

First Words:

A biblical definition of faith - *Acts 27:25* - *So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.*

True Biblical faith is confident trust & obedience to God's Word regardless of the circumstances & consequences – Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe

Our world view is faith based. We see the world and our lives through the lenses of faith

If it is not of faith it is sin - *Romans 14:23*

Overcome the world by - *1 John 5:4-5*

Necessary to please God - *Hebrew 11:6*

Gift from God - *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Related to His Word - *Romans 10:17*

The object not the amount is the crucial element - *Mark 11:22*

1. Faith allows us to See the Invisible – *Hebrews 11:1* - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

- Defines faith for us in terms of what it does, not a strict definition but a description. Now faith is:

a. Assurance of being hoped for things

- 1) Faith is renamed as assurance - Greek "upostasis" - steadiness of mind that holds one firm, the basis. Not founded on empirical evidence but divine assurance
- 2) Hope or to trust - Greek "elpizeo" - see *Romans 8:24-25*

b. Proof of not being seen things

- 1) Faith is renamed as proof or conviction - Greek "elegchos" -
- 2) Of matter – Greek "pragmatos" - receives action of conviction - matter, of things - get our word "pramatic" from
- 3) Greek "blepeo" - to see or perceive w/negative
- 4) See *Hebrews 11:7, 13 & 27* - The flood, promises and God
- 5) Our focus is the invisible - *2 Corinthians 4:18-5:8*
- 6) Note *1 Corinthians 2:9-16*

“Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.” - J. Oswald Sanders

The invisible things in view may be:

- 1) Heaven and its joys
- 2) Heavenly personages and things
- 3) The reality of the promises of God
- 4) The reality of the return of Christ
- 5) The reality of salvation/new covenant
- 6) Answered prayer
- 7) Victory in the face of defeat

2. Faith allows us to Experience the Impossible – *Hebrews 11:2* - *For by it the people of old received their commendation.*

a. For in this/by this

- 1) Gives further proof of v.1 or emphatic idea - "indeed"
- 2) By means of or in the sphere of this - refers back to faith

b. The elders - those believers who came before
- the Old Testament saints mentioned here

c. Have been testified of - obtained a good testimony

- God is the one who testifies of them
- Note testimony in *Hebrews 11:4,5 & 39*
- The word witness/ get our word "martyr" from (Greek – martureo) - see *Hebrews 10:38* - we are of the group who believe and God is pleased with

God bore witness to the exploits of the elders through faith. They did the impossible. They did not experience death, built a huge ark, had a child at 90+ years of age, led 2.5 million people through the wilderness etc etc

What impossible things would God have us do?

- 1) Pleasing Him - *Hebrews 11:6*
- 2) Living a righteous life - *Hebrews 10:38*
- 3) Winning over our enemies - *Hebrews 11:33-34*
- 4) Enduring tough times - *Hebrews 11:35-37*

Those who walk by faith see the world through a set of glasses that is not confined to what is humanly possible but rather asks what is divinely desired and believes for that to be achieved.

3. Faith allows us to Understand the Incredible – **Hebrews 11:3** - *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

- a. By faith/in faith - by means of/in the sphere of
- b. We understand the worlds were made by the Word of God
 - 1) We on a regular basis mentally perceive (Greek "noeo" – understand/mental perception)
 - 2) The worlds (Greek “aionas”) - the ages - the physical universe and its operation
 - 3) Were made, hung, framed - to equip/perfect (Greek “katartizo”) - This denies the eternality of matter
 - 4) By means of the word (Greek "rema") of God
 - The individual word spoken by God
 - See **Genesis 1** - "And God said" (10X) – See **Psalms 33:6-9**
- c. So that the seen things were not made out of the visible things
 - 1) The creation of things by God's Word results in this axiom
 - 2) What we now see did not come out of or have its source in what is visible or that appears.

What are so other incredible things we understand by faith?

- 1) The virgin birth - **Luke 1:37**
- 2) The cross - **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**
- 3) The new birth - **John. 3:3-8**

How do I grow in my faith: The STEPS Program

- S – Say “yes” to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- T – Take time to get to know the God of the Bible & the Bible of God
- E – Exercise my faith, trusting God for some simple things
- P – Pray about the people and things I should trust God about
- S – Staying on course – Don’t quit when it gets tough

IT'S A
NEW SEASON

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

“Faith’s Perspective” – Hebrews 11:1-3

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