

NOW FAITH IS...

Hebrews 11:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. These readers had suffered greatly
- 1) "...a great fight of afflictions" vs 32
 - 2) "...took joyfully the spoiling of your goods..." vs 33
- B. This tribulation had not worked patience
- 1) "...for ye have need of patience..." vs 36.
 - 2) "...tribulation worketh patience..." Romans 5:3
- C. They were "just" people and should live by faith
- 1) "Now the just shall live by faith..." vs 38
 - 2) Living by faith saves the life vs 39
- D. If we are to live by faith, what is faith?
- 1) "faith" = πίστις = "firm persuasion", "the conviction that is based upon hearing, not upon sight", "a firmly relying confidence in what we hear from God in his word", "trust", "reliance", "confidence", hence, includes obedience. To not obey shows a lack of trust.
 - 2) These verses are not a definition of faith but an explanation of faith.
- I. Faith Is... (Not a definition)
- A. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..."
- 1) "faith" = πίστις = (see above)
 - 2) "substance" = ὑποστάσις = "what is set or stands under; underlayer, that which lies at the foundation of matter; essence, that which remains, i.e., sediment, medical, philosophy.
 - 3) "hoped for" = ἐπιζόμενοι = "things hoped for"
 - 4) "But faith forms a solid ground for what is hoped for" BER

B. "...the evidence of things not seen"

- 1) "evidence" = ελεγχος = "proof", "convincing argument", "used as legal proofs of an accusation"
- 2) "not seen" = βλεπω = "to use the eyes", "the act of seeing" To observe accurately.
- 3) "And makes us certain of realities we do not see" NEB

C. True faith is always directed toward God

- 1) It is not "working up" self confidence
- 2) It is not just "holding on"
- 3) It is not "a leap in the dark"
- 4) It is not, "saying it" so it will come to pass

II. The Elders Had It

A. "For by it the elders obtained a good report"

- 1) "elders" = πρεσβυς = "old", "older", "elder" Those who have lived in the past who lived by faith.
- 2) "obtained a good report" = μαρτυρια = "witness", "testimony", "borne or given"
- 3) "By it the saints of old won God's approval" WEY

B. They walked in the old paths

- 1) *Jeremiah 6:16 - "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..."*
- 2) The ancient landmarks mark the way! *Proverbs 22:28 - "Remove not the ancient landmarks; which thy fathers have set."*

III. We Have Already Used It

A. *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the word of God..."*

- 1) *"understand"* = νοουμεν = "a mental as distinguished from a sensuous perception", "perception by the mind and not the senses" This is a fact we know and how do we know it? By faith...
- 2) *"worlds"* = αιων = "ages", "the time in which the history of man and the world occurs."
- 3) *"framed"* = καταρτιζω = "to adjust or to put in order again", "to reform", "restore" Involving the idea of positive defects which have to be repaired or adjusted" (further proof of the gap theory *Genesis 1:1-2*)
- 4) *"word"* = ρημα = "that which is spoken", "a sentence", "speech", "discourse", "a command"
- 5) "By faith we know that the worlds were repaired at the command of God"
- 6) *Psalms 33:6-9*

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

- 1) *"seen"* = βλεπω = "to use the eyes", "to see"
- 2) *"made"* = γινομαι = "to begin to be", "to come into existence"
- 3) *"things"* = πραγμα = "a thing done", "a deed", "an act"
- 4) *"appear"* = τα φαινομενα = the + "to make light"
- 5) "So that what is seen has not come into being from things which appear."

