

## The Substance Faith

**Hebrews 11:1-6** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he, that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

- A. God said, *“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*
  - 1. Let us look at the word “substance” because this word defines what the word faith means.
    - a. Substance means confidence per Vines, Strongs defines it as -a setting under or support, assurance,) objectively or subjectively) it means confidence.
    - b. Let’s look and see this Greek word used again, **Hebrews 1:3** *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his **person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”* The word “person” is the exact Greek word as “substance” in Heb 11:1.
    - c. The outward manifestation of **the person** of Jesus Christ, speaks of the divine essence of God existent and expressed in the revelation of His Son Jesus. Jesus Christ being the “substance” in His person is the substance, meaning His person is something which stands underneath; or the foundation, He is our ground of hope or confidence, He defines our faith.

- d. Jesus was not just another Prophet, because is superior to the prophets, because He is the brightness of God’s glory. Therefore, through His person we have faith in God, faith in Him as our Saviour. His person is our faiths foundation and confidence.
  - e. Vincent said, *“He says that the meaning is that "the Son is the out-roying of the divine glory, exhibiting in Himself the glory and majesty of the divine Being.”*
  - f. The same God that sustains the world and all creation is the same God that sustains our “faith” in God through Jesus Christ, Who also hold this beautiful world and universe together. **Colossians 1:15-18** *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**”*
2. Faith is believing God, even if we have never seen Him. *“The evidence of things not seen.”* Heb. 11:1b
- a. Verse 3 *“Through faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**”* We have faith that the **worlds** were framed or brought into existence simply by God speaking to them into existence.
  - b. The word “worlds” plural, as defined by Alford says that the expression "includes in it all that exists under the conditions of time and space, together with those conditions of time and space themselves, conditions which do not bind God, and did not exist independently of Him, **but are themselves the work of His word.**"

- c. God said of His creation, it manifested Him, making people without faith inexcusable. **Romans 1:20 – 21** *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*
  - d. Jesus Christ person, His life, His miracles, His death, and resurrection, is also the substance of our faith.
  - e. God concluded about faith, **Hebrews 11:6** *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* – That is not just faith that God exist, but faith in His Son and faith in the word of God.
  - f. The heroes of history are those how believed God and obeyed God’s word, even if it led to their death.
- B. The stronger our faith, the more pleasing we are to God.
1. *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...”* V. 4 – *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him...”* V. 5 – *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...”* V. 7 – *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed...By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country”* VV 8,9 – *“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age...”* V. 11 – *“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac...”* And it goes on to speak of what these people did because they had faith.
  2. I might add, that in the New Testament time and through the church’s history, millions suffered and died through faith in Jesus Christ *“Who is the image of the invisible God...”* – why would all these folks do this simply by faith, **Hebrews 11:6**

***“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”***

3. **Proverbs 16:7** *“When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”* – John Gill said, *“As they do when a man walks according to the rule of his word; when he walks as he has Christ for an example; when he walks after the Spirit, and not after the flesh; when he walks by faith, and does all he does in faith.”*
4. **1 Thessalonians 4:1** *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”* – our walk of faith is our expressing God’s image of holiness, bring glory to Jesus Christ because our walk is because of Him.
5. Our faith in Jesus Christ is our salvation. **Ephesians 2:8** *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”*