

Faith F.O.R.W.A.R.D.

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

Introduction: "Substance" in the key text is translated from the Greek word "hypostasis" which is rich in meaning. This term in classical Greek can be used to describe a legal guarantee, title deed and a confident expectation.

- Faith is heaven's operating system on the earth based on total trust and dependence on the Word of God.
- If heaven had a currency to carry out transactions it would be faith.
- It is the spiritual legal tender that carries enormous purchase power in all realms.

Hebrews 11:3 NKJV *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

Mark 11:22 NKJV *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.*

1. Faith Originates From What God Said

- It is only called faith when it stands on God's Word. Faith acts on the premise that what God said is already done and now requires my obedience.

Luke 5:4-5 NKJV *When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."*

Romans 10:17 NKJV *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Psalms 119:89-90 AMP *Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven [standing firm and unchangeable]. ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness continues from generation to generation; You have established the earth, and it stands [securely].*

Psalms 138:2b NLT *..for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.*

2. Obedience in Faith Brings Rewards Beyond the Physical

- On the subject of faith God is the rewarder and the reward. Our focus must always be to glorify Him with our obedience beyond the result of what faith brings.

Genesis 15:1-6 NKJV *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Hebrews 11:8 NKJV *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

- Your obedience to God in faith is beyond a physical outcome. It is a fight to establish God's kingdom and to display the God life to our world.

1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

3. Responding to God's Call in Partnership

- Faith is one of man's greatest opportunity for partnership with God. It is the divine invitation to do what God does how He does it.

Mark 11:22-23 TPT *Jesus replied, "Let the faith of God be in you! ²³ Listen to the truth I speak to you: Whoever says to this mountain with great faith and does not doubt, 'Mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the midst of the sea,' and believes that what he says will happen, it will be done.*

Confession: *I am in partnership with God. When I speak, I speak with the voice of my heavenly Father. God's Word in my mouth is just as if God said it himself! Just as powerful! Just as effective! Able to create, able to bless, able to heal, and turn my world right side up! Because they are the words of my Father. Amen*

4. Worship and Faith Equally Move God

- God is moved by our faith in the same way he is moved by our worship.
- Faith just like worship will always get God's attention. God's heart is drawn to true worship as it is to genuine faith.

Revelation 4:11 KJV *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are, and were created.*

- God seeks for people of faith, in the same way he seeks for worshippers.

John 4:23 NKJV *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

Luke 18:8 NKJV *I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

- Your act of faith is a delight to God, as much as your act of worship.

Romans 12:1 TPT *Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.*

Hebrews 11:5 NKJV *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him" for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

- The woman with the issue of blood had the same response from Jesus because of her faith as Mary Magdalene because of her worship.

Matthew 9:20-22 NKJV *And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

Matthew 26:6-13 NKJV *And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. ⁸ But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." ¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹ For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹² For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. ¹³ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."*

5. All Authority Is Yours to Act in Faith

- You have every legal authority to take action.
- Faith is our license to take action. Action based on the Word of God. When you find what God says about any situation, that's your title deed, your "substance". You now have the title deed to claim and possess your inheritance in Christ. Speak the word. Leave nothing on the table!

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6. Remember: God's Terms Apply

- The outcome of our response to God's instruction will always be in God's terms. The result of our faith is determined by God not necessarily our action. God is committed to keeping His word because it is His nature. That is why in the scriptures, the measure of faith is never the condition for the size of the miracle. He just wants our participation, but He is the one who makes it happen.

Matthew 17:20 NKJV *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

Proverbs 21:31 NKJV *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the LORD.*

1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

Joshua 23:14 NKJV *"...And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.*

- We look away from the natural realm and we focus our attention and expectation onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection.

Hebrews 12:2a KJV *..looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..*

7. Determined Faith Is A Lifestyle That Overcomes

- We are all called into the faith life. Our instructions and assignments differ but our outcome will always be the same ultimately.

1 John 5:4 NKJV *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.*

Hebrews 11:32-38 NKJV *And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented- ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

Romans 12:3 NKJV *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

Romans 12:3 TPT *God has given me grace to speak a warning about pride. I would ask each of you to be emptied of self-promotion and not create a false image of your importance. Instead, honestly assess your worth by using your God-given faith as the standard of measurement, and then you will see your true value with an appropriate self-esteem.*

Conclusion: Hebrews 11:39-40 NKJV *And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

Write your own Hebrews 11 verse.

If Hebrews 11 were to be written today to include you, how will it be written?

1. By faith, _____ believed God for what could not be seen, and lived with hope in His promise.
2. By faith, _____ offered God their best—even when it was hard.
3. By faith, _____ obeyed God's call, even without knowing the full path ahead.

4. By faith, _____ trusted God to provide in impossible situations.
5. By faith, _____ chose to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy temporary pleasure.
6. By faith, _____ overcame fear and walked forward in obedience.
7. By faith, _____ believed God is faithful to finish what He started.

1. By faith, I _____, even when _____.
2. By faith, I _____, trusting that God would _____.
3. By faith, I chose to _____, instead of _____.
4. By faith, I waited for _____, believing God's promise that _____.
5. By faith, I overcame _____, because I knew _____.
6. By faith, I am still _____, with hope that _____.
7. By faith, I stepped into _____, believing God had already prepared the way before me.