

HOW YOUR FAITH WORKS

Chapter excerpt from *Teach by People Faith* by Lucia M. Claborn.

Hebrews 11:1 explains what faith is so let's read it in different versions. The Weymouth New Testament translation reads, "Now faith is a well-grounded assurance of that for which we hope, and a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see." The Good News Translation says, "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." The King James Version reads, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The Passion Translations says, "Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen." And The Amplified Bible says, "Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]."

These verses tell you biblical definition of faith; however, Webster's 1828 Dictionary says faith is a noun with the Latin root meaning fides, fido, or to trust. There are several definitions of faith; however, the two to focus on are the fact that faith is an affectionate practical confidence in the testimony of God. And, faith is a firm, cordial belief in the veracity of God, in all the declarations of his word; or a full and affectionate confidence in the certainty of those things which God has declared, and because he has declared them.

Although these are the definitions of faith, you cannot apply definitions to situations. You have to extract from the definition what the definition actually means and then apply it to your situations.

If you have sickness or disease in your body or you have lack in your finances, you can't stand over these situations and say, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This will not change anything! The definition is right; however, the definition is not going to change your situation.

Faith is your key to operating everything in the Kingdom of God. When you break down the definition in this verse you see that everything you receive from God, you receive by exercising your faith. As you look at this verse, you see that faith has a time. There is a time when faith is faith, and there is a time when it is not, and you have to know the difference.

There is a confession unto faith, which is confessing the promise from the Word of God that you're standing on for your breakthrough; and, there's a confession of faith. The confession unto faith is the process of confessing the Word of God to build your faith. Because faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God over and over again, when you quote the scriptures to build your faith, your faith grows stronger. You go from hoping the Word of God will work for you, to the revelation of knowing the Word of God will work for you, to receiving the promise of what you're confessing. You go from knowing what faith is, to knowing that you have faith to receive.

Have you heard people say, "Well, I know the Lord is going to make a way for me." Or, "Well, I know God is going to do...so and so." Or they may say, "I know the Lord is able. I know God will make a way." Or, "I know God is working everything out."

When people say these things, they're being very sincere. They mean what they're saying with all their heart, and they believe they're in faith, but they're not because they are confessing future tense. They don't understand that there is a time of faith. This is one of the most important things you can learn about faith.

So, when is faith actually faith? From Hebrews 11:1, you can see that faith is present tense. Faith is always NOW! If what you are speaking is not in the present tense, then it's not faith!

When people say, "I know God is going to do something," they are actually saying that God has not done what they have requested of Him, because it's not present tense; they're saying God is going to do something at some time in the future. God is not a future tense God. He is a present tense, right now, God! God will never move for you if you say and believe He is going to do something in the future because you deny the fact that He has already done everything He's going to do for you.

Before Jesus took his last breath on the cross, he said "It is finished," according to John 19:30. His life's purpose was completed. Before he sat down at the right hand of Father God, which is the place of honor, according to Mark 16:19, and Jesus defeated Satan in three realms; in heaven, on earth, and in hell. Jesus took the keys from Satan when he went to Hell according to Revelations 1:18 in the Amplified Bible which says, "and the Ever-living One [living in and beyond all time and space]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of [absolute control and victory over] death and of Hades (the realm of the dead)."

Then Jesus gave you the keys to the Kingdom. Matthew 18:19 in the Amplified Bible says, "I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven."

You not only have the keys to the Kingdom, you have also been given authority and dominion to rule and reign in your domain according to Genesis 1:26 which says, "Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps *and* crawls on the earth." You simply must take your rightful place of authority and enforce Satan's defeat!

Again, Hebrews 11:1 confirms that faith is present tense. It says "Now faith is..." The word "now" is present tense, and so is the word "is." So, the first and most important thing you can learn about faith is that faith is always present tense...faith is now!

Settle in your heart and mind that God has done everything He's going to do for you! Your job is to simply believe you receive what He's already done for you! That's how faith works.

You have to agree with and say what God says in His Word about you and your situation if you want results in your life. You can't say, "God is going to do something." A good example is Philippians 4:19 which says, "And my God shall supply all your need..." You can believe this and confess, "Thank you, God, I believe all my needs are met right now, in Jesus Name!" This is your confession of faith, and it activates God's power in your life because this confession is present tense.

If you need healing in your body, you can believe and confess the Word of God to receive your healing just like you did to receive your needs being met. Have you heard people say, "I'm hoping God will heal me." Maybe they say, "Well, I'm believing God that He's going to heal me." Or you may have heard someone say, "I know God is able." None of these statements are based on faith and what God has already done. These confessions lack the knowledge of the power that is available to a born-again child of God, and they will not produce the results people want in their lives! Actually, the devil will kill them while they're making these kinds of statements or confessions because they're not statements or confessions of faith.

If you want to overcome sickness and walk in health, you have to say what God says about healing. One example is Matthew 8:17, "This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: 'He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.'" In this verse, He Himself is Jesus. Jesus took your infirmities and carried away your diseases. In this verse the words, "took" and "carried away" are both past tense. If Jesus "took and carried away" your sicknesses and diseases, He must not want you to take them or carry them in your body; which means Jesus makes you free from sickness and disease by all standards!

First Peter 2:24, which is my favorite healing verse says, "...by whose stripes you were healed." In this verse "were" is past tense, indicating the time of action has already taken place. Jesus has already taken stripes on his body for you to be healed! According to this verse, if you "were" healed, then you "are" healed. If you are healed, then faith says, 'I am already healed according to 1 Peter 2:24, so I believe I receive my healing right now.'

You have to take all the promises of God and see them as present tense. In the natural, you may be having challenges, and Satan may be trying to put something on you; however, your response to him has to be what God says about your situation so you can release the power of God into your life.

When you make your confession of faith, it's always present tense and starts with the words, "I am." It doesn't matter what the situation looks like, your "I am" confession will change your situation because everything in the natural is subject to change according to 2 Corinthians 4:18 which says, "while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...". Substance in this verse is something that can be contacted with your five senses – something you can see, taste, smell, hear or touch. Faith is the substance or tangibility of things hoped for. This confirms that hope in and of itself has no substance. There's nothing about hope that you can see, taste, smell, hear or touch. If you could, then you would not need faith.

Faith is something for it to be the substance of things that you hope for. When you add faith to your hope, then you give your hope substance or tangibility – something that you can eventually see, taste, smell, hear or touch.

Your hope sets the goal and your faith goes and gets it. You must have hope, but if you do not have some way to reach your hope, then your hope will never have anything that you can see, taste, smell, hear or touch. Hope affects your attitude about circumstances, but faith changes your circumstances. Hope is like a dream. Dreams have no substance. If you don't have faith to go with your hope, your hope is like a dream without a desired target goal completion date, meaning it will never come to pass.

As you read on in Hebrews 11:1, you see that "...faith is the evidence of things not seen." The best definition of evidence is that "it's proof." Evidence validates or proves the existence of something you don't presently have, because if you had it, you would not need proof of it. Another way to say this is, "Evidence takes the place of the thing that is the evidence or proof of, until the thing arrives on the scene. Faith itself is the proof that you have what you have asked to give you. Faith is the evidence of things not seen.

To walk by faith, you will have to leave the realm of your five senses. You can't walk by faith and look at your senses to determine where you are with God. You have to walk by faith, because sometimes your five senses will tell you one thing, when faith is telling you something totally different.

Since faith is the evidence or proof of things not perceived by our senses, then there must be another world that is outside your physical world, which is a world that you can only enter into by faith. This is the world or realm of God. This is the spirit world and it's more real than the physical world, and the only way you get into the spirit world is with your faith.

Everything you receive from God; you receive in the spirit realm first by using your faith to believe you receive it before it manifests in the natural realm.