



HEBREWS 11 PART 1

The Architecture of Trust: Defining Biblical Faith

The world often treat faith as a mystical wish cast into the dark, hoping the universe aligns in our favor. But in Hebrews 11, the writer completely redefines faith not as a passive feeling, or wishful hope, but as a legally binding reality—the title deed to the invisible promises of God. Pastor Spencer connects the sobering warnings of Hebrews 10 to the triumphant hope of Hebrews 11, demonstrating that true faith is always marked by endurance. We endure because we trust the character of the Commander leading us.

To the unregenerate mind, reality is limited to empirical data—what can be seen, touched, and measured. But biblical faith acts as a revolutionary spiritual faculty, allowing the believer to bridge the gap between the physical and the spiritual. It looks past the "theme park" illusions of this world to recognize the sovereign Creator operating behind the scenes. Faith perceives divine design, acts with radical vulnerability, and gladly trades the fleeting pleasures of this world for the eternal reproach and ultimate reward of Jesus Christ. Belief might sit still, but true, biblical faith always moves its feet.

Doctrine Definition: Biblical Faith is the objective, present possession of a future reality guaranteed by God (hypostasis/substance), and the inward spiritual conviction that unseen, eternal truths are absolute reality (elenchos/evidence). It is a dynamic, active trust in the immutable character of God ***that invariably results in radical obedience.***

Study Questions

1. Hebrews 11:1 calls faith the "substance" (hypostasis) of things hoped for—a term meaning a legally binding guarantee. How does viewing faith as a "title deed" rather than a "wish" change the way you pray for God's promises to be fulfilled? (OT: Habakkuk 2:3 | NT: Hebrews 11:1)
2. Hebrews 11:3 states the universe was formed by the Word of God out of nothing. If God can summon physical matter into existence simply by speaking, why do we so often doubt His ability to orchestrate the circumstances of our own lives? (OT: Psalm 33:6-9 | NT: Hebrews 11:3)
3. To an unregenerate mind, the world is confusing, like a theme park visitor dazzled by illusions. How does true faith allow you to "look behind the scenes" and recognize the invisible God actively sustaining your reality? (OT: Job 12:7-10 | NT: Romans 1:19-20)
4. Pastor Spencer distinguished between passive belief (acknowledging facts) and active faith (moving your feet). How does the account of Abraham leaving his homeland prove that biblical faith demands costly, vulnerable action? (OT: Genesis 12:1-4 | NT: James 2:21-22)
5. Pastor Spencer warned against "Churchianity"—showing up to feel good without ever putting faith into practice. What is one practical way you need to move from being a consumer of sermons to an active participant in God's mission this week? (OT: Ezekiel 33:31 | NT: James 1:22)