

## Hebrews 11: 1-5 (May 21, 2017)

### *Misconceptions Of Faith*

*Hebrews 11: 1-5*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

4By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. 5By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God."

### *Misconceptions of Faith*

To understand what faith is we must get past certain misconceptions about faith.

The **first** misconception is that faith is the ability to manipulate God. Whether they realize it or not this is the approach of the proponents of the health and wealth prosperity gospel. This approach only sees faith as having one aim – one fruit – the ability to get from God what will make life easier and more satisfying for us.

The **second** misconception about faith is that faith is merely adherence to the right set of beliefs. What you must do is believe the right doctrine. Paul said he knew whom he had believed, not what he had believed. If your beliefs are not founded on the right person it does not matter what else you believe.

The **third** misconception about faith is that faith is a blind leap into the dark. To many unbelievers faith is the anti-thesis of science. To these individuals saying you just have to have faith is the same as saying just have to act contrary to everything you know and trust that it will all work out for the best. This is not biblical faith.

**So what does real faith look like?** True faith is confident obedience to God's word in spite of circumstances or consequences. Faith is described in a two-fold way. It is the —substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

**Substance:** The word substance (hupostasis) translated in the Greek, means literally to stand under or to support. Faith is the foundation that gives the believer the confidence to stand. Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.

**Evidence:** The word describing what faith is, is translated as evidence and means conviction. Evidence is something you take into court to prove your case. This inward conviction enables the believer to believe things not yet seen, that God will perform what he has promised.

Faith is substance and evidence.