

*The Assurance & Certainty of Faith*  
*Hebrews 11:1*

*“Faith so completely takes God at his word that it is willing to do what he says and stay inside his boundaries. Faith is a response of your heart to God that completely alters the way you live your life. You don’t just think by faith; you live by faith.*

*Now, it is important to face two implications of real, living faith. First, faith is simply never natural for us. We aren’t born with faith in God. We don’t come out of the womb ready to acknowledge his existence, worship him for his glory, and submit to his rules. We tend to live by sight, by personal experience, by collective research, or by good old intuition, but faith isn’t natural. It’s natural to give yourself a wonderment about mysteries in your life you’ll never solve. It’s natural to imagine where you’ll be in ten or twenty years. It’s natural to wonder why someone else’s life turned out so different from yours. It’s natural to panic at moments, wondering if God really does exist and, if he does, if he hears your prayers. But putting your entire existence in the hand of One whom you can’t see, touch, or hear is far from natural. **This is why faith is only ever a gift of divine grace.** You and I have all the power in the world to doubt and no independent power at all to believe. So if you are living by faith, don’t proudly pat yourself on the back as if you did something great. No, raise your eyes and your hands toward heaven and thank God for the gifting and desire to believe.” Paul Tripp*

- I. Faith is what opens the door for a believer to enter the throne room of the living God as His sanctified, justified, redeemed sons and daughters. It is what is necessary for us to live by if we expect to live a victorious Christian life while here on earth. Having faith is not the practice of being religious. In its fullest sense, it means to abide in Christ. To abide in Christ involves having Christ live in us in such a way that we find ourselves totally surrendered to his will for the joy of knowing Him. That’s what it means to live by faith. *“Said that Savior: ‘I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.’ We find newness of life in Christ by receiving Him as our own Savior from the penalty of sin. Abundance of that life we find by surrendering self and drawing on the unfailing resources of the Almighty. There is life and then there is life more abundant. This is the exchanged life. Edmond*

Heb. 11:1

Heb. 10:38

Habakkuk 2:4

Heb. 10:26-27

**Jn. 15:1-4** *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

- II. The Lord uses two words to describe what having faith in Him looks like. He doesn't give us a deep theological definition but characteristics of faith that provide a firm foundation for belief in Him. The first word, **hypostasis**, means to have absolute assurance that God exists and that he is true to His Word. It is knowing beyond a doubt that everything He says in His inerrant Word is completely true. It is knowing beyond a doubt that all the promises He makes in Scripture concerning salvation for the believer and judgment for the unsaved will be fulfilled. The second word, **elegchos**, means to have conviction that moves one to act upon the assurance of God's Word by not only believing the gospel, but also by faithfully living it. *"His life is committed to what his mind and spirit are convinced is true."* MacArthur

Heb. 11:1

Heb. 1:3

Heb. 3:14

Rom. 12:3

1 Cor. 2:5

*"All the Old Testament promises related to the future—for many believers, far into the future. But the faithful among God's people acted as if they were in the present tense. They simply took God at His word and lived on that basis. They were people of faith, and faith gave present assurance and substance to what was yet future. MacArthur*

**Romans 10:17** *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

- III. The ability to have faith in God is a gift given to those the Lord Jesus is drawing to Him. He is the one who awakens a heart that does not understand, that does not care to seek God, that has nothing good to offer God. Consequently, the heart needs to be awakened to the gospel and its life changing power. Jesus does that through the power of the Word which *penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12)*. Our part is to act upon what Jesus has so graciously revealed to us about our need for Him to be our Savior. It should greatly humble us to think that He worked His grace in our hearts so that we by faith could come to know Him.

Heb. 11:1

1 Cor. 2:10-12

Ps. 14:2-3

Rom. 3:10-12

1 Tim. 6:12

Eph. 2:8-9

**Romans 3:10-12** *10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

**Jn. 14:6** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*