

FAITH IS THE EVIDENCE

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Again we thank the Lord for his goodness, and as it was mentioned we want to thank the Lord for the time we had in the mountains. As I was praying about what to minister, I had a dream that I was ministering on Matthew 6.

As far as I can remember, the last time I ever had a dream about an actual book and chapter was when I was in college when I was praying about receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I'm not going to repeat all of that, it was actually a series of dreams, but it was Acts 2 and Acts 10. I more or less knew what happened in Acts 2 but at the time I didn't know what was in Acts 10.

So I just thank the Lord for His leading. It was a blessing to us all. It wasn't something I did, it was *Him* and I just thank Him for doing that for us.

Tonight I'd like to look in Hebrews 11. I would like to do a little bit of a study on *faith*. Sometimes this chapter is referred to as *the faith chapter*. I'm not going to read the entire chapter of course, probably just a few verses tonight, but I would like to start in verse 1.

Paul writes here:

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,

Sometimes when we read a certain translation, they can use a word that might leave a little bit of a question mark. In English it says: *faith is the substance of things hoped for*. But if we look at other translations, a very common translation is that *faith is the assurance*.

Now I think the word *assurance* has a clearer meaning for us. In Spanish it uses a very clear word: *faith is the certainty*. Well as far as I'm concerned, *assurance* and *certainty* are basically the same. The thing is: *you know it!* Amen.

We may look at *faith* and sometimes we use *faith* to mean *trust*. We may say: have *faith* that the Lord is going to heal you, when really what we mean is something more like: *trust* the Lord to heal you. That's an example.

But here we have: *faith is the assurance of what we are waiting for*. [Hebrews 11:1] Amen. Well, what would we be hoping for? What would we be expecting? It's not what *I think* it should be, but when we look at it right, we have a *Word that God has given us*.

Now I hold up the Bible. *This* is the Word of God. Amen. Can God give us a Word in another way through a gift? Absolutely! We might have a dream or a vision. We can also receive a Word of the Lord. Or God could even use somebody else through a gift. But at the end of the day, what I'm hoping for is *what the Word of God tells me*. Praise the Lord.

So the word *hope*, again it's something we have to understand. When we speak of *hope*, there's a *godly hope* and there's a *natural hope*. Here's a natural hope: I hope I'm alive one year from today. That's a natural hope I have. Do I know that I will be alive a year from now? Not at all. But I hope I will be, right? That's *human hope*. That's *natural hope*.

The word *hope* really comes from the word *to wait*. There is a *time* until something is fulfilled. Maybe you apply for a job: you *hope* you will get the job. There is a *waiting time* but then you get the news.

However when God says: *it's going to be like this*, and *He reveals that to our heart*, then I have to say: it's no longer a natural hope. It's not something: well maybe it will, maybe it won't. When God shows it in His Word and it's not just what I think about the Word but *He reveals it to our heart*, at that point it is *assured*, it is *certain*. Praise the Lord. But we *have to believe it*.

When the enemy comes along and says: it can't be like *that*, and he tries to use the human thought: well you can't really believe *that*, this is where the spirit of man is tested. But if we have received the Holy Ghost and we are walking in the Spirit, when the Word of God comes, we are going to *believe it*. Praise the Lord.

Now yes, there may be a *time factor*. We pray about it: I've never heard *that* before. We get into the Word of God, we begin to read. We ask the Lord: if this is true, *show me*. And you know what? God is not going to take thirty years to do it. He's not going to take thirty years: well maybe I'll show him today, maybe I won't.

I will say: basically it should be in an order of *months*, and that's putting a long time on it. Really it should be *within a reasonable time of our life*. We don't have a thousand years to live a natural life, right? We are given *seventy* or maybe *eighty years*. [Psalm 90:10] So in that amount of time, God is not going to spend twenty years for us to figure out what's true or not.

Hebrews 11:1

faith is the substance of things hoped for

Or faith is the certainty of things hoped for.

What's the *one thing* we can have *certainty* of? It's *if the Word of God is revealed to our heart and we believe it*. I have to say: there's your faith. It's *believing the Word of God*.

Really, many will say they believe, and many *think* they do believe. As they look at it with their natural mind, they say: yes I can see that. I can see how *this* fits and how *that* fits. And that's good. God gave us an intellect so we can understand certain things.

But at the end of the day, if we do not have the Holy Ghost and if we do not receive what the Lord gives *by revelation*, then we're receiving it by a *natural knowledge*. And the way God looks at it: we did *not* receive it by faith.

Somewhere down the road, there will come a test that's going to *discern* whether we really believe it according to the Spirit of God or whether we don't.

Let's keep reading.

Hebrews 11:1

the evidence of things not seen.

Again I looked at other translations and some of them say: *the proof of things not seen*.

Being a math person, I love that word *proof*. A lot of people think that if something happens a bunch of times *in math*, it's like *in science* when they say: well, it happens *all the time*.

Here's science: if I let go of this book, oh it falls. Then I tell my science-friends: hey, I let go of the book and it went down. They would say: wow, we'll try that too! And they let go of the book and it falls too. And after a bunch of people do that hundreds of times around the world, it becomes a law, a *scientific law*. It's accepted as *scientific law*.

Math is not like that. Something can happen a billion times, we don't really care. We have *to prove* that it happens *all the time*. And we call that series of logical statements and deductions: *a proof*.

Now I'm not saying you have to be a mathematician to serve the Lord, but I really like the fact that it uses the word *proof*.

It says: *the proof of things not seen*.

When we have the Word of God and the Lord decides to *reveal* something to the church, He's going to use certain men. It's nothing great about the men themselves but *He* shows them: look at this scripture, look at that scripture.

At the end of the day, if it's a true revelation from the Lord, it's going to *align with this Word* from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. It will *not* contradict the Word of God but it will fit beautifully and perfectly.

And if it's something about the future, even though we do not yet see the manifestation of it, if God has given us the *spiritual understanding*, we have *a proof*. Praise the Lord.

So it says here:

Hebrews 11:1
the evidence

Or *the proof*.

Hebrews 11:1
of things not seen.

I'll say this: why can we not see it? It's because many times it deals with something that will be *in the future*. We're going to see the examples that Paul uses.

Hebrews 11:2
For by it the elders obtained a good report.

As God gave them a *fresh Word for their day*, they had the ability to *see it*, to *receive it*, and to *know* this was coming from the Lord. At the end of the day, they *believed it*. Praise the Lord. And once they believed it, that was their exercise of faith.

We read in other places that as they *believed* the Word of God, then God saw them as *righteous*. [Genesis 15:6] Praise the Lord.

Hebrews 11:3
Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,

Now that word *world*, in Spanish it says: *universe*. When we see the word *world* or *worlds*, a lot of times our mind goes to the planets and things like that. And clearly that's what happened to the translators who used the word *universe*. That's a natural way to look at it.

Did God create this universe? He absolutely did!

Now I'd like to go to Ephesian 3 and we're going to see something that Paul wrote. I want to read verse 21 but I'd like to lead into it so let's just start in verse 19.

Paul says:

Ephesians 3:19

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,

That would be: *unto God Himself.*

Paul says:

Ephesians 3:20

according to the power that worketh in us,

That would be: *the Holy Ghost.*

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,

Right?

Then in English it says:

Ephesians 3:21

world without end.

But in Spanish it says something totally different. It says: *for the centuries of centuries or for the ages of ages.*

Ephesians 3:21

Amen.

Right?

So in one it's says: *world without end*, and in another it's saying like: *ages without end or for ever and ever.*

Now if we go back to Hebrews 11, there actually is a literal translation that reads: *through faith we understand that the ages were framed by the Word of God.* [Hebrews 11:3] In other words, God has determined *certain periods of time* where He's going to accomplish a certain work.

We have the Law Age, right? We have the Grace Age. We have the Gentile Age which sits *inside* the Grace Age. We have the 70th Week of Daniel. We also already had the other 69 Weeks of Daniel. There is a Millennium. There is even a *time factor* between the 70th Week of Daniel and the Millennium: there are 75-days and even those are broken down into 30 and 45 days.

My point is: God looked at what He wanted to accomplish through the whole world, both with Jews and Gentiles, and He said: in *this time* I'm going to do *this*.

There is a period we call *the Antediluvian period* which is the time *before the flood*. And even though it may be sound strange to us, in a certain sense that was also an *age of Grace* because the Law had not yet been given.

Now don't run too far with what I said. I did say: *in a sense* it was an age of Grace, but of course they still had to wait for the *manifestation* of the one who would be able to cover them with that Grace. We're going to read about that tonight if we get to it.

Hebrews 11:3

so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Other translations say: *were not made by what is visible.*

Let me say it like this: I think it was on October 7th that the attack of Hamas came on Israel. I might have the date wrong but that's when I think it was. We know that brought about a change in this world.

I know a lot of people want to know: is this the *era of the miraculous*? Well I will say this: when the *era of the miraculous* will be in full – how can I say it? – in full function, we're not going to have to ask: is *this* the *era of the miraculous*? We're going to *know* that we are there. I believe what we are seeing now is going to *lead into that*.

Even this current conflict, it could go through a little bit of a lull and then come back up. But we know the *era of the miraculous* is just a little in front of us.

That's not my message tonight but I will say: definitely keep praying for Israel. It just breaks our heart to hear some of the things that were done. It's on a level we've practically never heard before.

There has been a lot of evil occur in the 19th and 20th century but I really can't think of anything right now that reaches the level of what happened on October 7th. It's just horrible. But we know God is going to defend Israel.

Now coming back to the point, that attack on Israel marked a change in time. Yet, unless God gave somebody an insight into what was happening in the spiritual realm, none of us went to sleep Friday night expecting to hear about that on Saturday morning. But there were *spirits at work* that we can't see.

Remember: God is watching over the whole thing. Praise the Lord.

The beautiful thing is: even though He has not given us every detail of what's going to happen, He has given us *the big picture in His Word*. Praise the Lord.

Hebrew 11:4

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,

Right there it shows this is going *beyond* something like: I believe that the Lord can turn my financial situation around, or I believe the Lord can heal my body.

Now please: yes He *can* turn your financial situation around. He *can* heal you. And we are to *trust* that He does. Amen. But what Paul is talking about here goes *beyond* that.

Abel had *an understanding* that Cain did not have. It doesn't tell us *how* God showed this to Abel but somehow God *revealed* this to Abel. Maybe he had a vision. I don't think it was in his heart to slay these lambs, but God *showed him*: that's the sacrifice I'm going to be pleased with, and Abel *believed* God. He *understood* what God was showing him. He had *a revelation* and he *acted upon it*. He didn't just say: yes I believe that's true.

James talks about that. [James 2:26] It's one thing to say: oh yes, I believe that we hear the truth here. But then, what is our *action*?

Abel *acted*. Praise the Lord. That was the *manifestation* of his faith. He got the lamb or the sheep, *he slew it*, and he *offered it to God*. [Genesis 4:4] Amen.

I don't remember in which book of the Torah this was, but I was reading the other day and there actually is a sacrifice – if I can say it like this – a sacrifice of *fruits*. [Deuteronomy 26:2] Well if God would tell Moses to do that, why did He *not accept Cain's offering*? [Genesis 4:3,5]

It's not that there was anything wrong with the *fruit* but there was something wrong with *the understanding*. It was *natural*.

I'm sure if the Lord hadn't told us, any of us standing there would've said: God is going to accept *this* and *not that*. This is the *fruit* over here. I'm sure it was beautiful and it had a pleasant fragrance. Those of us who love to eat, we say: wow, that's just a wonderful fragrance!

And over there: innocent life, blood is being shed!

But Abel had a *revelation*. Cain did not. That was a *type* of something that would continue all the way down to the end: there would be *two* who *should be brothers* but one would have a *natural mind* and one would have a *spiritual mind*.

Hebrews 11:4
by which he obtained witness that he was righteous,

So again, when we *believe* the Word of God that He gives us *for our day*, then He looks at us *as righteous*.

Hebrews 11:4
God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Hebrews 11:5
By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death;

Praise the Lord. That is a type of you and me.

It wasn't so much that God wanted to take Enoch, but what it is: Enoch was *the seventh from Adam*. [Jude 1:14] Adam was the first son, Seth was number two. We continue down and Enoch was the *seventh*.

That was a type that there would be a people in the *seventh church age* who would also *walk with God*. [Genesis 5:24] Praise the Lord. That's what it says, right?

It says:

Hebrews 11:5
By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

So in Genesis it says: *he walked with God*. Here it says: *he pleased God*, right?

What was that *walking with God*? [Genesis 5:22] Does it mean: he went to church every Sunday? He sang beautiful songs? Sometimes he would even cry while he was singing and he would pray every day?

That may have been an attribute or a part of it but *walking with God* means we don't just stay in place spiritually. *God moves on* and we *move on with Him*. We *walk with God*, right?

So the church is also going to *walk with God*. That doesn't mean we go to another place but what it really means is: we move along *in the Word*.

When God wants to bring the church from here to there, then if God is *there*, the church needs to be *there* too. That's why Jesus Christ said: *where I am, there will my servant be*. [John 12:26] Right? *There will my servant be*.

What does that mean: *where Jesus is*? Jesus is up in heaven but he has servants *here on earth*. What it means is: *where he is* as to what he is *opening of the Word* to the church. In other words, *where he is in the Word, that's where his servant will be*.

This is where we see a great error today. For example: we look at the Branham movement – nothing against the people – but they are *spiritually* where the Lord was *fifty years ago*. They have not moved. You can hear the same thing preached today that they were preaching in 1970.

You may say: well Brother, don't you believe it's the truth? Well *the truth* of what they're preaching, sure it's *truth*, but God has shown more truth and they reject it.

What is that? That is *not* walking with God. That is *not* faith. And that does *not* please God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him;

You can wear your hair right and you can dress right. I listened to some of the Branham movement and they're saying the same thing I heard twenty years ago. They're telling women: don't put on too much makeup and wear the right kind of dress. I mean: I agree with that but at the end of the day, God needs to do something *on the inside* that the *desire* is to do what's right.

There may be a time or two when a minister or a pastor has to deal with a situation but you don't get the bride ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ by preaching about what we should wear. I hope that's understandable.

But without faith it's impossible to please God. [Hebrews 11:6]

It doesn't matter how much we do right from the natural appearance. We can be the pastor of a church with a 100, 200, or 500 people. Oh, we can have our programs just perfect. And everybody can know Pastor So-and-so *but without faith it's impossible to please God*. You might please your fellow man, you might please your brother and sister *but without faith it's impossible to please God*.

I want to have *faith* then. Praise the Lord. I want to *believe* what God is revealing to the church. I want to be able to see *it*.

Someone may say: well Brother, I don't know if I can see it. Well read the rest of this verse. It says that *God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*. [Hebrews 11:6] Not just those who seek Him: well I sought Him. But those who *diligently seek Him*. Amen.

I had a lot more but time has gotten away from us. I hope we can see the picture.

Let's go ahead and pray.