



MZBMP

TITLE:

Biblical Definition of Faith

TEXT:

Hebrews 10:38 – 11:1

- Living by faith is a way of salvation.
 - “them that believe to the saving of the soul” (v.39)
 - This is well established in the book of Romans that a person is not justified by the work of the law but by faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Living by faith is an evidence of salvation.
 - “shall live”
 - Living by faith is opposite of drawing back (to withdraw oneself).
 - Drawing back results perdition (eternal destruction in the lake of fire).
 - Drawing back is described as sinning willfully in 10:26-31.
- Living by faith is the perseverance of the just.
 - The just shall live by faith and continually live by faith.
 - Not continually living by the law.
 - Paul clearly says in the previous chapter that we have a better High Priest, better tabernacle, and better covenant.
 - Paul says in chapter 11 how the O.T. believers lived by faith.
 - What is faith? Do you know what it means to continually live by faith?
 - The world describes faith as “Keep the faith; Don’t lose hope; Be positive; And everything will work out.”
- NOW faith...
 - The word “Now” is a conjunction, connecting the concept of living by faith to its biblical definition.
- Paul, by divine inspiration, defined faith in 9 simple Greek words.
 - “the substance of things hoped for” and “the evidence of things not seen”

THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR

- “Substance” - ὑπόστασις (hupostasis) in the original Greek
 - John Wycliffe (1382) translated it as “substance.”
 - William Tyndale (1526) translated it as “sure confidence.”
 - The Geneva Bible (1560) translators translated it as “ground.”
 - The KJV (1611) translators translated it as “substance.”
 - James Strong (1890) defines it as “a setting under (support).”
 - Joseph Thayer (1841) defines it as “thing put under, substructure, foundation.”
- Faith is the substance, the sure confidence, the ground, the support, the substructure or foundation of things hoped for.
- The “things hoped for” are the things spoken of in God’s Word.
 - In contrast, a person can have things hoping for that are against God’s will.
 - E.g. A gambler’s faith that he would win in the casino.
 - E.g. Astronomer’s faith that the universe is originated from a big bang 13.7 billion years ago.
 - E.g. Evolutionist’s faith that life on earth is from Alien origin.
 - By comparing scripture with scripture, faith comes by hearing of the Word of God. See Romans 10:17.
 - In the context:
 - Noah’s faith is based upon God’s warning (11:7).
 - Abraham’s faith is based upon God’s call (11:8).
 - Sarah’s faith is based upon God’s promise (11:11).
- Faith is the substance, the sure confidence, the ground of the things a person is HOPING FOR IN GOD’S WORD.

THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

- “Evidence” - ἔλεγχος (elegchos) in the original Greek
 - John Wycliffe (1382) translated it as “argument.”
 - William Tyndale (1526) translated it as “certainty.”
 - The Geneva Bible (1560) translators translated it as “evidence.”
 - The KJV (1611) translators translated it as “evidence.”
 - James Strong defines (1890) it as “proof, conviction, evidence”
 - Joseph Thayer (1841) defines it as “a proof, a conviction, that by which a thing is proved or tested”
- Faith is tested and proven evidence, argument, certainty, conviction, proof of things not seen.
- The “things not seen” are the things spoken of in God’s Word.
 - The invisible God (Col. 1:17).
 - Spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12).
 - Heaven and hell. See Luke 16:22-23, 27-31.
- In the context:
 - The worlds were framed by the word of God (11:3).
 - Noah prepared an ark by faith when God warned him OF THINGS NOT SEEN as yet (rain and the flood) (11:7).
 - Moses forsook Egypt. He sees Him who is invisible (11:27).
- Faith is tested and proven evidence, argument, certainty, conviction, proof of THINGS NOT SEEN WHICH THE WORD OF GOD AFFIRMS AS FACT OR TRUTH.