

## Sermon ~ Sunday, October 11, 2020

### Text: Hebrews 11: 1, 13

KJV – “Now *faith* is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“These all died in *faith*, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

### Title: “How Well Do You Look?”

This question is not designed to judge your appearance, but to question *my (our)* ‘*Faith in GOD?*’

*In times like these*, I find myself reflecting on men like, H. T. Tatmon, R. E. Campbell, H. H. High, George Woodson Daniels, Rayfield Smith, U. S. Cornelius, to name a few.

H. T. Tatmon told the story of a man who had ‘a horse’ on his farm. A *good-looking* horse, that the farmer never rode; *healthy looking* horse that the farmer fed and keep tied to a fence pole.

One day, a friend came by, saw the horse, and asked of the farmer, to sale the horse to him. The farmer said, you don’t want that horse. I have others you can choose from. The friend asked why not this horse? The farmer replied, “He don’t *look so good!*” The friend looked at the horse, grunted within himself and said, I’ll pay you right now for this horse!

The farmer said okay, if you insist.

After a couple of days, the friend came back with the horse, furious and madly said to the farmer, “You sold me a horse that’s blind. I dare you!” The farmer told him, “I told you, that horse don’t look so good!!!”

### “How Well Do You Look?”

Hebrews 11 is often called the “Hall of *Faith*” because it enshrines men and women of *faith* and *trust in GOD*, triumphing in their lifetimes. They were men and women of ‘*Faith* and *Vision*’ because of their *trust in GOD*. Their journeys were all about, ‘**LORD**, lead me!’; ‘**LORD**, I see only before me, but **YOU** saw today and into tomorrow’; ‘**LORD**, I have *confidence* and *assurance* in **YOU** today, about tomorrow. I want to make a *legacy* more than a *living!*’

### “How Well Do You Look?”

*In times like these*, the Key is ‘*Faith in GOD!*’ *Faith in GOD, GOD’S SON, The LORD JESUS CHRIST!*

We either have *Faith* in one of two things says Hebrews 11: 1...

1. “...things we hope for” —that is, future things
2. “...things we do not see” —that is, right now

The main *invisible PERSON in WHOM* we put faith in right now is, of course, **GOD HIMSELF!** And the main thing we ‘hope for’, is the fulfillment of **GOD’S Promises!** In faith we can be sure that something is true even though we cannot see it. It is the same with future things, like promises. These also are invisible things. Yet, through *faith*, we can know that a particular promise will be fulfilled.

The proof of true *faith* is its *fruit*, that is *good works* and *obedience*. If we say we have *faith* in **GOD**, we *must do* what **HE** says. All the men and woman of *faith* that are listed in Hebrew 11, *showed proof* of their *faith* by their actions. *Faith* without works is a dead *faith*, a false *faith*. **GOD** *promised* and *they believed*—**GOD** *commanded*, and *they obeyed*! Point: in order to receive **GOD’S Promises** and **GOD’S Power** there is one thing necessary above all: namely, **FAITH!**

### **“How Well Do You Look?”**

What is *Faith*?

“Now *faith* is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Note, the word substance, *hupostasis*, means the foundation, assurance, title-deed, and guarantee of things hoped for. The word evidence, *elegchos*, means conviction.

It’s hard to reason that *faith* is ‘an act; an actual possession of properties, you can’t hold and see right now! For example, a physical ‘title-deed’. The person who hold the title-deed to property actually possess the property. It is his or hers already, right now.

Certainly, from **GOD’S WORD**, we already possess **HIS Promises**; **HE** has already seated us in the heavenlies, and we already possess Eternal Life. It is not that we are going to possess it; we already possess it. The point is this: holding the title-deed to property and possessing something is more than assurance and conviction. It is possessing reality, actually holding something that is substantial and real. It is possessing **The Promises of GOD**.

*Faith* is possessing the substance of **The Promises of GOD**, the evidence of things not seen. If I (we) possess them, the substance is there; the evidence is there.

- *Faith* is *trusting and possessing* all that **GOD** is and says...
- *Faith* is *believing and possessing* all that **GOD** is and says...
- *Faith* is *having confidence in and possessing* all that **GOD** is and says...
- *Faith* is *hoping for something and possessing it* because **GOD** is (**EXISTS**) and has promised it.

*Faith* is not, ‘I think so, I hope so’; ‘It may be so; it may not be so’; ‘It might be true; it might not be true.’ **BIBLICAL Faith** does not deal with what is unreal, imaginary, fanciful, visionary, superficial, or deceptive. **The Faith** that **The BIBLE** teaches is *The Conviction, The Knowledge, The Experience* and *Possession* of things hoped for.

“We are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? Bit if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.”

(Romans 8: 24, 25)

*“All these people—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Moses, the harlot Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets... H. T. Tatmon, R. E. Campbell, H. H. High, George Woodson Daniels, Rayfield Smith, U. S. Cornelius and all the others, “did not themselves received the things promised. They did not see their descendants become ‘all they should be.’*

*But they had **faith** that in the future, **GOD** would bring to pass all that **HE** had promised. By **faith**, they **saw** these things from a distance—that is, far in the future. And they died still living by that **faith**.*

It is well for us to remember, that in this life even those with great **faith** do not always get what they hope for... but,

- **Trusted GOD!** Have visionary **faith**, see the promises of **GOD** afar-off, in your hearts and minds—a country; a better country, a Heavenly world. **JESUS** said that ‘Abraham saw **HIS** day and rejoiced in the hope of it.’ (John 8: 56)
- **Trust GOD!** Keep *growing* in **faith**, **GOD** promised and cannot lie. Embraced **GOD’S Promises**—greet and welcome them. Confessed, this old world is not our home.
- **Trust GOD!** Keep *working* **faith**. Show your **faith** by your works.
- **Trust GOD!** Have *enduring* **faith**. Don’t go back to the country you left—**The LORD** brought you from. **HE** separated us with *purpose* from this old world’s *pleasures* and *desires*, *possessions* and *indulgences*, *feelings* and *comforts*.

*“These all died in **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

*“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”  
(Hebrew 13: 14)*

*“For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven;  
from whence also we look for **The SAVIOR, The LORD JESUS CHRIST:**  
**WHO** shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto **HIS Glorious Body**,  
according to the working whereby HE is able even to subdue all things unto **HIMSELF.**”  
(Philippians 3: 20)*

**“How Well Do You Look?”**

## This World Is Not My Home

This world is not my home, I'm just passing thru,  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;  
The Angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know,  
My **SAVIOR** pardoned me and now I onward go;  
I know **HE'LL** take me through tho I am weak and poor,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

I have a loving mother up in glory land.  
I don't expect to stop unto I sake her hand;  
She's waiting now for me in Heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Just up in glory land we'll live eternally.  
The Saints on ev'ry hand are shouting Victory.  
Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from Heaven's shore.  
And I can't fell at home in this world anymore.

### Chorus:

O **LORD, YOU** Know I have no **FRIEND** like **YOU**,  
If Heaven's not my home, then **LORD** what will I do?  
The Angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

(New Jerusalem Baptist Church—Baxter)

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