

Hebrews 11:1:

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Moffatt’s translation of this verse reads:

*“Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.”*

What God is simply telling us is that faith is laying hold of the unseen realm of hope and bringing it into the realm of reality. Too many times when it comes to receiving the Holy Spirit or healing or an answer to prayer, many people are just simply hoping they will receive.

It isn’t hoping that gets the job done! It is believing! The Bible says, *“Now faith is...”* (Heb. 11:1). If it’s not *now*, it’s not faith. Someone once said, “I will receive my healing sometime.” That is not *faith*, that is *hope*, because hope is always *future tense* or pointing to the future. Faith is *now*. Faith says, “I’ll receive right now; I believe I have my petition now when I pray.” (Mark 11:24.) We need to realize this when it comes to receiving from God.

We speak along this line because the same principles are true concerning receiving the Holy Spirit, healing, or any answer to prayer. The principles of faith are the same in any area, whether it be finances, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, divine healing, or any other petition.

If you can learn the principles of faith, then it will be easy to receive whatever it is that you are seeking or whatever you desire from God that is in line with His Word.

So many people are hoping they receive an answer to prayer, and many are hoping that God hears them when they pray.

Once I prayed for a man to be healed and when I finished praying, he said, “Well, I hope that did some good.” I told him. “It didn’t do any good.” He looked at me puzzled wondering why I would say that. I told him that hoping would not get the job done. He had to believe when I prayed that he would be healed. I then witnessed about salvation and determined that he was not saved. I led him in a prayer of salvation, and then prayed for his healing. He was instantly healed because he went from hope to faith.

We could lay hands and pray over people all day long, but if they only have hope they will never receive. It takes faith to receive. It would be like “hoping” that you would go to heaven, but you had never received salvation by faith and became born again. Nothing will ever be received if you only hope for it. You must believe you have it **by faith** then receive it.

When you pray for someone, you must both have faith for them to receive. You must believe when you pray that God will perform his promise and they must believe in order to receive that promise. Hope comes from knowing the promises (found in God’s Word) are true, but faith believes they are yours **now**.

Hope is important. We have the blessed hope of the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the dead. We have the hope of heaven and seeing our loved ones and friends. We thank God for hope. We rejoice in that hope, but that is all future tense. Jesus is coming again whether we believe it or not because the Word of God says so. The same is true of the resurrection and heaven. They will be taking place whether we believe it or not.

Our faith is not going to bring Jesus back. In other words, I cannot believe that He will come back at a particular time and have my faith bring Him back. Yet, Jesus is coming but it is future tense because we do not know when that will happen, but we do know it will happen. It is a blessed Hope. It is future tense.

It is different than when we say, “I believe I’m going to get my healing sometime,” because that is not believing at all, it is hope, not faith. Hope will never bring you healing. People die hoping they will get healed. They did not get from hope to faith. Their hope was in the future. Faith is NOW.

Faith says, “It is mine now!” Hope says, “I’ll get it sometime.” As long as you are in hope and not in faith whatever you are desiring will never materialize. But the moment that you start believing and acting like God’s Word is true for you NOW, your faith will work for you.

A young man was sick all his childhood with a heart condition that led to paralysis. For sixteen months he was in bed, barely able to do anything. He prayed and prayed hours a day pleading with God to heal him. He felt God heard him, but nothing happened. He thought maybe he was healed but he’d feel his heart still not beating right. Then he looked at his limbs that had atrophied and not working correctly. He cried out to the Lord, “Lord, I thought You were going to heal me. I felt like you did, but you didn’t.”

He could not understand it, and for a while would not even read his bible. He decided to give up on prayer because it did not seem to be working. He would feel himself slipping away and

be at death's door. He would fight death with every fiber in him. Then he started reading the Word of God again. He wanted to live so badly so in the natural he fought death. He did not realize that he was missing it spiritually. He would try to act on God's word hoping to get some results, but he still did not receive his healing.

One day as he lay on his bed of sickness, he came across the scripture in **Mark 11:24** where it said, ***"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*** He told the Lord, "Dear Lord Jesus, if You stood here by my bedside in the flesh and I could see You with my physical eyes and I could reach my physical hand out and lay my hands on Yours, if you were to say to me, 'Son, the trouble with you is you're not believing' I would have to say to you, 'Dear Lord Jesus, You're lying about it! I do believe.'" (He said this in kindness and sincerity but arrogance.)

Now, the Holy Spirit speaks Jesus' words to you when you believe the scripture. But you cannot believe beyond your knowledge if you do not know what the Word says. Holy Spirit spoke to this young man and said, "You believe, all right, as far as you know. But the last clause of the scripture you read says, ***'...believe that ye RECEIVE them, and ye shall HAVE them.'***"

The light went on for that young man. He saw where he had missed it. He had been believing for his healing when he received it, instead of believing before he received it. He realized he had to believe he received it first then he would receive it. He realized that he had just been hoping for months instead of believing he had received it by faith. When he realized the truth of the scripture, he lifted his hands and said, "Heavenly Father, dear Lord Jesus, thank God I'm healed! I believe I am healed!" Then he said, "Lord, I believe I receive my healing now," and that is when faith started working for him.

He said, "Thank You, dear Lord Jesus, for my healing! I believe that my heart is well; I believe that my paralysis is healed! I thank You for the healing of my body." He then started praising God for several minutes thanking Him for what He had done.

Almost immediately Satan challenged him. He contests every inch of ground that we take from him. He will try to fight you every step of the way.

The devil said, "You're a pretty-looking thing. You claim to be a Christian and now you've gone to lying." He continued with, "Don't you know that the bible says that all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone?"

He answered the devil, "I know that Mr. Devil." (He knew that was the devil speaking because the devil brings doubt or discouragement.) Then the young man said, "I didn't lie."

The devil continued with, “Yes, you did. You said you were healed and you’re not. Now feel your heart.”

The young man started to feel his heart then slapped his hand and said to his hand, “Don’t you do it. Don’t you do it.”

Then the young man said to the devil, “Mr. Devil, I did not say anything about how I looked or felt. I said I believe I am healed. I believe I am. I believe I have received the answer to my prayer. And if you say that I really don’t believe then you’re lying. Besides that, you’re a liar anyhow, because Jesus said you were.” (John 8:44.)

He continued with “When Jesus Christ, the Son of God was on the earth, He said, *‘What things soever ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them’* (Mark 11:24). Now Jesus said it, and what He says is so; I believe that. If I believe it, then I will have it. I believe him right now.” Then the young man said, “If you want to argue and fuss about it go to Jesus and argue with him. I did not say the scripture. Jesus did.”

That put a stop to the devil speaking to him. The young man went back to praising God and thanking Him for the answer, thanking Him for his healing. After about ten minutes he felt in his spirit these words, “Now you believe you are healed. But healed people –do not have any business being in the bed at this time of day. They need to be up.”

He said, “That’s right! Yes Lord, that’s right. I’m going to get up. Praise God, I’m going to get up.”

He was now walking by faith. He was believing God and taking God at His word. Believing faith is having by faith what you asked God for. Believing is taking a step of faith. And to be in faith you must take steps of faith because faith requires corresponding action.

In this young man’s case that had been bedfast, he had to get up out of bed. That was the corresponding action that it took in order to act in faith. He did not look better. He did not feel better. He did not have any feeling from the waist down. If he had gone by his feelings, he would have had to say he was not healed because he was still partially paralyzed. He knew he had been healed regardless of how he felt. He pushed himself to a seated position in bed. Then with his hands he pushed his limp legs and feet off the bed and twisted his body around so that he was sitting on the edge of the bed.

His feet fell down on the floor like a couple of chunks of wood. He could not feel them. The devil was fighting him every inch of the way. Negative thoughts were coming to his mind just as fast as a machine gun firing bullets.

The devil said, “You can’t walk, and you know you can’t. You’re not healed, and you know you’re not. You’re lying about it, and you’ll fall right there on the floor, and you’ll have to lie there.” The devil continued with, “Don’t you know, it hasn’t been thirty days since you last fell out of bed, and you had to lie there forty-five minutes until your oldest brother came in, picked you up, and put you back in bed. Your grandmother is old, and your mother is sickly. They can’t lift you.”

At this point of his life the young man only weighed eighty-nine pounds but was still over six foot tall. The devil continued with, “None of the neighborhood men are home, and your oldest brother is in Oklahoma. You will just have to lie there on the floor for hours until your grandpa comes in from work, and then he’ll put you back in bed.

The best thing to put the devil in his place is to just ignore him. The bible says, **“Neither give place to the devil...”** (Ephesians 4:27). The young man ignored the devil and simply acted like he hadn’t said anything to him.

He grabbed hold of the bedpost, but his knees would not function. His limbs would not function so with his arms around the bedpost he just hung there sagging at the knees. As best as he could he lifted one hand and said, “Thank God, I’m healed.” He wanted to declare in the presence of Almighty God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the angels of heaven, in the presence of the devil and his evil spirits, that the Word of God is true. “I believe I am healed. I believe it.”

The room started spinning because he had been lying on his back for sixteen months. He shut his eyes and kept hanging on to the bedpost. In a few minutes everything stopped spinning. He opened his eyes and said, “Thank God, according to the Word I am healed. I believe that.” Feeling started returning to him. It started in the top of his head and felt something like warm oil had been poured over him. It went down all over his body. When it got to his waist feeling came back. Then it continued down to the end of his toes. Every nerve in his limbs was reactivated and he felt like two million pins were sticking him in his limbs.

Then he just felt normal. His paralysis was gone. He said, “I’m going to walk now,” and he did, and has been walking ever since. This was the beginning of this man’s walk of faith. Like him, we must also believe we receive it before we it have and act accordingly.

Whatever it is that we need from God and petition him for, we must receive it by faith, and after praying for it believe we have received. That is faith. Real bible Faith!

Our faith may not be as strong as this young man's faith was. He built his faith by reading the Word of God and not listening to the lies of the devil. Like him, faith is built in our lives by hearing the word of God and believing the promises are ours. We must cast out all doubt and unbelief. We move from the hope that the promises of God give to believing that they are for us **NOW**.

Hope is a good waiter, but a poor receiver. The next time you find yourself saying "I hope so," correct yourself. Tell yourself "Stop." Hope will never bring your healing or anything else. Only faith will. Faith gets the job done! Faith is NOW. By faith you receive whatever God has promised to you in His word, whether it be salvation, healing, the baptism in the Holy Spirit or whatever it is you need from God.