

**A Better Way
A Better Faith
Hebrews 11.1-3**

Hebrews is the book of the Better Way, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **Our Better Prayer** - Standing in the presence of God.
- **A Better Anchor of the Soul** (Heb 6)
- **A Better Blood** (Heb 9)
- **A Better Presence** (Heb 10.19-22)
- **A Better Purpose** (Heb 10.22)
- **A Better Substance**

Today we discover that there is a **Better Faith.**

Read Text – Heb 11.1-3

A. The Perversion of Faith in this world

1. The Cultural Definition of Contemporary Faith

It is often said, by those multitudes who proudly declare, “Modern Versions of the Bible do not change one doctrine in the Word of God.” Here in Hebrews 11.1 we find an undeniable presentation of where changing a single word can make all the difference in the world in the way you understand the Word of God. Changing words changes the meaning of the Word of God.

When it comes to **“FAITH”** how you understand Faith and what Faith is, is determined largely upon what Bible you hold in your hand, your version, and how you read and handle the Word of God.

The Cultural Definition of Faith often goes like this, **“Faith is believing in something you cannot see.”** They base this definition on Hebrews 11.1-3 and specifically on Hebrews 11.1 as written in their modern perversion of the Word of God.

Faith is the Foundation of your Christian Journey. Nothing is more important than how you define faith for it will form everything you think and know about God. How you define faith will be the foundation of how you read, understand, and live according to the Word of God.

The Word of God declares,

Hebrews 11:6 - *But without faith it is impossible to please him:* . . .

God, in His Word defines Faith for all who will discover it and live by it. Knowing this, our Adversary the Devil has redefined faith in his manipulations of the Word of God, so that you will have and hold the devil’s perversion of Faith rather than have and hold the powerful, life-changing Faith of the Word of God.

Where does this Culture and World come up with their perversion of the Faith God provides for us?

Let us compare Hebrews 11.1 in a couple version of the Bible.

King James Bible – The Word of God

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

The English Standard Version

Hebrews 11.1 Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

The New International Version

Hebrew 11.1 Now faith is **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see.

The Word of God, This King James Bible states that faith is the Substance of things hoped for. For something to have substance it will be rock solid. You can imagine there is a pulpit in this church of you can put your hands on it. This pulpit has substance. This is what the Word of God does for those things we hope for. It gives them substance.

Assurance and conviction are a matter of what you can accept and are willing to believe.

If you cannot see a vast difference between Substance and Evidence and assurance and conviction then we will be at odds. Faith is rock solid and that comes from the absolute nature of the Word of God, the faithfulness of God, and the power of God.

2. **The Problem with Cultural Faith** – Just follow your heart.

Based on modern versions of the Bible, Faith is based on your ability to believe something, especially something you cannot see.

Based on that idea, faith is what you believe or can believe in your heart.

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A. The Perversion of Faith

1. The Cultural Definition of faith

The basic difference between Faith and Belief is the difference between a noun and a verb. Faith is a noun, belief is a verb.

The problems with just following your heart is,

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Your heart will deceive you.

God never tells you to just follow your heart. No instead he tells you to follow and obey His Word and Commands.

3. **The Presentation of Faith in Heberws 11** – Proper understanding of Hebrews chapter 11.

Modern versions of the Bible will convince a person that Heberws 11.1 provides a definition of Faith, but it does not.

Hebrews chapter 11 reveals what faith does all the way through the chapter.

Verse 1 reveals that faith provides substance to those things we hope for and is the evidence of what we do not see.

We Hope For,

- The Coming Rapture
- The Coming Judgment Seat of Christ
- The New Heaven and New Earth

These promised places are as substantial to me today as this Terra Firma we stand on because of my Faith

The Things we do not see,

- I have never seen Jesus Christ, but I KNOW that he is.
- I have never seen Jesus Christ on the right hand of God but I know that is where He is.

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A. The Perversion of Faith

1. The Cultural Definition of faith
2. The Problem with cultural faith – Just follow your heart

- I have never seen Heaven, but I know that it is.

Why do I know these things? Because God has declared them and that is all the evidence I need.

Romans 3:4 - God forbid: **yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, . . .**

B. The Persuasion of Faith (Rom 4) – The Biblical Definition of Faith

Romans 4:17–22 - (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ¹⁸Who

against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, **according to that which was spoken,** So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹**And being not weak in faith,** he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: ²⁰**He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith,** giving glory to God; ²¹**And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.** ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

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A. The Perversion of Faith

1. The Cultural Definition of faith
2. The Problem with cultural faith – Just follow your heart
3. The Presentation of Faith in Hebrew 11

B. The Persuasion of Faith

In Romans 4.21, we are given the definition of Biblical Faith, **we discover that,**

- **Faith is receiving a Word from God** – Abraham received a promise from God (vs 21)
- **Faith is being Persuaded about what God has said. (vs 21)** Believing what God has said.
- **Faith is acting on what God has said.**

Therefore we understand,

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

We then understand that faith is taking God at His Word. Without the Word of God there is no Biblical Faith.

Since this world only has the manipulation of the Word of God in Modern Version of the Bible, this world has to come up with its own definition of Faith.

The world's faith is based on your ability to believe something.

Biblical Faith is based on the never changing Word of God and God's ability to keep His Word or Promises.

When you develop the Faith that God provides, as revealed in His Word, the things God has said, plus God Faithfulness to His Promises, plus God's ability to keep His Word will make the Word of God like Solid Rock for you. That is Faith as God defines it in the Word of God.

When God gives you His Word, you can trust that God will do exactly what He has said He will do.

C. The Power of Faith

The whole chapter of Hebrews 11 reveals the power and ability of faith. Biblical Faith, a faith founded on the Word of God and the Promises of God will be a powerful faith.

Hebrews Chapter 11 is NOT a definition of Faith it is a description of what Faith does, all the way through the Chapter. Next week we will look through Chapter 11 and see what true Word of God faith has done.

The Definition of Faith is revealed by God in Romans chapter 4 not Hebrews 11. It is the Devil's manipulation of the Word of God that makes Hebrews 11.1 look like a definition of Faith, that is a deception and a lie.

It is obviously evident that every christian must understand what God reveals about a Word of God Faith.

We will look at what faith does next week as we work our way through Hebrews chapter 11.

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