

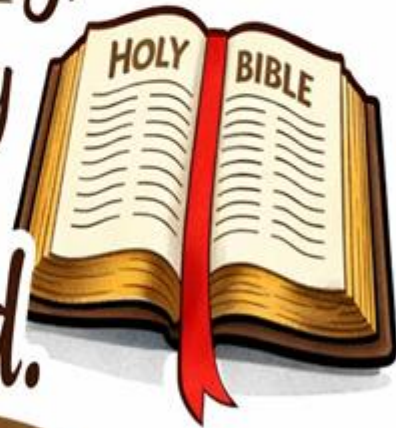
So then

FAITH

comes by hearing,

and hearing by

the
Word of God.



— Romans 10:17 —

Illustration: The Farmer Who Planted Before the Rain

A small-town farmer walked into the local feed store during a long, stubborn drought. The ground was cracked. The ponds were low. The sky had been emptied for months.

Yet he bought **several bags of seed** - more than usual.

A neighbor saw him loading the truck and said, “Why are you buying seed now? There is no rain in the forecast.”

The farmer smiled and said, “I’m planting this week.”

The neighbor shook his head. “You are wasting your time. You do not plant until you *see* the rain coming.”

The farmer replied, “That is the difference between us. **I do not plant because I see the rain. I plant because I trust the One who sends it.**”

And he drove home, tilled the dry ground, and planted every seed.

A few days later, the clouds rolled in. The rain came. And his fields were the first to sprout.

Why This Illustration Works Biblically

It captures the essence of Hebrews 11:1 - **Faith acts on God’s promise before the evidence appears.**

Faith is always tested for at least three reasons:

- To prove whether our faith is real
- To help our faith grow
- To bring glory to the Lord

In Hebrews we have the statement how, Noah built the ark before the flood.

Biblical faith is not wishful thinking. It is **obedience in advance**—trusting God enough to move your feet even when the ground is dry.

How Noah Building the Ark Describes Faith

Noah is one of Scripture’s clearest portraits of what real, biblical faith looks like. His story in Genesis 6–7 gives us a definition of faith that is **practical, costly, obedient, and rooted in God’s Word alone.**

1. Faith Acts in God’s Word Before There Is Evidence

God warned Noah of something he had **never seen**—a worldwide flood. There was no rainstorm forming, no dark clouds, no rising rivers. Yet Noah built an ark anyway.

Faith is obeying God when your eyes see nothing, but your heart trusts His Word.

This is Hebrews 11:1 lived out: “the evidence of things not seen.”

2. Faith Works While the World Watches

Noah did not build the ark in secret. Every hammer strike was a sermon. Every board was a testimony. For decades he built something that made no sense to anyone but God.

Faith is willing to look foolish in the eyes of people because you trust the wisdom of God.

3. Faith Perseveres Even When It Takes a Long Time

Noah built the ark for years - up to 120. **No quick results.** No immediate confirmation. No “signs” along the way.

Faith keeps obeying even when God is silent and progress is slow.

4. Faith Trusts God Enough to Step into What You Built

After the ark was finished, Noah still had to enter it. That required trust too.

Faith not only builds according to God’s instructions - it steps into.

Summary

Faith is taking God at His Word, acting on it before you see it, and continuing in obedience even when the world does not understand.

Faith comes before full understanding, because it depends on the authority, truth, and ability of someone else.

Hebrews 11:1-3,6

The definition of FAITH comes straight from the BIBLE.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

“Now faith” In fact - to convince with evidence - a thinking word - to trust having confidence- understanding something - believing something to be true.

You inhale God’s Word into your mind (comprehension) you agree it is right, true and then exhale His Word and the apply it.

“is the substance” - A structural foundation on which you stand – you believed something to be true. Assurance, conviction of their faith – you believed what God said and acted upon it.

“of things hoped for”

A reality, complete confidence without any doubt – doubt is not faith – the Word of God should be just as sure to you as the fact of where you live. The idea is victory.

“the evidence of things not seen”

Evidence is a courtroom term presenting evidence that something is true – the word of God is proof of the evidence. The more you learn and believe – the more prepared you are for the battle ahead.

Hebrews 11:2 - **For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.**

“For by it” God's word. Faith is not a sense, (emotional feeling) our site, trying to figure it out – does it make sense to me) but a taking of God at His word trusting and being obedient.

“the elders obtained” all those mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11. They saw the unseen as a greater reality than the scene. They also took action on the unseen.

“a good testimony” to confirm something on the basis of personal belief. The reward of faith. It means to gain approval; they operated on faith. They received a good report from God during the testing that they endured during their life. They please God. Because they saw the unseen as a greater reality than the scene, they made an “A” on their report card.

Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we **understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.**

“By faith” by means of God's word.

“we understand” to perceive with the mind, to know and understand. Faith is based on what we know.

“that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” the spoken word of God. Faith is necessary to understand the first page of the Bible to the last page. If you do not believe what God said about the past, how can you believe what he says about the future?

Hebrews 11:6 - **But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

But without faith” this is referring to active faith.

“it is impossible to please Him” apart from faith, it is impossible to please God. We must go to God on His terms.

“for he who comes to God” to understand the plan, purpose and will of God. He is talking about living an obedient spiritual life.

“must believe” live by faith.

“That He is” to line up with God's word, believe that God is who He says He is and do what he says.

“And that He is a rewarder” God will reward the faithful.

“Of those who diligently seek Him” to exert effort and learn.

The obstacles to seeking God:

Ignorance – not knowing God's word.

The right – resisting God's authority.

Sin – loving darkness rather than light.

Distractions – being consumed with worldly concerns.

False teaching – believing something that is not true.

These obstacles are overcome not by willpower alone but by exposure to God's word and submission to it.

Seeking God requires:

Reading Scripture.

Hearing Scripture Taught.

Meditating on Scripture, accurately handling the word of truth.

Applying Scripture. Testing all things by Scripture.

The Bible says in Romans 14:23... Whatever is not from faith is sin.

Romans 10:17 - So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

At what it does not say as well as what it does say.

“So, then faith” related to the study of God's word. Belief and conviction which comes out of the act of believing.

“comes by hearing” how do you get it, by the content of the message, by hearing the truth.

“and hearing by the word of God” the absolutes of God, and they are not up for debate.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

“**For we walk by faith**” walk denotes our lifestyle, how we live the Christian life. By faith, we should conduct ourselves not by reason or sight. Faith is opposed to reality, it is not mere hope, not a wish, but based on truth.

“**not by sight**” we do not need visible evidence to believe the things of God.

We are supposed to be confident at all times. Not sometimes, not occasionally, but at all times.

- We are confident that God loves us.
- We are confident that nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- We are confident that God will provide for all our basic needs in life.
- We are confident that we will live with God forever.
- We are confident that we cannot lose our eternal life with God.
- We are confident that God has a plan for our life.
- We are confident that God will provide for us everything necessary to execute His plan.
- We are confident dying will be a wonderful experience.
- We are confident that God has rewards and decorations for those who execute His plan, both in time and in eternity.

Three Words that refer to the Christian Life

Stand - Walk - Run

The New Testament uses three words (stand, walk, run) that describe and organize the action in the Christian way of life—the where, the how, and the why.

Almost every principle and doctrine relate to these ideas.

Stand

Stand emphasizes your foundation, strength, protection, identity, and so your motivation and confidence—the where one lives.

Philippians 4:1 - Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, **so stand** fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

Walk

Walk emphasizes the regular and progressive movement through life; the how one lives the Christian Life.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 - That ye would **walk worthy** of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory.

Run

Running emphasizes the purpose and the goal of life, the finish line—the way one lives. Obedience - Endurance

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

We are not competing with anyone else; we are competing with ourselves.

Each of us must take responsibility for our own race, a race that has been perfectly matched to us by an Omniscient God.

He has provided everything we need to win.

Confident Expectation

Is looking at God's capability not on man's incapability...

- trust in God's timing = to wait upon God.
- dependency on God's power = reject human power and human wisdom.
- reliance on God's resources = use no human solutions.
- security in God's protection = residency and function in the pre-designed plan of God

FIVE FACTORS OF EFFECTIVE FAITH

1. EFFECTIVE FAITH IS BUILT ON GENUINE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. This means knowing God, not just knowing about Him. We come to know him as Creator through His creation. (Rom. 1:18-21), He reveals Himself to us through His word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and we come to know Him in a personal way through Jesus Christ our redeemer (Phil. 3:7-14).

2. EFFECTIVE FAITH IS SPIRITUAL POWER AT WORK. James says that "Faith without works is dead". (Jam. 2:17, Jam. 2:26) Faith takes the power of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and word (Heb. 4:12) and puts it to work in our life (Mat. 5:13-16, Eph. 2:10). Power is the characteristic of the growing Christian. (Eph. 1:18-19, Eph. 3:14-19; Col. 1:24-29; 2 Peter. 1:5-7)

3. EFFECTIVE FAITH TURNS PERSONAL FAITH INTO PUBLIC MINISTRY. Every believer in Jesus Christ is an Ambassador of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:14-21), a Priest of God (1 Peter. 2:5-9), and a minister to other believers (1 Cor. 12:4-11). We all have a teaching ministry to others by our words and deeds (Heb. 5:11-14, 1Thess. 1:3-10). The Apostle Paul sees this task as a mission of obligation, opportunity, and honor in Rom. 1:14-17.

4. EFFECTIVE FAITH WILL ALWAYS RESULT IN PERSECUTION. In times of persecution, God gives the believer who is faithful "a little help," because a little help combined with effective faith is always enough! It only took David one stone and faith to slay Goliath. Because this world hates Jesus Christ (John 15:18-24), it also hates and persecutes those who most reflect Him (Matt. 5:10-12, 2 Tim. 3:12). It is the highest honor a believer can attain, to share in His Master's sufferings. (Phil. 1:27-30, Col. 1:24, 1 Peter. 4:12-14)

5. EFFECTIVE FAITH FOLLOWS A PATH OF CONTINUAL REFINING, PURIFYING.

This is the "Faith to Faith" principle of Rom. 1:17. Prov. 4:18. Cleansing is a major theme in Salvation (Eph. 5:26, John 13:10), Spiritual growth (1John 1:7) and in confession and correction (1John 1:9, 2 Tim. 2:19-22). David gives a beautiful picture of God's power and willingness to forgive and cleanse in Psa. 51. The path of correction is outlined in James. 4:6-10.