

FAITH, Reality, HOPE, Certainty? ~ Hebrews 11:1-3

→ Scripture Reading Heb. 10:32, 34 and 11:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Jesus is BETTER
Don't GO BACK
You Must PERSEVERE

Hebrews 11 flows from this CONTEXT

^{10:32} Remember those earlier days after you had received the LIGHT, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you KNEW that you yourselves had BETTER and lasting possessions.

^{10:35} So DO NOT throw away your CONFIDENCE...

^{10:36} You need to PERSEVERE...

Being SURE ~ Hebrews 11:1-2

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

- **Faith** is to be **SURE** - the **Foundation** (substance) of what **we HOPE for**
- **Faith** is to be **CERTAIN** - it is the **Conviction** (evidence) of things **we do NOT see**

¹ FAITH is the confidence that what we hope for WILL actually happen; IT gives us assurance about things we CANNOT see. (NLT)

FAITH is confidence in the trustworthiness of God. It is the conviction that what God says is TRUE and that what He promises WILL come to pass. BBC

FAITH makes the things hoped for as **REAL** as if we already had them, and it provides unshakable evidence that the **UNSEEN**, spiritual blessings of Christianity are absolutely certain and real. BBC

IMPLICATIONS

Hebrews 10:34-36 (NLT) You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when ALL YOU OWNED was TAKEN from you, you ACCEPTED it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. ³⁵ So do not throw away this CONFIDENT trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶ Patient ENDURANCE is what you need now, SO THAT you will continue to do God's will...

Keep on TRUSTING - do NOT give in to FEAR

Keep on BELIEVING - do NOT be overcome by DOUBT

Keep on ¹...being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see.

Matt. 14:30-31 (NIV) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

By Faith we BELIEVE God Created... ~ Hebrews 11:3

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By FAITH we understand that the universe was FORMED at God's command, so that what is SEEN was NOT made out of what was visible.

Genesis 1:3 (NIV) And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.

Genesis 1:11 (NIV) God said, Let the land produce vegetation ...And it was so.

Genesis 1:24 (NIV) And God said, Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock... and wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so.

Romans 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been CLEARLY SEEN, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

¹ Now FAITH is being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see.

FAITH deals with things FUTURE (what we hope for) ...and things UNSEEN (what we cannot observe) DACarson

IMPLICATIONS

³ By FAITH we UNDERSTAND that the universe was formed at God's command...

John 1:3 (NIV) Through Him ALL things were MADE; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him ALL things were CREATED: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; ALL things were CREATED by Him and FOR Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him ALL things HOLD TOGETHER.

→ Drawing of Atom

³ By FAITH we understand that the universe was FORMED at God's command, so that what is SEEN was NOT made out of what was visible.

The world says - **Seeing IS believing**

God says - **Believing IS Seeing**

John 11:40 (NLT) ...Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you BELIEVE?

1 John 5:13 (NIV) I write these things to you who BELIEVE in the Name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.

→ Pump

TAKE AWAY ??

³ By FAITH we understand that the universe was FORMED at God's command, so that what is SEEN was NOT made out of what was visible.

Romans 1:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ ...what may be known about God is PLAIN to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been CLEARLY SEEN, being UNDERSTOOD from what has BEEN MADE...

³ By FAITH we understand that the universe was FORMED at God's command