



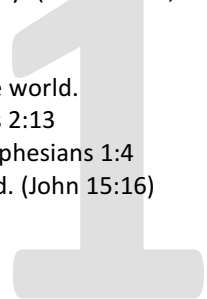
Lesson 45

Lesson 45: What Is Faith?

Scripture: Hebrews 10:36-11:3

A Need for ENDURANCE (v. 36)

- **NEED:** it is necessary; it is a requirement!
- If a **NEED** is not met then what is hoping to happen will not happen!
- **ENDURANCE:** ὑπομονή hupomone {hoop-om-on-ay'} – steadfastness, constancy, endurance, perseverance, a patient enduring, cheerful endurance!
- **In the New Testament this is a characteristic of a man/woman who is not swerved from his/her deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings!**
- (1 Thess 1:2-4) Saints to imitate - the saints at Thessalonika:
 - ① **Loved of God.** “Beloved brethren . . .”
 - A SPECIAL love. (Romans 9:13; Psalm 5:5; 7:11; Malachi 1:2-3)
 - UNCONDITIONAL love. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)
 - An ENDLESS, PERFECT love. (Romans 8:37-39; Jeremiah 31:3)
 - A GREAT love. (Ephesians 2:4)
 - A SERVING love. (Matthew 20:28; Philip 2:7)
 - A love that gave all. (Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2; Philip 2:5-8; 2 Cor 8:9)
 - A PROPITIATORY love. (1 John 4:10-11)
 - A love that expects us to love in the same way. (1 John 3:16; 4:11)
 - ② **Elect of God.**
 - Chosen by God before the foundation of the world.
 - “from the beginning” – 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - “from the foundation of the world” – Ephesians 1:4
 - God chooses us – **NOT** the other way around. (John 15:16)



③ **Salvation and the Trinity** (1 Peter 1:2)

- God, the Father, chose **His people** “*in Christ*” before He created. (Eph 1:4)
- God, the Son, died for **those given to Him by the Father** when He died on the Cross 2000 years ago. (Matt 1:21; Gal 2:20)
- God, the Holy Spirit, enlightens **those whom Christ died** by applying the truth to our hearts. (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 2:10-14)

④ **Works** (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

- Paul said He **knew** the Thessalonians election by their **WORKS**.
- NO WORK means NO SALVATION! NO WORK means you are NOT a believer. NO WORK means you are not going to heaven. (Matthew 7:21)
- GOD saves us because He has **work** for us to do! (Ephesians 2:10)
- “work” - (ἔργον ergon {er'-gon}) – “that which occupies a person”; “the idea is emphasized in opposition to that which is less than work”
- **FAITH** *always* leads to works. (James 2:14-26)
“*We are not saved by faith plus works, but by faith that works.*”
- **Labor** (κόπος - kopos - laborious toil; wearying kind of toil; done to the point of exhaustion) of **LOVE**. Love obeys (does) the commandments/will of God. (John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; 15:14; 1 John 5:2-3)
 - ♥ This kind of labor is motivated, energized, done out of *agape* love.
 - ♥ This is a fervent love for God because of all He has done in saving us and making us His own. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3) **Meditate on Luke 7:47.**
 - ♥ This is a fervent love for the brethren. (1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:10-11)

⑤ **Endurance of HOPE** longs for the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- “endurance or patience” - see above for definition.
- Hope while eagerly awaiting Christ return with perseverance. (v. 10; Romans 8:23, 25; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- Christ is coming for those who long for His return. (Hebrews 9:28)
- As we long for His return we are diligent in living our lives as we should. (2 Peter 3:12-14; **1 John 3:2-3**; 2 Cor 7:1)

- We will receive new bodies when He returns. (Philippians 3:20-21)
 - There is a crown waiting for us. (2 Timothy 4:8)
 - We also know that we will give an account for all we have or have not done. Therefore, “we make it our aim to be well-pleasing in His sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
 - Only those who endure to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)
 - Christians are STEADFAST in their faith ALWAYS ABOUNDING in the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- ★ Faith, Love, Endurance and Hope are evidences of election.
- ★ **We are commanded to make our calling and election sure.** (2 Peter 1:10)

Continuing the NEED for Endurance

- ★ What God says about endurance and perseverance:
 - Promises are inherited by persevering in the faith. Hebrews 6:12
 - Those who persevere until the end will be saved. Mat. 10:22; 24:13
 - In persevering we possess our souls (lives). Luke 21:19
 - Resurrection to life is for those who persevere. Rom 2:7
- **DOING the WILL of GOD:** see Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; Mark 3:35; **Luke 11:28**; John 7:17; Ephesians 6:6.
- The writer of Hebrews is showing that ENDURANCE or PERSEVERANCE is a characteristic of a true child of God.
- (v. 38) **“THE RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**
 - The **“righteous one”** or the **“just one”** or the **“justified one”** lives by faith. **Read 1 John 2:29-3:10**
 - The **SAVED** have Christ’s righteousness imputed to them. **THEY are JUSTIFIED!**
 - Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11

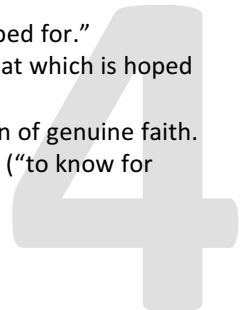
WARNING!

- (v. 38b) Literally, “If he (the just one) . . .” The apostle, as do all the New Testament writers, shows that PERSEVERING FAITH is as ESSENTIAL as our INITIAL FAITH!
 - **He who is wandering away from the narrow path or he who is not on the narrow path need to hear this warning.**
(Remember God’s warning in Hebrews 2:1-4)

- He who is living in a backslidden state needs to hear this warning!!
- “My soul has ***no pleasure*** in him!”
 - **NOTE:** It does not say, “My soul has ***no more*** pleasure in him!”
 - **God’s love for His own is UNCHANGING!** (Malachi 3:6; John 13:1; Romans 8:25-29)
- **LESSON:** In order ***for us*** to have of God’s pleasure on us we must be cleaving to Him and His ways! Consider John 8:31; 15:10.
 - Those ***currently*** walking on the broad path (the way of the world rather than the ***written*** Word of God) cannot have ***any*** assurance of salvation! **BE WARNED!**
- (v. 39) **BUT . . . those who believe to the saving of the soul!**
 - Those who persevere unto the end!

What Is Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

- **NOW!** This word connects us to what has just been said!
- Chapter 11 explains and expands on Hebrews 10:38!
- Chapter 11 will show us that **FAITH** enabled others (in the past) to perform difficult duties, endure severe trials, and to obtain precious blessings!
- Any kind of **FAITH** is a belief in a testimony. Biblical faith is belief in the testimony of God!
- Saving (Genuine) faith gives a **FIRM FOUNDATION**. Consider Hebrews 11:1 –
 - **SUBSTANCE:** ὑπόστασις *hupostasis* {hoop-os'-tas-is}
 - 1) a **setting or placing under** 1a) **thing put under, substructure, foundation**
 - 2) that which has foundation, is firm 2a) that which has actual existence 2a1) a substance, **real being** 2b) the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing 2c) the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution 2c1) **confidence, firm trust, assurance**
 - Christ taught this in **MATTHEW 7:24-29**.
 - “Genuine faith is the *confidence* of things hoped for.”
 - “Genuine faith is the FIRM PERSUASION of that which is hoped for.”
 - The Word of God is the **OBJECTIVE** foundation of genuine faith.
 - Peter says to Jesus, “We **believe** and are **sure** (“to know for certain”).” John 6:69.



- Faith **bridges** the PRESENT with the FUTURE giving one a “sure foundation” or a “sure passing” from one to the other.”
- See Hebrews 11:13-16!
- ★ How confident am I that I am an AUSLANDER (foreigner, stranger, pilgrim) in Germany? This is the same confidence that God gives me in the faith that He gifts me with!

→ **EVIDENCE:** ἔλεγχος {el'-eng-khos}

- a proof, that which a thing is proved or tested
 - ★ Understanding “evidence”
 - In a courtroom with a murderer on trial, the lawyer must convince the judge and jury of something they have not seen!!
 - To do this the lawyer presents “**evidence**” that will convince the judge and jury that the man in court is, in fact, the guilty murderer.
 - With the “evidence” the judge and jury can make a sure and intelligent decision.

- confidence
- comes from the word meaning “to convince”

- **FAITH CONVINCES OF THINGS NOT SEEN!**

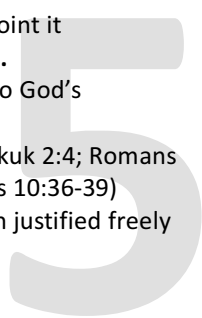
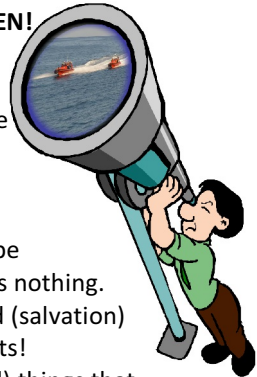
- Faith gives SIGHT of things not seen!

- **Illustration:** Two men on a ship staring at the horizon. One has a telescope and the other not! The telescope (faith) brings things that are FAR AWAY (unseen by the naked eye) near! The one who has the telescope can see clearly while the others sees nothing.

★ The “thing hoped for” – to be rescued (salvation)

★ The “things unseen” – the rescue boats!

- Faith enables the believer to “see” (understand) things that others do not see or understand.
- Faith *convinc*es the **mind** (or understanding) to the point it influences the **heart** and in the end moves the **will**.
- Faith **shuts the eye** to the visible and opens the **ear** to God’s Word. (2 Corinthians 4:18)
- The righteous one **live**s by faith – not by sight. (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11-12; Hebrews 10:36-39)
 - ★ **NOTE:** The righteous one (the one who has been justified freely by grace **live**s by faith.



- Faith is **not** a one-time event.
- Faith is a way of life – a lifestyle.
- ★ The just **live** on every word of God. (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4)
- Faith argues, “God has said it, so it **must** be true.”
- Faith allows us to see clearly the good things **and** the warnings that God has promised. Consider Ezekiel 3:17ff; Isaiah 14:24-27.

Our Catechism Questions- What Is Faith?

★ Are there more than one kind of faith?

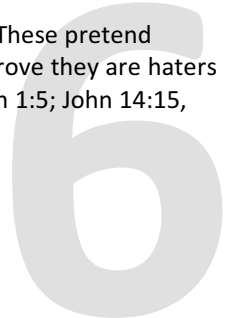
➤ **There is demonic faith.** Demons believe in God.

- ① They believe that there is only one God. (James 2:19)
- ② They believe that Jesus is the Son of the Most High God. (Matthew 8:29, Mark 1:24; 5:7; Luke 4:34; 8:28)
- ③ They know Jesus to be the Christ. (Luke 4:41)
- ④ They believe in a day of judgment and Christ is judge. (Matthew 8:29)
- ⑤ They believe that they will be tormented. (Matthew 8:29)
- ⑥ They know that Jesus of Nazareth is the SOVEREIGN LORD and that they can do nothing without Him commanding it! (Matthew 8:31)
- ⑦ They know that Jesus’ disciples preach salvation and it is found only in Jesus. (Acts 16:17)

YET, they are NOT and will never be saved.

➤ **There is a counterfeit faith.**

- This is “faith” that just “says” but does not obey or perseveres to the end. (Matt 7:21-23; 10:22; 13:18-23; 24:13; 1 John 2:3-4; James 2:14-26; Rom 2:6-7; 1 John 2:9, 4:20)
- This is a “traditional” faith following the teachings of men and not what God has revealed in His written Word. (Matthew 15:1-9; Isaiah 29:13)
- This is the faith of “pretenders” of **the** faith. These pretend submission to the LORD and , by so doing, prove they are haters of God. (Psa 81:15; Ezek 33:30-32; Nehemiah 1:5; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:3)



➤ **Saving faith is a gift from God** that says (confesses) **and** obeys.
(Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; James 2:14-26)

➤ **What is faith in Jesus Christ?**

→ Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (1), whereby we receive (2), and rest upon Him alone for salvation (3), as He is set forth in all of Scripture (4). Faith is a gift given to us by God (5), and comes not from within us but from without (6). All do not have faith (7).

(1) Hebrews 10:39; Romans 4:16

(2) John 1:12

(3) Philippians 3:3-11; Galatians 2:15-16; John 20:21

(4) Isaiah 33:22;

(5) Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 12:3; Philippians 1:29

(6) Galatians 3:23-25

(7) 2 Thessalonians 3:2; Acts 13:48

★ It opens the eyes of my understanding to the things of GOD I **could not** understand and thought were foolishness. (1 Cor 2:14; 1 John 5:20)

★ FAITH is belief in all that God says in His written Word. MEDITATE on this! Faith is a gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

★ FAITH enlightens my mind, inflames my passions (love), and moves my will. (Hebrews 11:3-40)

★ FAITH enables me to KNOW GOD. And I know that I know God because I keep His commandments by the gift of His Holy Spirit. (Matthew 16:17; John 17:2-3; 1 John 2:3-4; Ezekiel 36:26-27)

★ FAITH causes me to **TRUST** God. (Isaiah 26:3-4; Prov 3:5-7; Jer 17:7-8; John 14:1-3)

★ FAITH causes me to WORK the works that God foreordained for me to do. (1 Thess 1:2-3; James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:10)

★ FAITH sustains me through great trials. (Hebrews 11:33-34)

★ FAITH equips me in performing difficult tasks. (Hebrews 11:33-34)

★ FAITH helps me to obtain very important blessings. (Hebrews 11:33-34)

★ FAITH helps me to endure to the end. (Heb 10:39; 1 John 5:4-5; Matt 24:13)



A Good Report (Hebrews 11:2)

- “the elders” – those who have gone before us!
- **NOTICE:** It is their by their **FAITH** that they obtained a good report or testimony. **NOT** their sincerity or goodness!
- We receive God’s approval by **FAITH!**
- “obtained a good report” is in the passive voice and not the active.
 - They received a good report from another – namely, God.

By Faith We Understand (Hebrews 11:3)

- Faith involves our understanding.
- Faith comes **FIRST** and then understanding! See John 11:40
- Those who do not believe are the **FOOLISH ONES** – those who lack understanding. See Luke 24:25.
- What does faith teach us about the universe?
 - ① They were not eternal – they were made (created).
 - ② They were created by another – God.
 - ③ They were “framed” with exactness and completeness for oneself. (Revelation 4:11)
 - ④ They were “framed” by the Word of God. (**Psalm 33:6, 9; John 1:1-3**)
 - The Word of God:
 - ① Christ. (John 1:1)
 - ② The written Word. (John 10:35)
 - ③ God’s spoken word (ῥῆμα rhema {hray'-mah}) Psalm 33:9; John 5:28-29.
 - ⑤ They were “framed” out of **nothing**. (Romans 4:17)

