

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 64 – FAITH PART 3
HOW FAITH COMES PART 2**

Let us look at **Hebrews 11:1**.

“Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

God is telling us exactly what Bible faith is. **Hebrews 11:1** says that faith is the evidence of things not seen and faith is the substance of things hoped for. In other words, faith is substance.

Moffatt’s translation of **Hebrews 11:1** reads:

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

Another translation reads:

“Faith is giving substance to things hoped for.”

Human faith vs. bible faith

However, we must understand that there are a number of different kinds of faith. For example, everyone has a natural human faith, whether they are saved or unsaved. But **Hebrews 11:1** is talking about a scriptural faith, a Bible faith. Bible faith is believing with your heart.

There is a vast difference between believing with your heart, and just believing what your physical senses may tell you. Bible faith is laying hold of the unseen realm of hope and bringing it into the realm of reality. Bible faith grows out of the Word of God.

Another translation of **Hebrews 11:1** says, ***“Faith is the warranty deed, the thing for which you have fondly hoped for is at last yours.”***

For example, you hope for finances to meet the obligations you have to pay. Faith gives you the assurance that you’ll have the money when you need it because, faith is ***“...the evidence of things not seen”*** (**Heb. 11:1**).

You **hope** for physical strength to do the work you know you must do. But Faith says, “**...the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**” (Ps. 27:1). Faith will say about itself everything that the Word says, for faith in God is faith in His word.

It would be wonderful if folks would learn that and act upon that. Then, you see, the very strength of God and every blessing He has made available to them would become theirs.

Appropriating God’s strength by Faith

A young man had a severe heart problem and was told he would die. He started reading his bible and faith rose up in him. His church did not believe in healing and when his pastor came to visit, the young man tried to tell him that God heals and wanted the pastor to pray for his healing. His pastor didn’t believe in divine healing and thought the young man was delirious and told him it would all be over in a few days. He chose to believe God’s word instead of the pastor’s and was miraculously healed.

After his heart was healed and he was raised up from the bed of sickness he tried to find work. He was very weak since he had been bedfast for over sixteen months. He needed clothes so he could go back to school. He was offered a job pulling up trees, which required a lot of strength. Every day that he went to work he quoted scripture over himself, one of which was “**...The Lord is the strength of my life...**” (Ps. 27:1). His life consisted of the physical but also the spiritual. As he quoted this verse the other boys cussed at him, but he would just smile and say “Praise the Lord. I’ll be here tomorrow and every other day because the Lord is the strength of my life.”

If he had gone by his feelings, he would have never gotten out of bed to go to work because he was so weak. He felt like staying in bed, but he acted upon the Word of God because it had healed him. It wasn’t enough for him to have faith. He had to act on his faith.

This is where most people miss what faith is. They want to get what they are believing God for and **then** believe they have received it. Actually, it is the other way around. You must **believe** you have your petition, and **then** you get it.

The young man continued to come to work. He was weak when he got there but as he put his faith into action, he felt something go through his body. It was the supernatural strength of the Lord, and he would work all day long under the power of that strength. The other boys that were much healthier than him would cuss at him and say that he couldn’t make it through the day, but God supernaturally sustained him. He lasted through the heat of the day when others didn’t because he put his trust in God’s Word.

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Proving God's Word by Acting on it

You may say that you know God's Word is good, but you will never really **know** God's Word is good until you have **acted** on it and have reaped the results of it. That is what faith is: Faith is proving God's Word by acting on it. Faith is giving substance to the things hoped for.

This young man went to work despite his physical weakness. He acted on God's Word and reaped the results of his faith in God's Word. You see, he hoped for physical strength to do the work that he knew must be done, but faith gave substance to that which he hoped for.

God's Word says that **God** is the strength of our lives. As he acted on God's Word, his faith gave substance to that which he hoped for – strength to get his work done. A lot of folks hope and hope, but they stop there. That isn't faith, that's hope. Hope won't bring substance, only faith will. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Hope doesn't have any substance, but faith gives substance to hope.

Someone might say, "I hope God heard my prayer." But if all you are doing is hoping, you won't receive an answer to your prayer because it is faith that moves God, not hope. Hope isn't what causes God to hear your prayer; faith is. If you are only hoping, there will not be an answer to your prayers.

However, your faith can give substance to your hope. In fact, faith will give answers to your prayers. Remember, hope says, "I will have the answer to my faith sometime." But faith says, "I have the answer to my petition now!"

Mental Assent vs. Heart Faith

John Wesley is quoted as saying, "The devil has given the Church a substitute for faith that looks and sounds so much like faith, many people can't tell the difference." He called it mental assent.

For example, many people see what God's Word says and they agree **mentally** that God's word is true. But they are agreeing with their minds. Mental agreement with the word is not what gets the job done. It is **heart** faith that receives from God. That is why the Bible says in **Romans 10:10** "**For with the HEART man BELIEVETH...**"

Jesus talked about believing from the heart in **Mark 11:23**:

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“...Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his HEART, but shall believe (in his heart) that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Notice that that scripture never said one word about doubting in one’s head. You can have doubt in your head and still have faith in your heart. But it is believing in your heart that will cause you to receive from God.

Some would ask, “How can I tell whether I have faith in my heart or whether I’m just believing mentally in my head?” You can tell because mental agreement or mental assent says, “I know God’s Word is true. I know God promises healing is for me, and the answer to my prayer (or whatever it is you need), but for some reason I can’t get it. I can’t understand it! Why then don’t I have the answer to my petition?”

People that say this are just in MENTAL ASSENT, not in real Bible faith or heart faith. FAITH - real faith in God’s Word says, “If God’s Word says it’s so, then it’s so. The promise is mine; I have it NOW!!” Faith always says, “I have it even though I can’t see it.”

Now notice in **Hebrews 11:1** that it says, ***“faith...is the evidence of things not seen.”*** Someone once said, “Well, yes, but the thing that I’ve been praying about I don’t see. It hasn’t come to pass yet.” But if you already had it, you wouldn’t have to **believe** it. You would **know** it then. In order to come to that place of **knowing**, you have to take that step of **believing** without seeing, based only on your faith in the integrity of God’s Word.

Most people want to **know** it first, and then **believe** it. That is, they want to know it from the natural standpoint of having it come to pass first. However, we know we have received what the Word tells us is ours because God’s Word says it is ours. When we believe God’s Word without seeing anything manifested in the natural realm, **then** what we are believing God for will materialize.

In **Mark 11:24** Jesus said,

“...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Notice that the having comes after the believing. Most people want to turn that around and have first and then believe. But in common everyday language, Jesus was saying that you must believe you have your petition before you get it. Even when you don’t see it in the natural, it is

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done in the spiritual. **Romans 3:4** says, ***“...Let God be true, but every man a liar.”*** So, when you pray for something and then say you don’t have it you are lying because God says you received it.

When we act in faith on God’s Word instead of acting on what we feel then results are always forthcoming! But if we gripe and sigh and complain and wait for something to come to us, we will never get far in faith, that is real Bible faith.

If we wait until we detect that every symptom is gone and our flesh corresponds with our faith and everything is fine before we start believing God, then we are all out of order and out of line with the Word and we will never get very far in faith.

You see, most people are like doubting Thomas, one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. Thomas said, ***“I’ll not believe until I can see Him and put my finger in the print in His hands and thrust my hand into the wound in His side.”*** (**John 20:25**.)

Then when Jesus appeared again to the disciples and Thomas saw Jesus he said, ***“...My Lord and my God.”*** (**John 20:28**.) Did Jesus praise Thomas for his lack of faith? NO! Jesus said ***“...Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”*** (**John 20:29**).

In other words, Thomas didn’t believe in Jesus’ resurrection by faith as you and I believe in it. He believed because he saw Jesus with his physical eyes; he relied totally on his senses. But we believe in Jesus’ resurrection because the Word of God says Jesus was raised from the dead.

This is where many people miss it in the area of faith without really realizing it. They say, “I believe in divine healing because so-and-so got healed.” But that is not Bible faith. I don’t believe in healing because I saw someone get healed. I believe in healing because the Word of God says healing belongs to me (**Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:17; I Peter 2:24**).

I don’t believe in speaking in tongues just because some people speak in tongues. No, I believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues because the Word of God teaches it. I would still believe in it even if I had never heard anyone else speak in tongues.

Those that believe what the Word of God says, apart from what they see or feel with their physical senses are the ones who are blessed.

I believe what the Bible says, not what I see and hear. My faith is not in what I can see and hear. My faith and yours must be based on what God says. You see, when we develop our

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faith to the place where we believe what the Word says regardless of circumstances and physical symptoms, then we are believing the right thing and that is what brings results

Romans 4:17-21: (speaking of Abraham.)

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be.

19 and being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

Notice the difference between Abraham's faith and Thomas' faith. Thomas' faith was just simply a natural, human faith. He said, "I'm not going to believe unless I can see and feel."

The Word of God says that Abraham believed God's Word and he considered not his own body. Well, if Abraham didn't consider his own body, that means he didn't consider physical sight or physical feelings. What did he consider then? The Word of God. He considered the promise of God, ***"...being full persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform"*** (Rom. 4:21).

The young man that we spoke of earlier that was healed of heart disease had some alarming heart symptoms return to him later in life. He struggled at night. So, he did what Abraham did. He would pray and stand on the promises of God but still could not go to sleep. Finally, he said to the Lord, "Lord I must have some relief." God spoke to him and said, "Consider not thine own body."

The man relaxed and said "thank you" to the Lord and took his mind off his body and drifted back to sleep. Later that night he woke up with the same symptoms. He spoke to the Lord, "Lord I'm not considering my own body, but what am I going to consider instead?"

The Lord said, ***"Consider Him, who is the Author and Finisher of your faith and your high Priest"*** (Heb. 3:1; Heb. 12:2).

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God tells us in His Word exactly what not to consider, and then He tells us what to consider. Or we could say it this way, God tells us in His Word exactly what not to consider and then He tells us whom to consider – The Lord Jesus Christ – the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Immediately the young man got his mind on Jesus and began to consider Him and what He had done for him. He recalled the scripture, “**...Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses**” (Matt 8:17). He began to consider that scripture and to focus his mind and attention on Jesus and the Word and stopped considering his body with its symptoms. Then he was able to drift off to sleep. He woke up with every symptom gone.

Too many times, we get our attention focused on the wrong thing. When it comes to healing, we consider our own bodies and the symptoms that try to attack our bodies. That is what we are thinking about and looking at, and the more we look at the symptoms, the worse we get.

You often hear people say something like this. “God hasn’t heard my prayer yet and I’m getting worse. I guess I’ll wind up being operated on.” The truth is that is what will happen if you keep travelling that road of doubt and unbelief.

One woman in a church kept asking over and over for prayer, and said, “You all pray for me, I believe I’ve got cancer.” After weeks of this the pastor got tired of it, and he stood up and once she got finished speaking this he said, “that’s right Sister! Keep believing it and you will get it! Jesus said, “**...According to your faith be it unto you**” (Matt. 9:29).

Whatever you keep believing for you will receive whether it is positive or negative, because the bible says “**...According to your faith be it unto you.**”

I am not teaching that we are to deny all symptoms and just go on as if symptoms weren’t even there. You might think I’m teaching Christian Science, but there’s as much difference as daylight and darkness in what I’m teaching and what the proponents of Christian Science teach. Christian Science denies that sickness, sin, pain, the devil, and lack exist. That is not the case with our ministry.

We do not deny symptoms because they ARE REAL. Of course, pain is real; sin is real; and the devil is real. But notice that the bible said in Romans 4:19, “**Abraham considered not his own body.**” So, don’t consider your body, but do consider Jesus, who is your High Priest and the Author and the Finisher of your faith. (Heb. 12:2.)

Center your attention and your mind on what Jesus has done for you and what He is doing for you as your High Priest. Jesus is doing something for you right now. He is seated at the right hand of God right now making intercession for you (Heb. 7:25).

Hebrews 4:14: “Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION (our confession of faith).”

The Greek word translated “profession” or “confession” implies that this verse can also be read, “Let us hold fast to saying the same thing.” What does that mean? Jesus, our Great High Priest is saying, “I took their place. I died for them as their Substitute.”

Jesus didn’t die for Himself. He didn’t need to redeem himself because He wasn’t lost. But he needed to die for us because we were lost. He became our Substitute. He took our sins. He bore our sicknesses. He carried our diseases. He died for us. He arose from the dead for us and ascended on High for us. Jesus is at the right hand of the throne of God, saying, “I did all that for them.”

Now we are to hold fast to our profession – saying the same thing here on the earth that the Word says. That’s what puts the devil on the run. So, get your attention focused on the right things – on Jesus, our great High Priest, and on His Word, instead of on yourself and your problems.

Another passage of scripture that will help us along this same line is found in Proverbs 4:20-22

Proverbs 4:20-22

**20 My son (that is you and I) attend unto my words; incline thine ears unto my sayings.
21 LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM BEFORE THINE EYES; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
22. For they (God’s words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”**

Understanding this scripture can be a turning point in their lives. The reason many people fail is because they see themselves fail. They keep the wrong thing before their eyes. If you see yourself sick, broke, unloved, and any other negative way, you will certainly become what you see.

We are to not let the Word of God depart from before our eyes. God cannot move on our behalf even if we wanted him to if we don't act on the Word of God. God gives us direction for taking his medicine in **Proverbs 4:22** where it says,

“For they [God’s Words] are life unto those that find them, and health [or medicine] to all their flesh.”

God’s Word is medicine for our flesh. We use it to receive whatever we need from God. When you see yourself with the answer to your problem based on God’s Word, that’s when you know your faith is solidly based on the Word of God.

So, quit saying the wrong thing and start saying the right thing. Say, ***“The Lord is my Helper”*** [**Hebrews 13:6**]. Is He? Then say that He is. Say, ***“the Lord is MY Healer.”*** Say, ***“Jesus took MY infirmities, and bore my sicknesses”*** (**Matt. 8:17**). Start saying the right things and believing the right things.

Defeat comes from simply wrong thinking, wrong believing, and wrong talking. The devil can’t defeat you because Jesus has already defeated the devil for you. Satan doesn’t defeat you; you defeat yourself. If he does defeat you, then you have permitted him to do so through consent or ignorance.

Real faith in God simply says this about oneself by what the Word of God says.

Thank God, I have what the Word says I have. I am what the Word says I am. If God says I am strong, then I am. If he says I am healed, then I am. If he says he cares for me, then He does. I simply rest on the Word, for the word says, ***“For we which have believed (have faith) do enter into rest...”*** (**Heb. 4:3**.)