

**SERIES: A REFRESHER COURSE IN FAITH**  
**Lesson 2: What is Faith [8 November 2020]**

- **Foundation Scriptures:**

- **2 Corinthians 5:7**
  - God gave us our Physical Senses for a purpose
- **Mark 11:22-25**
  - Have Faith in God to have the Faith of God
  - Faith begins where the Will of God is known
  - God's Will starts with His Will to Love: 1 John 4:16
- **Hebrews 11:1-3, 6**

I. **Defining Faith**

- a. Kenneth E Hagin defines faith: "Faith is laying hold of the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality; by acting on God's Covenant Words."
- b. Jesse Duplantis defines faith: "Faith is a firm conviction that produces a full acknowledgment of God's Revelation of Truth."
  - i. To acknowledge something is to recognize it for what it is
  - ii. Philemon verse 6
    - 1. We are to recognize all the good that God has deposited in our spirits from His Word: Recognize and Speak
    - 2. Romans 12:3 = "THE measure of Faith"
    - 3. It took faith for any of us to receive the new-birth
- c. Jerry Lawrence defines faith: "Faith is confidence, proof what we hope for but don't see in the natural yet."
  - i. God's Covenant Words are Truth: John 17:17
  - ii. Faith comes when God's Covenant Truths are communicated to our HEARTS (Spirit-man)
  - iii. Keith Moore: "There is no communication until there is an understanding."

II. **God's Definition of Faith**

- a. Hebrews 11:1
  - i. Faith is Now
  - ii. Faith is Substance
  - iii. Faith is Evidence

### III. Faith is NOW

- a. Paul is saying: "Now let me tell you what faith is"
- b. Another Layer: Faith is always NOW – present tense
  - i. Hope is an expectation of a future event
- c. Faith brings that expectation into the NOW (current)
- d. Mark 11:24 = "believe you receive when you pray": NOW

### IV. Faith is Substance

- a. (Heb 11:1) [*Amplified Classic Version*] NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [*faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses*].
- b. Hebrews 11:1 [*James Moffatt Translation*] "Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see"
- c. Hebrews 11:1 [*The Passion Translation*] "Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for."
- d. If faith is not NOW, then there is no way to bring substance to the things hoped for (expected)
- e. Hebrews 11:6 = "... God is a Rewarder to those who diligently seek God [seek Him as healer and the reward is healing]"
- f. The "SUBSTANCE" of things hoped for (expected)
  - i. Luke 8:11 = "the Word is SEED"
  - ii. Mark 4:30-32 = Growth is progressive
    1. This is the operation of God's Word as a Seed
  - iii. The Seed determines what will be produced
    1. Law of Genesis: Seed produces after its own kind
    2. The Word of God Must be planted: by hearing
    3. The Seed of God Must be watered by God's Covenant Promises
    4. The Seed must be given LIGHT: revelation which comes by Meditation on God's Covenant Promises
      - a. We've spent a lot of time concentration on getting the Seed planted & not enough time on it's growth: it must grow to produce a harvest
      - b. Praise, Worship, Thanksgiving is also Light & Water
  - iv. The Water & Light (God's Word) spoken by faith produces substance from the Seed of God's Word

V. **Faith is Evidence: Proof**

- a. The Evidence (proof) is found in God's Covenant Words
- b. What have others accomplished by their Faith in God?
  - i. Mark 5:25-30
- c. What did Jesus accomplish by His Faith in God?
  - i. He went to the Cross
  - ii. He went to Hell
  - iii. He was Resurrected from Hell: Romans 6:4 – by the Glory
    - 1. Jesus' Faith produced the Glory of God
- d. Hebrews 12:1-3
  - i. Jesus is the Author of our Faith
  - ii. Jesus is the Developer of our Faith
  - iii. Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
- e. Our Faith will produce the Glory of God:
  - i. God's Manifest Presence
  - ii. God's Manifest Power
  - iii. God's Manifest Goodness