

## “Evidence(s) of Faith in a Child of God”

### *Hebrews 11:1-3*

#### **Open:** *What is Faith?*

- Faith is the avenue by which a person gets the substance(s) in life for which they are hoping.  
**Heb. 11:1a** “Now faith is the **substance** [molecular structure] of things hoped for...”
  - Faith caused the elders to obtain a good report. – God’s Word & the benefits of obeying it. **vs. 2**
  - Faith brings understanding. **vs. 3**
  - Read the rest of **Hebrews 11** you will find many of the substances faith brings.
- Many Christians live their life never satisfied and always searching for something better because they do not choose to live by faith. **ILL:** *The Children of Israel in the wilderness – Sought for conveniences in life and not contentment in God.*
  - Faith is the avenue by which a person gets saved. **Eph. 2:8a** “For by grace are ye saved **through** faith...”
  - Faith is the avenue by which a child of God pleases their Father. **Heb. 11:6a** “But without faith it is impossible to **please** him...”
  - Faith is the avenue by which God can reward His children. **Heb. 11:6b** “...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a **rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.”
  - Faith is the avenue by which a child of God can overcome sin in their life. **I John 5:4** “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, even our faith.”

#### **Tran:** *What is the evidence of Faith?*

- The evidence of faith is not talking about someone else being able to see if I am saved.
  - My salvation has never been dependent on whether or not someone can see change in my life.
  - My salvation is solely dependent on me placing my faith in what Jesus did for me.
  - My salvation is only seen by others when they see my faith in action. **James 2:17** “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”
- The evidence of faith is how I determine whether or not I am living the Christian life as I should.
  - Evidence = tangible proof or a clear indication of. **ILL:** *In a court room evidence is used to help prove someone innocent or guilty.*
- The evidence(s) of faith in my life help me to clearly see if I am doing what God wants me to do, and if I am living how God wants me to live.

➤ *How can I tell if I am living a life of Faith?*

## I. Evidence #1 – Am I obeying God’s Commandments?

- **Heb. 11:8** “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**”
  - Abraham was not told all that God would do for Him, but Abraham believed by faith that living his life God’s way would be better than living his life his own way.
- A. Are you obeying your parents? **Eph 6:1** “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”
- B. Are you obeying the authorities in your life? **Titus 3:1** “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates”
- C. Are you obeying what you have been taught from God’s Word? **Rom. 6:17** “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
- D. Are you obeying God or are you seeking a god your flesh likes? **Acts 7:39-41** “To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, [40] Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. [41] And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.”

## II. Evidence #2 – Am I allowing God to change my life?

- **II Cor. 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: **old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**” [New...heart, mind, direction, song, name, purpose, and passion.]
  - In my flesh, I do not have the power to change my life. I must submit to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to change me. **Rom. 6:13a** “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God...”
- A. Are you allowing God to use His Word to change you? **Ps. 119: 9** “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”
- B. Are you allowing God to use wise counsel to change you? **Prov. 3:5** “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”
- C. Are you submitting to God in the difficult times so he can change you? **Job 23:10** “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”
  - “When God is not changing my circumstances, He is using my circumstances to change me.”

### III. Evidence #3 – Am I living my life compassionate toward other people?

- I John 3:17** “*But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*”
  - Love is not a word spoken but; an action performed.
  - My love for others is not determined by what kind of words I say to them, but by what kind of actions they receive from me.
- A. My enemies. **Luke 6:27-28** “*But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, [28] Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you*”
- B. My biological family. **I Peter 3:8** “*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*”
- C. My spiritual family **Gal. 6:10** “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*”

#### Close:

- Am I living my life hoping for the good things that God has to offer, or am I getting the good things God has to offer because I am living by faith?
  - Am I obeying God’s commandments?
  - Am I allowing God to change my life?
  - Am I living my life compassionate towards other people?
- Am I being honest with myself about the quality of life I am living?
- What kind of testimony do I have?
- How evident is my faith to those around me?

#### **Hebrews 11:1**

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