

## God's Got This #2

### Faith is Sight

Hebrews 11:1

**We began last week's study with this little statement of faith that said, "God's got this!"** And in this study we are going to see, from God's Word, what **"faith"** really is! Therefore, as we continue our study in this area of faith, let me, once again, remind you of the words found in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Please notice the phrase, "But *without faith* it is impossible to please him." This is not my word, nor is it merely the opinion of some outstanding theologian or preacher, however moral, or respected, and honored a person might be in the community, or even if his or her name has been on the church roll since childhood, they simply cannot please God without exercising faith.

Since this is true, I am sure that you will agree with me that the most important question we could possibly raise is this: "What is faith?" and "Do I have it?"

In our last study we found out that "faith is the *substance* of things hoped for." **The Bible did not say that faith obtains the substance.** It doesn't even say that faith leads us to the substance. The Bible says, "Faith *is* the substance..." **Faith literally becomes the object it embraces.** Therefore, faith isn't saying, "I'm going to get it," faith says, "I already have it."

Look again at our text, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen." Faith, then, is not only "substance," faith is "sight."

**Have you heard the phrase "parallel reality"?** Not long ago I was watching one of the "educational" channels on television, and some scientist was discussing the *theory* that there may be another universe besides ours. And residing right next to our universe is another universe. **We cannot see it because we lack the perceptive equipment to perceive it.** But, if we could see it, then we would realize that there was another universe, just as real, existing parallel to ours. Therefore, the "parallel reality" is the reality that something exists, but you cannot see it because you lack the proper equipment to do so. (Let me say that what I have said is just a theory, and I only used it for the sake of illustration.)

**But there is such a thing as "parallel reality."** For instance, television is a "parallel reality." Outside of your windows the air is filled with television programs. **They are there, and they are real, but you cannot go outside and see**

**them.** But if you go inside and turn on your television set, then that which was a “*parallel reality*” becomes a “*present reality*” because you now have the proper equipment to perceive and/or to realize that which was invisible before.

**These truths also apply to the *spiritual realm*, for there is another world that exist, that is *intangible* to our physical senses, *invisible* to the physical eyes, and cannot be *perceived* with our physical equipment.** But it is none-the-less very real, and that is why the Bible says that “faith is the evidence (proof) of things not seen.” In other words, faith sees those things that cannot be seen, therefore, *faith is sight*.

For example, the person who has been schooled in *naturalistic atheism*, and has always believed that the universe is the product of blind chance, will reject the following statement in Hebrews 11:3 as preposterous, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” But to the child of God it makes perfect sense, as seen in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Paul is saying, “I’m not looking at those things of this world, but I’m looking at the things *not seen*.” Look again, “For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Faith makes those things you *cannot* see more real than those things that you *can* see.

**Every time you get *discouraged*, every time you *lose heart*, every time you find it *difficult to serve God*, it is because you are believing more in what you *can see* than in what you *cannot see*.** You look at the *problem*, you evaluate the *situation*, and on the bases of what you *can see*, on what you *can feel*, on what you *can touch*, there is no way that the figures can add up, and you plunge in despair. But faith never settles for things that are *seen*. **Faith never draws its conclusions on the *tangible things of this life*.** Faith always draws its conclusions based on the promises in the Word of God.

**This principle is shown for us in 2 Kings 6:12-17.** You remember that Elisha is in trouble with the king, for the king thinks Elisha has bugged his bedroom, as seen in verse 12, “And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” And in verses 13-17 we are told, “So he said, Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him. And it was told him, saying, Surely he is in Dothan. Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and

they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? So he answered, Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray; open his eyes that he may see. Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” **Now Elisha’s servant, a person just like any of us, looked around him, and saw that they were surrounded by the enemy.** And according to what he could *see*, and according to what he could *touch*, and according to what he could *feel*, he concluded that the situation was hopeless. So he turned to Elisha, and asked, “What are we going to do?” Elisha answered, “Don’t be afraid! For there are more on our side than on theirs!”

**But there was a problem – the servant simply did not see what Elisha saw.** And verse 17 says, “Then Elisha prayed, O Lord, open his eyes and let him see! The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.”

**What was the cause of this young man’s despair?** He drew his conclusions on what he could see through the eyes of the *flesh*, instead of looking to God through the eyes of *faith*. That is why the Bible tells us that “faith is the evidence of things not seen.”

**The reality of this kind of faith provides us with a direction in our service to God.** Hebrews 11:24-27 says this about Moses, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” If Moses had evaluated the situation on the basis of what he could *see*, and on what he could *feel*, and if he had concentrated on the *riches* of Pharaoh’s palace, on the *treasures* and *pleasures* of Egypt, he would never have left and followed God. But the Bible says that Moses looked beyond the visible “seeing him who is invisible.” Every ministry must be by “**faith**” or there is *no direction*.

**Not only does this kind of faith provide us with direction, it also provides us with assurance.** Look at John 20:24-29, “Now Thomas, called Didymus, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, We have seen the Lord. So he said to them, Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe. And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst,

and said, Peace to you! Then He said to Thomas, Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” **The bible is teaching us that faithlessness and/or unbelief demands proof.** Any time you demand from God *visible, tangible, physical, concrete proof* that what He says is true, then, you are guilty of *unbelief and faithlessness*.

**Many of us today have no real Christian assurance because we are still looking for some sort of proof that we are saved and headed for heaven.** And because of this we have developed a relationship with God and church that is based on *emotion*.

**And there are some of you here today that are mastered by how you feel.** And you only pray when you feel like praying; you only come to church when you feel like coming; you only get involved in worship when you feel some kind of movement; you believe God is blessing when you feel you are being blessed; you only claim victory when you feel that everything is going right. And you are the kind of person who Satan attacks by hurting your feelings. **Everybody hurts your feelings.** If your husband doesn't say the right things, or if your wife doesn't act the right way, or if your friends don't make over you, your feelings get hurt, and everybody owes you an apology. You are mastered by your feelings.

**But faith reveals to us that it is the promise of God's Word, not our feelings, and that is our assurance.** Faith says, “I know I don't feel spiritual. I know I don't feel secure. I know I don't feel forgiven. I know that I don't feel that I have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of me. But the Word of God says its so, therefore, I am going to believe the promises of God.”

**You will never have any real assurance unless you can come to the place of seeing the promises of God through your eyes of faith.** Romans 8:28 is our example, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Let me remind you that faith is an absolute trust that the Word of God is true, for faith is believing God. Romans 8:28 opens with faith and assurance, for it says, “We know.” **But what do we know?** We know “that all things,” not just a few circumstances, not just the good things, not just the glorious things, but “all things work together for good to them that love God...” There is no assurance in *happen-stance*, there is no assurance in *chance*, there is no assurance in *anticipation*, and that is why there is no much uncertainty in our present-day society.

**Not only does this kind of faith provide us with *direction and assurance*, it also provides us with *patience to wait on the Lord*.** Look at this story in Mark 5:21-24, “Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live. So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.” You will recall that as they went along their way, Jesus stopped and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And in verse 31, the disciples said, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?” **But Jesus stopped and tried to find out who touched Him.** I can imagine Jairus must have thought to himself, “Lord, who cares if someone touched you? My little girl is about to die, and if you don’t hurry she will be dead by the time we get there.” **But Jesus just stood there looking around for the person who had touched him.** Every second must have seemed like an eternity, and Jairus could see his daughter’s life slipping away.

**Suddenly a woman emerged from the crowd and confesses that it was she that did it, and then started talking about her trip to the doctor (and you know how long that can take).** Finally Jesus finishes with the woman with an issue of blood and continues on his way. And then in verses 35-36, “While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be afraid; only believe.”

**How long did Jesus delay?** Just long enough for the girl to die. Now there is no hope, nothing to cling to, nothing to base his faith on. **As long as the girl was alive there was a chance, but now there is nothing.** But Jesus turned to Jairus and said, “Don’t be afraid, just keep on believing.”

**Jesus brought that man to the point to where he had nothing at all to cling to but the bare Word of God.** And that is where our faith produces patience to wait on God.

**Let me remind you that God has never asked us to believe anything that is not for our best, and for the glory of Christ.** However, He does expect us to believe what He says concerning our personal relationship with Him, as seen in 1 John 5:10-11, “He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” **The faith that saves, the faith that pleases God, is that faith which trusts Him, and that faith which believes what His Word says about His Son.**

If you are not saved, why not today?

**Everyone please stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true. Thank you for giving me the measure of faith that allows me to see beyond my circumstances and stand on your promises to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.