

Our Most Valuable Investment

What is biblical faith ?

Heb 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

Heb 11:1 NLT

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see

Substance = underlying confidence

Hope = to expect

Evidence = proof or persuasion

Scripture: Romans 10:17 KJV

Romans 10:17 KJV

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Greek = *érchomai* = *cometh* = which conveys the idea of starting a journey, moving, or arriving

Hebrew = *bo* = cometh = to come, to carry, to enter, to bring in, to go

Scripture: Acts 8:26–29 NLT

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, **he was reading aloud** from the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

Scripture: Mark 10:46–52 KJV

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. ⁴⁸ And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. ⁴⁹ And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. ⁵⁰ And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. ⁵² And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Scripture: Romans 10:9–10 KJV

⁹ That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Scripture: Luke 6:45_{NIV}

⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. **For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.**

1. When the heart is full it overflows out of the mouth in speech
2. What flows out of the mouth tells us what is in the heart
3. You can not have one thing in your heart and something else flowing out of your mouth

The two-way connection between the mouth and the heart

Romans 10:8–10 KJV

⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (mouth to heart)

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (mouth to heart)

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (heart to mouth)

Scripture: Hebrews 11:6 KJV

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Please = Greek *euarestos* = acceptable, fully agreeable

Faith is our touch point with God

Scripture: Matthew 17:19–20 NIV

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

²⁰ He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

There is immense potential of even the tiniest measure of true faith when that faith is God given faith, because the power of faith comes not from its size but from the object of faith—God Himself.

Scripture: James 1:2–4_{NLT}

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that **when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.** ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Endurance = constancy, steadfastness (the virtue shown by martyrs)
persevering with unwavering faith and trust in God

Scripture: Romans 5:3–4 NIV

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces **perseverance**; ⁴ **perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

Endurance /perseverance is linked to the growth of character and the development of hope

Heb 11:1 NLT **Faith** shows the reality of what we **hope** for

Discussion Questions

- How would you explain biblical faith to someone who is not a Christian? How is it different from simply being optimistic or hoping for the best?
- What practical steps can we take to strengthen our faith through hearing and engaging with God's Word?
- Can you share a time when you sensed God asking you to take a step of faith? What happened?
- What do our everyday words reveal about what we truly believe and trust?
- Looking back on your own life, how has God used a difficult season to strengthen your faith?

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