

Believing Is Not Seeing: What Is Faith? Notes

Hebrews 1:1-3

Introduction: How Hebrews 11 Fits In The Current Context of The Whole Book

- The book as a whole is a declaration affirming the superiority of Christ, i.e., “Jesus is Greater.”
- Hebrews was addressed to a community of Jewish Christians facing cultural pressures and persecutions, leading them to consider reverting to Judaism. (Thus the 5 major warnings throughout the book.)
- These pressures prompted them to contemplate abandoning the gospel of Jesus to relieve their difficulties.
- However, the writer dedicates a significant portion of the letter to explain why Jesus surpassed all the traditions, rituals, systems, and laws that formed the foundation of Judaism. (prophets, angels, priestly system, Moses, etc.)
- He explains the concept of faith and then details the rich history of faith demonstrated by God’s people.
- He also provides numerous instances where their actions showcase unwavering faith in God and how such faith helped them through difficulty.

1. Faith is being _____ what God says will become _____. (Hebrews 11:1)

WHAT FAITH IS _____

- A positive _____ (a general outlook on life)
- _____ optimism (because that doesn’t have a source or foundation)
- Not mere _____ knowledge

WHAT FAITH _____

- **“Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped [promised] for, the evidence [reality] of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).**
- Faith, therefore, is expectantly awaiting the _____ of God’s promises.

· Faith holds God's Word and promises as the contractual _____ of what you already possess.

The word "substance."

· It was used in legal papers to mean "_____ of ownership," like a title deed.

The word "hope."

· **But what makes our hope different is _____ –**

o Our hope is based on a _____ who never lies.

It's like a strong _____, looking forward to God keeping His promises.

Our faith is a confident _____ based upon:

- **God's _____.**
- **God's _____ nature and character.**
- **God's _____ to His Word.**

2. Faith is the _____ of faithful servants of God. (11:2)

Hebrews 11 give the account of those who stand out as examples of faith. They received approving testimony from the Lord in that circumstances of their life is recorded in the OT and in Hebrews 11.

3. Faith _____ us to be confident that God exists and created all things. (11:3)

- **We believe this to be true with _____, not just by the evidence we see but through faith in the God we cannot see.**
- **Based on who God is and what He has done, faith and trust bring us a sense of _____ and _____ in what He says about creation.**

- **It gives us accompanying _____ concerning the promises He makes in His Word.**

How Then Should We Live?

- **We are to live by God's Word, _____ that what He says is true.**
- **And that makes our hope—our lively _____—different than the world's.**
- **Our hope is not wishful thinking but rather confidence in our _____ God.**
- **It is an expectant, excited anticipation of God _____ His promises.**

· **The reason we can have such confident faith is because...**

- (1) **God _____ lie.**
- (2) **Because many _____ He has given in Scripture have already been fulfilled.**
- (3) **We have _____ His faithfulness because of our faith in Him.**