

**FAITH IT ... MISTAKE IT**

**... OR FAKE IT ...**

**The Faith That Pleases  
Our King**

**COLOSSIANS 2:5-8**

**HEBREWS 11:1-6 ff**

**2<sup>nd</sup> CORINTHIANS 5:7**

# COLOSSIANS 2:1-4

- ◆ **1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.**

# COLOSSIANS 2:5-8

- ◆ 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 *rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith*, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

# COLOSSIANS 2:5

- ◆ From the days of the ancient Greek interpreters downwards, it has been noted that both words have military associations—the one being used for discipline generally, and the other for the firm compact solidity of the phalanx; and (as in [Ephesians 6:11-17](#)) that the use of them may have been suggested by St. Paul's captivity under military guard. If both words be referred to their "faith," the Apostle obviously characterizes it as having right "order" (or, *harmony*) in its various parts, and a strong "solidity" against all trials. [Elliott Comm.]

## **COLOSSIANS 2:5**

- ◆ . . . note also the change of tenses: having been rooted (perfect participle), being (in process of) built up and strengthened (present participle).
- ◆ [Vine's Word Studies / [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com)]

# FAITH IN SCRIPTURE

- ◆ **THE FAITH: (CONTENTS)**  
Acts 6:7; Gal. 1:23; Jude 1:3
- ◆ **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: (CHARACTER)**  
GAL. 5
- ◆ **GIFT OF THE SPIRIT: (ENABLEMENT)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:
- ◆ **SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH:**  
Ephesians 2:8 (RIGHTEOUS POSITION)
- ◆ **KEPT BY FAITH: (GUARDED)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:5
- ◆ **SPIRIT OF FAITH: (DISPOSITION)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:12-14

## HEBREWS 11:1

- ◆ 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

# **PRINCIPLE #1 / Hebrews 11:1**

**\* FAITH IS A GOD-GIVEN SPIRITUAL (INVISIBLE )  
SUBSTANCE / QUALITY & IS DIVINELY PROVEN:**

**ASSURANCE  
CONFIRMATION  
CONVICTION  
“TITLE-DEED”  
INWARD CERTAINTY  
TRUST / RELIANCE**

**\* FAITH IS INTERNAL PROOF OF A FORTHCOMING  
EXTERNAL DEMONSTRATION  
EVIDENCE**

# SUBSTANCE: "HUPOSTASIS"

- ◆ a setting or placing under
  - thing put under, substructure, foundation
- ◆ that which has foundation . . . is firm
  - that which has actual existence
    - ✦ a substance, real being
  - the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing
  - the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution
    - ✦ confidence, firm trust, assurance

# PRINCIPLE #1 / Hebrews 11:1

The word υποστασις, here rendered substance, is translated confidence, (Hebrews 3:14,) and may be rendered subsistence, which is its etymological meaning, and also ground, basis, or support. The meaning of the clause seems to be, that faith is a confidence that we shall receive the good things for which we hope, and that by it we enjoy, as it were, a present subsistence or anticipation of them in our souls. It also gives a foundation or ground for our expecting them . . . [BENSON COMM.]

# PRINCIPLE #1 / Hebrews 11:1

- The word “*hypostasis*,” here rendered “substance,” as in [Hebrews 1:3](#), may mean (1) that underlying essence which gives reality to a thing. Faith gives a subjective reality to the aspirations of hope. But it may be used (2) in an ordinary and not a metaphysical sense for “basis,” foundation; or (3) for “*confidence*,” as in [Hebrews 3:14](#) (comp. [2 Corinthians 9:4](#); [2 Corinthians 11:17](#))
- [Cambridge Bible for Colleges & Schools]

## **EVIDENCE: ELEGCHOS**

- ◆ **a proof**
- ◆ **that by which a thing is proved or tested**
- ◆ **conviction**

# EVIDENCE: ELEGCHOS

- ◆ *The evidence — Ελεγχος, the conviction, persuasion, or demonstration, wrought in the mind; of things not seen — . . . giving us an assurance of them in some respects equal to that which our outward senses give us of the things of this visible and temporal world.*

# EVIDENCE: ELEGCHOS

- ◆ **“The word ελεγχος,” says Macknight, “denotes *a strict proof, or demonstration; a proof which thoroughly convinces the understanding, and determines the will. The apostle’s meaning is, that faith answers all the purposes of a demonstration, because, being founded on the veracity and power of God, these perfections are to the believer complete evidence of the things which God declares have happened, or are to happen, however much they may be out of the ordinary course of things.*” [Benson Commentary / Biblehub.com]**

## HEBREWS 11:2

- ◆<sub>2</sub> **For by it [faith] the elders obtained a good testimony.**

# TESTIMONY: MATUREO

- ◆ to be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. **to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something**, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration to give (not to keep back) testimony
- ◆ **to utter honourable testimony, give a good report**

## **PRINCIPLE #2 / HEBREWS 11:2**

**GOD BEARS WITNESS TO  
THOSE WHO LIVE & WALK  
BY THE FAITH HE GIVES.**

# HEBREWS 11:3-5

- ◆ 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. 4 By faith **Abel** offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. 5 By faith **Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; <sup>a</sup> for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

## **PRINCIPLE #3 / HEBREWS 11:3**

**GOD-GIVEN FAITH  
CREATES, INFLUENCES &  
DEVELOPS OUR  
UNDERSTANDING /  
INTERPRETATION OF  
REALITY.**

# **UNDERSTAND:**

- ◆ **See & Know things in their right or proper meaning and relationship**
  
- ◆ **See from God's perspective and to know things through OR by God's enablement**

**Proverbs 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:18-20; Proverbs 9:10;  
Job 12:11-13; James 1:2-8; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:9ff**

## HEBREWS 11:6

- ◆ **6 But without faith it is impossible to **please Him**, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

# **PRINCIPLE #4 / HEBREWS 11:6**

## **PLEASING GOD**

**IS ONLY POSSIBLE BY APPROACHING &  
RELYING ON GOD WITH THE FAITH  
HE GIVES US.**

**Acts 3:16; Rom. 10:17; 12:3;  
cf. Matt. 15:28; Mark 5:34; Acts 14:9**

## PLEASING GOD IS IMPORTANT!!!

- ◆ John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**" 30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

# PLEASING GOD

## 2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV

- ◆ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him.**

## Philippians 4:18 NKJV

- ◆ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, **well pleasing to God.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:22 NASB

**22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are **pleasing in His sight.****

# PLEASING GOD

## Colossians 1:10 NKJV

◆ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing Him**, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## Colossians 3:20 NKJV

◆ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is **well pleasing to the Lord**.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV

◆ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, **not as pleasing men, but God** who tests our hearts.

# PRINCIPLE #5:

ONLY “THE JUST”

LIVE BY

FAITH

- ◆ **JUSTIFIED BY FAITH** – Rom. 3:28
- ◆ **STAND BY FAITH** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 1:24; Rom. 5:2
- ◆ **SANCTIFIED BY FAITH** – Acts 26:18
- ◆ **LIVE BY FAITH** – Gal. 3:11; Hab. 2:4; Heb. 10:38
- ◆ **FIGHT IN FAITH** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 6:12; Eph. 6:10ff; Jude 3
- ◆ **OVERCOME BY FAITH** – 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4

# WALK (LIVE) BY FAITH

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7; Habakkuk 2:4; Hebrews 11**

- ◆ **Pray: Luke 18:1ff; Daniel 6:10; James 5:13-16**
- ◆ **Speak/Say: Genesis 15:6; 22:5; Mark 11:22-26**
- ◆ **Pursue / Obey: Philippians 3:13-15**
- ◆ **Fight & Win: 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:12; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 9:25**
- ◆ **Praise: Romans 4:19-21**
- ◆ **Work: James 2:18 & Fulfill Vision -- Acts 26:19**

## **Principle #6:**

### **Human Faith & God-Given Faith Are Not Equal**

- ◆ **James 2:14-26**

  - . . . Human faith is dead . . . Lifeless**

- ◆ **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7**

  - . . . God-given faith is not produced by the natural senses.**

- ◆ **Romans 14:23**

# FAITH: PISTEUO

- ◆ to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in
  - of the thing believed
    - ✦ to credit, have confidence
  - in a moral or religious reference
    - ✦ used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is **impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul**
    - ✦ to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith 1bc)  
mere acknowledgment of some fact or event:  
intellectual faith
- ◆ to entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity
  - to be intrusted with a thing

◆ ***pisteúō*** (from 4102 /***pístis***, "faith," derived from 3982 /***peíthō***, "persuade, be persuaded") – **believe** (affirm, have confidence); **used of persuading oneself (= human believing) and with the sacred significance of being persuaded by the Lord (= faith-believing)**. Only the context indicates whether ***pisteúō*** ("believe") is self-serving (without sacred meaning), or the believing that leads to/proceeds from God's in-birthing of faith.

◆ Biblehub.com

# WORKING DEFINITION OF FAITH

- ◆ **INSIGHT FROM GOD**
- ◆ **AGREEMENT WITH GOD**
- ◆ **OBEDIENCE TO GOD**
- ◆ **FAITH (SUBSTANCE, ASSURANCE, CERTAINTY, EVIDENCE) COMES FROM GOD  
... ROM. 10:17**

# WORKING DEFINITION OF FAITH

- ◆ FAITH COMES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD (Rom. 10:17)
- ◆ FAITH WORKS BY LOVE (Gal. 5:6)
- ◆ WALK BY FAITH (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:7)
- ◆ TRUSTING GOD ABSOLUTELY & TOTALLY

# **ACTION POINTS:**

- ◆ **DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GOD-GIVEN FAITH VS. HUMAN FAITH**
- ◆ **WALK BY GOD-GIVEN FAITH NOT BY THE NATURAL SENSES / PERCEPTIONS ALONE**
- ◆ **PRAY IN GOD-GIVEN FAITH ALWAYS**
- ◆ **FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**
- ◆ **EXPECT GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD**