

# Living by Faith

## Hebrews 11:1-6

Much has been said of “faith” down through the ages, but the Bible only gives one definition of it and it is found in our text. Since this is the definition from God then it must be what He wants us to know about the subject as it relates to the every-day believer.

The spiritual gift of faith as mentioned in First Corinthians 12 and 13 is not the faith spoken of here. The faith there is one that could “move mountains” – not many have that ability today. What’s spoken of here is the faith to live our lives as a Christian every day, everywhere. It is the faith to save and the faith to live saved, so to speak.

If our faith is something that really does not make a very big difference, if it is actually not crucial that we or others believe, no wonder it seems boring to some of our young. Anything we don’t care much about can’t be very interesting.

The things we do care about, however, we inevitably talk about...

If faith is real, it seeks expression. It will communicate and profess. It will have the energy of passion. – John F. Kavanaugh in “The Word Encountered.”

### I. WHAT IS FAITH – VS. 1

#### A. *“The substance of things hoped for”*

##### 1. “Substance”

- a) The Greek word for this word (υπόστασις) is used five times in the New Testament –

three times it is translated "confident" or "confidence" (2 Cor. 9:4; 11:17; Heb. 3:14), one time it is translated "person" (Heb. 1:3), and then here, translated "substance."

- b) Considering the one time it is translated as "person," showing that Jesus Christ is the express image of an unseen God, shows that our faith is the reality of the things unseen that God has promised (just as Jesus was proof God exists).
2. "Of things hoped for" – a guaranteed expectation – something that God has promised to us that we don't have yet – our faith is the basis, the substance, that gives us that type of hope.

#### Philippians 1:20

<sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and my **hope**, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:16

<sup>16</sup> Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good **hope** through grace,

#### 2 Timothy 1:12

<sup>12</sup> For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

#### Hebrews 6:18-19

<sup>18</sup> That by two immutable things, in which it

was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **hope** set before us:

<sup>19</sup> Which **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

## ***B. "The evidence of things not seen"***

1. That by which invisible things are proved (and we are convinced of their reality)
2. The Greek word (ἔλεγχος) used here is one that means "a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested" (Thayer), or conviction and is translated as "reproof" in 2 Tim. 3:16. It is translated "tell him his fault" (the definition of "reproof," it seems) in Matthew 18:15.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

### **Matthew 18:15**

<sup>15</sup> Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

### **1 Peter 1:6–9**

<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the

appearing of Jesus Christ:

<sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

<sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

<sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

<sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

John 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

## II. WHY LIVE BY FAITH – VS. 5

### ***A. To please God – the example of pleasing God is Enoch. We know two things of Enoch, other than he was a man of faith:***

1. He walked with God – Gen. 5:18-24

Genesis 5:22

<sup>22</sup> And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

### Genesis 5:24

<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

It's one thing to walk "before" God, or "behind" God (as seen following Him in Scripture), or "in His ways," but it is quite another entirely to "walk with God." Only two people in the Bible had that said of them in that way – Enoch and his great-grandson, Noah. To walk with God, according to Amos 3:3 ("Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"), is to agree in everything with God. God requires for Him to be happy with us, and we with Him, that we "do justly," that we "love mercy," and that we "walk humbly."

### Genesis 6:9

<sup>9</sup> These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

### Micah 6:8

<sup>8</sup> He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

## 2. He was a prophet – Jude 1:14-15

### Jude 14-15

<sup>14</sup> And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

<sup>15</sup> To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken

against him.

**B. Has nothing to do with getting things from God (that's the supernatural spiritual gift spoken of in First Corinthians 12).**

***We don't live by faith to have things; we live by faith to please God by doing His will. The things we need, and desire, will come as a result of pleasing Him.***

### **III. HOW TO LIVE BY FAITH – VS. 6**

**A. Believe that God IS – is the self-existent One, the Almighty One, the true God.**

**B. Believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.**

1. "Rewarder" – remunerator, which is defined as, "to pay (a person) a suitable equivalent in return for goods provided, services rendered, or losses incurred; recompense. To Compensate for; make payment for: *remunerated his efforts.*"

What I believe this is saying to us is that God is a debtor to no man and if we do what He tells us to do, then we, by faith, can lay hold of His Word and we will be rewarded.

2. "Diligently seek" – unto them that seek him out. Albert Barnes said this on this phrase:

"If we could not believe that God would hear and answer our prayers, there could

be no encouragement to call upon Him. It is not meant here that the desire of the reward is to be the motive for seeking God – for the apostle makes no affirmation on that point; but that it is impossible to make an acceptable approach to Him unless we have this belief.”

### 1 Chronicles 28:9

<sup>9</sup> And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

### Psalms 105:3

<sup>3</sup> Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

### Psalms 119:10

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

### Proverbs 8:17

<sup>17</sup> I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

### Jeremiah 29:13–14

<sup>13</sup> And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

<sup>14</sup> And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried

away captive.

Matthew 6:33

**33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 12:31

**31** But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Conclusion: Faith is our testimony to the world that we believe in God, and in His Word. If we don't demonstrate our faith to the world then they will see no need to want what we have. The point of this message has not bene to show how we can get things from God through faith, but to show that faith is ITSELF a gift from God and we should make good use of it to see others saved by that FAITH.