

The Promise: Faith Defined

Hebrews 11:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- I. **Faith is the Assurance of things hoped for**
 - A. **Assurance is the evidence / trust of a thing, it's essence**
 - 1. What is the substance of your faith?
 - 2. This will determine whether or not you persevere, persevere poorly, or persevere at all
 - B. **Assurance is persistent**
 - 1. Of things hoped for
 - 2. Hope does not disappoint
 - 3. Psalm 42
- II. **Faith is the Conviction of things not seen**
 - A. **Conviction is the act of proving something true**
 - 1. Convinced that God's promises are true, the true believer knows God will prove Himself true
 - 2. **Romans 3:1-4**
 - 3. Go back further to see the strongest understanding... **Romans 1:20**
 - B. **Things not seen juxtaposes the temporal with the eternal**
 - 1. Faith finds no rest in temporal matter

- 2. Faith must be in the eternal

III. Faith is the only means of salvation...for all time

- A. **By faith, the people of old...**
 - 1. Beginning in v.3 he goes on to describe several examples
 - 2. Our understanding -- there is a reasonableness to faith
- B. **Commendation is that which testifies to the truth**
 - 1. The testimony of God's gracious saving of saints of old was faith
 - 2. Acts of faith proved God's loving choice
 - 3. Faith of the saints is now recorded permanently in Scripture

IV. Faith is rooted in the Word of God

- A. **True faith is tied with the creation of the universe**
- B. **The non-negotiable of faith in relation to creation is that all that was made was made by God's spoken word**
 - 1. Ex Nihilo - out of nothing
 - 2. **Romans 10:17**
- C. **God's Word is the Source and Substance of Faith because in it are the Promises of God -- God does what He says**

1. The beginning of the examples of faith is at its core foundation -- Genesis
2. The author moves systematically from Genesis through Joshua in his examples of people of faith

CONCLUSION: