

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

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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 have it 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.

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Hope doesn't have any substance, only faith does. But faith gives substance to things you are hoping for. In other words, what God is saying in **Hebrews 11:1** is that faith is taking hold of the unseen realm of hope and bringing it into the realm of reality.

As we know, faith grows out of the Word of God because **Romans 10:17** says,

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Another translation of **Hebrews 11:1** says,

“Faith is the warranty deed, that the thing for which you have fondly hoped is at last yours.”

Our text in the KJV says faith is the evidence of things not seen.

By way of illustration, you might **hope** for finances to meet a particular obligation, but **faith** gives you the assurance that you'll have the money when you need it. Also, you might **hope** for physical strength to do a job or task set before you, but **faith** says,

“...The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (**Ps. 27:1**).

In other words, faith says the same thing that the Word of God says.

Unbelief is really taking sides against God's word. The sad thing about this is that there are so many believers who are talking doubt and unbelief, and who are taking sides against the Word of God. Then these same believers wonder why God's Word isn't working for them.

God's Word won't work for you if you take sides against it. If you want God's Word to work for you, you must side in with it.

But what is faith – real Bible faith? One of the best ways to find out what something **is**, is to find out what it **isn't**. Then when you find out what it **isn't**, you can see more clearly what it **is**. Let's follow that approach as we continue this lesson on faith.

First, faith is not hope, which we have already discussed. Yet often when we pray for people and ask them, "Will you be healed when we pray, or will you be filled with the Holy Ghost when we lay hands on you and pray? Many times, they respond with, "I sure hope so."

Well, our answer is, "As long as you are hoping you won't receive from God because you receive from Him by faith, not by hope.

Others may say, "God, I want to be healed." In order to show them that wanting something from God isn't enough, often we say, you might want a new Cadillac, but that doesn't mean you're going to get one."

You see, just wanting something from God won't get the job done. If just wanting something from God is all it took to receive from God, we'd all have it made. We would receive instantly. But faith that receives from God isn't hoping or wanting. The only kind of faith that gets the job done is the bible kind of faith which believes God and acts on what it believes.

You won't receive from God because you hope. Nowhere in the Bible does God say that when we pray, we shall receive what we hope for. But God's word DOES SAY in **Mark 11:24**,

"...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Jesus also said in **Matthew 21:22**,

"...all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, BELIEVING, ye shall receive."

He didn't say ask, then hope and receive. He said **BELIEVE** and ye shall **receive**.

If you want to know whether you are really believing God or if you are just hoping, I can tell you how to tell the difference. Hope is always future tense because hope always looks to the future. As long as you put off believing you receive NOW, you are hoping, and it will always be in the future. But NOW is when you want whatever God has promised you in His Word, not in the future.

For example, if a person wants to get saved, he wants to get saved NOW, and not in the future. The future may be too late. Many hope they are saved or hope to get saved but that is

in the future, not in the NOW. Sadly, some of those people are now in hell because they never had faith to believe for salvation NOW.

This is what the bible says about salvation.

Ephesians 2:8, *“...by grace are ye saved through faith”*

You will notice it doesn't say saved through hope. It is through faith.

John 6:37 says, *“...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

You will notice that they must come. That takes faith, not hope.

Romans 10:9-10 says, *“⁹That if thou shalt CONFESS with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt BELIEVE in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

It doesn't mention hope at all, it says confess that Jesus is Lord, and BELIEVE in your heart to be saved. This is faith in action.

When a person is seeking salvation, you get them act on what the Word says NOW. The same is true for anything we are seeking. We receive it NOW by faith.

In other words, if we say, I hope God hears my prayers or I hope to be healed, or hope to receive the Holy Ghost, it is future tense. It is hope, and not faith.

Remember our text says *“NOW faith is...”* Or we could read it *“Now faith IS...”* That is present tense. Remember, if it is not now, it is not faith. Faith is present tense. Hope is future tense. Even though you might say you believe, if you are putting off what you believe to the future it is simply hope, and not faith.

This is the reason that the Word isn't working for many people. We must get our believing in the right tense. Some people are always saying that God is going to do something for them sometime in the future. Faith believes that He has done something and is doing something NOW.

Now when it comes to healing many may say, “I don't understand why I haven't received my healing. I know God promised to heal me.”

Actually, God has not promised to heal you at all. Some say, “Doesn’t the Word of God say in,

Matthew 8:17

‘...Himself TOOK our infirmities, and BARE our sicknesses’

“Isn’t that a promise?”

NO, that isn’t a promise. That is a statement of fact that simply tells us something that has already happened. Many times, we call those scriptures and others like them promises, when actually, they are statements of fact. They are just telling us of our provisions in Christ – what Jesus has already provided for us. That is a fact.

Some quote **I Peter 2:24** where it says,

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye WERE HEALED.”

Someone may say, “Isn’t that scripture a promise?” No, it isn’t a promise. It is a fact of what has already been done. It tells us that healing belongs to us in Christ. When people get beyond the hope to be healed to believing they are healed by faith when they pray, then many receive their healing immediately.

Faith is Present Tense

Once a man was conducting a healing service and a woman was brought to the service that had not walked in four years. She was older and was told by the doctors that she would never walk again. Her knees had given out and because she couldn’t walk, she had gained a great deal of weight.

She was brought to the healing line and sat her down on the altar. The man holding the meeting came and knelt in front of her, laid hands on her knees and prayed. Then he said to her, “Now sister, arise and walk in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The woman did her best to get up, but the entire time was shouting out loud, “O, dear Jesus please heal me. You promised to heal me, and I am a burden to my family. Please, Lord, please heal me.”

The man tried to interrupt her, but she kept getting louder and louder saying the same thing, begging Jesus to heal her. He tried a second and third time to speak to her, but she just got louder and louder. She became hysterical, begging God to heal her.

Finally, the man took her shoulders, and shook her and said, “I command you to shut up in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” She stopped and looked up at him rather startled, and the congregation put the brakes on him. They did not have faith for her to be healed.

In **Mark 6:5-6** in reference to Jesus’ ministry in his hometown,

“⁵And he (Jesus) could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.”

“⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief...”

The congregation thought he was being rude to the lady, so he had to take the brakes off of the congregation first before he could do anything for the woman.

He asked the congregation a question. “If someone asked you directions to a certain place, but instead of following your directions, you saw that they mistakenly went the wrong way, wouldn’t you stop them or flag them down and try to get them straightened out? If you knew they didn’t know where they were going, wouldn’t you try to get them going in the right direction?” They all agreed.

Then the man said, “All right, this woman was on the wrong road. She wasn’t on the road to healing. She was on the wrong road, and all I did was just flag her down. Now I have her attention.

When he explained that, most of the people in the congregation took the brakes off and he felt a release in the spirit to minister to the woman again.

He said, “Now sister, did you know you are healed?”

She looked up at the man and her eyes got big, and she said, “Oh, am I?”

“Yes” he said, “you are healed, and I can prove it to you from the bible.” So, he got his bible, opened it to **I Peter 2:24**, handed it to her, and said, “Would you read this verse aloud please?”

She read,

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED.”

He then said, “Read that last part again.”

She read, ***“...by whose stripes ye were healed.”***

He asked her is the ‘were’ past tense, present tense, or future tense?”

She said, “It’s past tense.”

Then the man said, “If you WERE HEALED BY Jesus’ stripes then you are healed, aren’t you?”

She answered, “Yes, I am.”

Then he said to her, “Will you do what I tell you to do?”

She answered with, “I will if it’s easy.”

He told her “This is the easiest thing you ever did in your life. Just lift your hands and look right up to heaven, and begin to praise God because you are healed, present tense. Praise Him because you are healed, not going to be healed; you are healed.”

She looked up at him like a little child and said, “Dear Lord Jesus, I’m so glad I’m healed.”

She hadn’t walked a step yet. She had no evidence of healing whatever, but she said, “I’m so glad I’m healed. I’m so thankful, dear Lord Jesus. You know how tired I have gotten sitting around all these four years. Thank God, my knees are well, and my limbs are healed. I’m so thankful.”

Then the man spoke to the congregation, “Let’s thank God with her because she is healed – not going to be healed – but because she is healed.”

You see, faith is present tense, not future tense. You’ve got to get your believing in the present tense for things to work for you. Most of the crowd raised their hands and praised God with her because she was healed.

Some probably said, “She’s not healed. She hasn’t walked a step yet.” But we must remember that our text says in **Hebrews 11:1**,

“.....faith is the.....EVIDENCE of things not seen.”

If you’re going to wait till you see something before you believe it, then that isn’t faith at all. That’s leaning to the evidence of your senses.

After the man told the congregation to praise God with this woman, he turned to her and said, “Now sister, arise and walk in the name of Jesus.” Immediately that woman jumped off that altar like a sixteen-year-old and walked and leaped and ran and praised God.

He had to get that woman’s believing in the right tense. Remember, the Word will not work for you unless YOU get it in the right tense. As long as you are struggling to receive healing or anything else by saying you are going to get it in the future, you are not in faith. It is future tense. That’s hope. Faith says, “It’s mine. I have it NOW.”

Faith is of the Heart, not the Head

We need to realize that faith is of the heart and not of the head. John Wesley used an expression for this, and it is “mental assent.” Wesley said “People mentally agree that the Bible or the Word is true, but they don’t believe it from their heart.

When it comes to receiving anything that we pray for we might ask, “What’s the difference between heart faith and mental assent?” If you are just mentally agreeing, you will say that the bible is true, but I don’t have my petitions I have prayed for and don’t understand why.”

Some might even say, “I know the scriptures are true, but can you tell me why I can’t get healed?” The answer is simply this. “It’s because you just said you can’t.”

The bible tells us in **Matthew 12:34**,

“...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

If you keep saying you “can’t” get healed, then you will never get healed. When you start believing you can receive from God and believe you receive then you will get your answer to your prayers.

Turn your Faith Loose by Saying What you believe

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When we start acting like God's word is true then things change. You can always act on God's word if it is only thanking and praising Him that He has heard you. If you believe God's word is true, you should act like it is true. It doesn't matter how much faith you have it will get no results until you put it into action.

In **Acts 14:7-9** it says,

“And there they preached the gospel. And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that HE HAD FAITH TO BE HEALED.”

Get the picture? That man hadn't taken a step his whole life, yet he had faith to be healed. The bible says that.

Every believer has faith to be healed but you have to act on your faith or turn your faith loose for it to work for you. You do it by speaking. In **Mark 11:23** it says,

“For verily I say unto you, that 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 that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

You turn your faith loose by saying what you believe. Faith can't be released out of your heart toward God without saying what you believe. Faith simply won't work without an expression or an action. Faith in our heart is released through our lips. It does no good if it just stays in our heart. We must speak out what we believe.

If you act without faith nothing will happen, it won't work. And, if you believe without action nothing will happen – it won't work. However, when faith and action are combined then the Word works. Now put your faith into action and receive what God says is yours by speaking it out and believing it.