of truth. It will not cause stress or any other negative reaction. It will instead bring peace and a sense of power. It will be conversational, not contrived. It will be done more in the presence of God than in the presence of people. It is not a frantic effort to get what you don’t have; it’s more an overflowing from the heart of what you do have.”

**Study:** people with low self-esteem got even worse by just making positive affirmations, while those with high self-esteem got even better.

- I.e., when we make positive affirmations that we don’t believe we’re lying to ourselves.

**The key to confession** is not an attempt to make something come to pass by saying it. It is agreeing that something is already done.

- **Confession** = a 3 way agreement: what Jesus accomplished, what we say with our mouth, what we believe in our heart.