

“Lord, Increase Our Faith”

(Part 1)

Luke 17:5

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

- *“Now faith is assurance of (things) hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.” ASV*
- *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” KJV*

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

- *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval.”*
- *“3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” NASU*

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

Faith ... “is not the outcome of imagination but is based on fact, such as the reality of the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15), and as such it becomes the basis of realistic hope.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

Faith

(Pistis) “is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ: Hebrews 11:6” (Thayer)

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

Substance

- *(hupostasis)* “a setting or placing under; thing put under, substructure, foundation:” (Thayer)
- *“That which provides the basis for trust and reliance” (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)*

What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

Evidence

(*elengchos*) “a proof of the things we cannot see or evidence that what we cannot see really exists Hebrews 11:1” (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

Faith That God Exists Is Based On Evidence – Hebrews 11:1, 6

- The evidence of the material world, *Hebrews 11:3; Romans 1:18-23; Psalms 115:4-8*
 - Evidence is before us, *Isaiah 40:25-26; 44:9-20*
 - “Things that are made” *Psalms 19:1*

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Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

John 2:1-11 Changed water to wine.
 John 4:46-54 Healing of Nobleman's son 20 miles away.
 John 5 Healing of the afflicted man who had been infirm thirty-eight years.
 John 6 Feeding of the five thousand.
 John 6 Walking on the water.
 John 9 Healing of the blind man.
 John 11 Raising of Lazarus. cf. John 12:9-11

Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

John 12:37 “But though he had done so many signs before them, yet they believed not on him”

cf. John 6:26-30

Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

John 20:30-31

“Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.”

Evidence Includes...

- Works of Jesus *John 5:36-47*
- Words of Jesus *John 7:46*
- Sinless life of Jesus *2 Cor. 5:21*

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Faith Simply Defined

FAITH "It is important to notice that Hebrews 11:1 is no exception to the rule that "faith" normally means "reliance," "trust." (ISBE)

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Every Christian...

- Wants to have faith.
- Doesn't want to lose his faith.
- Knows he needs faith.
- Makes claims to faith.

Faith is Precious ...
is something we share with others (2 Peter 1:1)

*Do you ever see things in your life - makes you wonder - what's happening to me?
 Do you ever surprise self....?*

Faith Can Change

What Can Happen:

- *Fail (Luke 22:32)*
- *Deny it (1 Timothy 5:8)*
- *Depart from it (1 Timothy 4:1)*
- *Shipwreck (1 Timothy 1:19)*
- *Stray (1 Timothy 6:10, 21)*
- *Overthrow (2 Timothy 2:18)*
- *Cast off (1 Timothy 5:11-12)*
- *Become unbelievers (Hebrews 3:12)*

Faith Can Change

Various Forms of Faith:

- *Weak (Romans 4:19)*
- *Strong (Romans 4:20; Acts 16:5)*
- *Little (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8)*
- *Great (Matthew 8:10)*
- *Obedient faith (Romans 16:26; cf. Hebrews 11)*

*Means:
 Could have faith - not be right!*