

## "The Sixth Sense of Faith"

Hebrews 11:1-6

September 29, 2024

**Heb 10:36 – 39** *For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."  
<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

**Heb 11:1-3, 6** <sup>1</sup> *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.  
...<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

**INTRO** ...a life of "ENDURANCE" needs FAITH

- Key Context verse—v. 36 "For you have need of endurance"— [**ENDURANCE** = hypomonē (Gk); cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: — AV (32) - patience 29] ...This "Anticipated Experience" Drives Chap 11 & 12!!
  - (1) **Doing the Christian Life in This World is going to include times, circumstances, experiences, & relationships that contain things to be "endured"!** ...AND, when 'endurance' has run down your batteries, YOUR HUMANITY is going to be tempted to: "not draw near", "not hold fast", "not assemble together" and "to throw away your confidence"
  - (2) **Doing the Christian Life in This World is going to be done in a "waiting room" of sorts!** ...It is going to be done from a posture that is WAITING for something that in some way we don't fully possess or experience.
- **The Key Ingredient Needed for a Life that has to "Endure" ...is FAITH**

### Faith Informed Realities

**What is Faith?**

**Heb 11:1-3** <sup>1</sup> *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

'assurance' = hypostasis; a setting under (support), i.e. assurance, confidence, substance

'conviction' = elénchos means a. 'proof,' 'convincing,' 'refutation,' ...elénchos is 'persuasion,' (Theological Dictionary of the N.T.)

**NOTICE: Faith is here connected to (or in "contact" with) 2 types of things: (1) Things hoped for (2) Things not seen**

**"Hoped for Things"** - Rom 8:24-25 "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience (hypomonē)." ...Things that are Not Present "at this time"—but they will be!

### **"Unseen Things"**

**Heb 11:3, 7, 13, 27** <sup>3</sup> *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ...<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. ...<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ...<sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.*

"Verse 1 describes the environment in which faith exists and works. Faith takes place when things are hoped for but not yet possessed or manifested. ... Faith, therefore, relates to the things we do not yet have, to the things we hope for and do not see, to things that are promised by God but are so far unfulfilled in our actual experience." **Daniel Doriani**, *Hebrews*, Ref. Exp. Comm.

"faith lays hold of what is promised and therefore hoped for, as something real and solid, though as yet unseen." **Phillip Hughes**, *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*, p. 439

**"...So it is safe to say that 'those who live by faith have a prominent relationship with hoped for and unseen things!' (As opposed to "right now" and "observable" things)**

*...MAJOR Insight on Faith — "not seen" ... "unseen" ... "not visible" ... "seen from afar" ...and... "invisible" (Faith's Vocabulary)! Faith involves a Different Type of "Seeing" Life's Reality!! "what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" ...Faith somehow interacts with or "senses" the "unseen" (something beyond or unaccounted for or not of this realm) and pulls 'invisible things' into our experience/moment. ...This is hugely helpful in framing my expectations of what will it 'feel' like when I "live/walk/exercise faith"?*

"One of the reasons many favor the translation of hypostasis as "substance" is that they see a parallel between the first and second halves of this verse: faith is the "substance of what we hope for and the evidence of things not seen. Clearly, this idea is important to the writer's thought. He is going to make much of the example of Abraham, who lived as a pilgrim in the land of promise. Although others occupied and controlled that land during his lifetime, he nonetheless possessed it by faith. His faith gave evidence to him of what was promised but not yet seen. The same held true with regard to the promise of a son. God changed his name from Abram—father of a nation—to Abraham—father of many nations—by virtue of the promise he possessed by faith, though he was at that time still childless. This, then, is how faith functions: it makes real to us and gives us possession of things that are hoped for but are not yet part of our experience." **Daniel Doriani**, *Hebrews*, Ref. Exp. Comm.

...What is Faith? ..."**Faith**" as something of a 6th SENSE (ie, a 'faculty' by which we are in touch with reality!)

**"SENSING" Our REALITY** – Reality Consists of Physical Things & Non-Physical Things (Bodies vs thoughts/feelings) ...Seen & Unseen Things (People vs Angelic/Demonic Beings) ...Present Things & Past/Future Things (Events, outcomes, experiences)

**A 6th SENSE that interacts with "hoped for things" (future, not now) and "unseen things"**

**2Cor 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. ...**2Cor 4:18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. ...**Jn 20:29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**2Ki 6:15-17** "...And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"<sup>16</sup> He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."<sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

**Heb 10:38** "but my righteous one shall live by faith,"

"The Christian life is the life of faith. Faith is the issue on which the matter of salvation depends; it is the key that turns the lock on the door to eternal life. Faith is the channel by which we receive the benefits of Christ's saving work; it is the cup into which God pours his saving grace. ...Hebrews 11 is the work of a master teacher and loving pastor who is convinced that the fate of his readers hinges on their faith." **Daniel Doriani**, Hebrews, Ref. Exp. Comm.

## Hoping for "GOOD" that is Out of This World!!

...WAITING in Faith... for Some Things that Won't Come in This World!!—and That Was GOOD with Them ...Is it Good for Us?

- **Heb 11:8-9** ...Abraham's Life Story is Disrupted & Dislocated by something he "sensed" by Faith!! [He Moved Because He "SMELLED" Something!!]
- **Heb 11:10, 13-16** ...The "faith" they needed to do life in THIS WORLD was informing, shaping, and influencing their daily life by "touching, tasting, seeing" something REAL, but they would never experience it in THIS WORLD!!
- **Heb 11:39-40** ...this generalized summary of those who lived life on earth by faith says they "did not receive what was promised"—NOT YET, Not in This Life! ...BUT!! What they "possessed by faith" that they knew was coming in the next life CHANGED The Way They Did THIS LIFE!!

**NOTE:** Heb 11 contains "THIS WORLD" experiences that came by faith to these people: ...v. 33-35 (describes "this world" experiences) "*who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,<sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.<sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection...*"

## The Absolute Necessity of Faith (Heb 11:6)

...Faith is Not Merely for the "Freakish-Christian" (the Super-Disciple who seems to be out of touch with reality, whom you cannot relate to!)

**Heb 10:38** "but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

**Heb 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

- **Installing a "Faith Monitor"**
  - **Detecting "Faith's Friends"** ...It seems that when faith is influentially present and operating it has some companions with it!— "Confidence"... "Obedience" (Noah,

Abraham) ..."Patience/Endurance" ..."Holding Fast" ..."Hope" ..."Joy" (Heb 12:2 "...looking to Jesus, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross")

- A Faith Monitor would be looking for the pronounced presence of "Things Hoped for" (but not actually possessed in time/touch) and "Things Not Seen"
- Faith Monitor "Inventory" (What am I Attaching My Faith to—for having a Good Life?)
  - SEEN & NOW Candidates (That I am "Hoping For"??)
  - UNSEEN & FUTURE Candidates