

What Is the Meaning of Faith, Substance, Hope, Evidence in Hebrews 11:1?

The religious world and otherwise, have a gross misunderstanding of what constitutes faith. Contrary to scripture, many believe that faith is necessary to “fill in the gaps” in the absence of real, tangible evidence. Carl Sagan, the late and noted atheist and author, once said, “Faith is believing in something in the absence of evidence.”

Hebrews 11:1 answers and clarifies this misunderstanding. The verse: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The word translated “substance” comes from the Greek *hupostasis* which means “a placing or setting under, a substructure or foundation.” This word appears elsewhere in the New Testament as “confident” or “confidence” (2 Corinthians 9:4; 11:17; Hebrews 3:14).

The word translated “evidence” comes from the Greek word *elengchos*, meaning “a proof, or that by which a thing is proved or tested; conviction.”

The context in question deals with the existence of the universe, for verse 3 says, “through 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 do appear.”

Biblical faith comes from careful observation and the weighing of all available evidence. For example, the atheistic, evolutionary “explanations” for the origins of the universe don’t even qualify as bad science. They are more akin to science fiction. There are only two explanations for the existence of the universe that don’t include a divine creator:

- 1.the universe has always existed, or
- 2.the universe created itself out of nothing.

Who is willing to accept either proposition? Certainly no intelligent, thinking individual!

Consider also the vast evidence of design in our world and in the universe generally. Is the design present in the earth’s position in relation to the sun (controlling the environment, etc), the moon’s position in relation to the earth (controlling the ocean tides) simply a matter of dumb luck? What about the intricacies of the eye of a housefly, or the human brain (not to mention the magnificence of the entire human body)? Where does the evidence point? It points to an intelligent creator.

Men are sent to prison every day for crimes no one saw them commit. How are such verdicts reached? Through the presentation and consideration of all available evidence. In like fashion, just because no man was present when God created the universe doesn’t mean there is no evidence to support the fact that it happened. If Mr. Sagan was correct in his assessment of what constitutes faith, then it takes a **lot** more faith to be an atheist than to believe in the God of the Bible!

Finally, because the Bible is a book that can be trusted to be accurate in everything it addresses, we have faith in God and His promises, both to bless the obedient and punish the disobedient. For the obedient, we have the confident hope of heaven.

— Bob Prichard

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Mary Morrison had a pacemaker inserted last week after a monitor showed her heart stopped for 16 seconds. She still isn’t feeling well.
- ♦ Tead Deakins will have knee surgery soon to repair damage.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Winston Abraham, Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Wayman King, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ♦ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

CRC Day

Today is when Crowley’s Ridge College asks for donations to help Bible students with college expenses. You can put checks to CRC in the baskets or give cash to Halbert to donate.

“let your
faith
be bigger
than your
fear.”

SAVED BY
grace
THROUGH
fAITH

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
6-1	Barbara White	6-7	Brian and Casey Hamblen
6-6	Amy Stevens	6-8	John and Melinda Abraham
6-8	Dorlene Butler	6-8	Don and Barbara Luna
6-15	Dylan Abraham	6-10	Steve and Diana Siebels (30)
6-15	Brian Hamblen (50)	Birthdays	
6-15	Titus Smith	6-29	Stetson Pleasant
6-21	Chris Lemburg	6-29	Denise Crisp (60)
6-27	Adeline Smith		

Starting last Wednesday night through August:

- ♦ Men and women have separate Bible classes.
 - ♦ The men will study II Timothy.
 - ♦ The women will study Ten Women of the Bible.
- ♦ No Wednesday night suppers till September.

Date	Event	Details
Today	VBS Meeting	Meet following service
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified! Pick up a butterfly magnet as a reminder to pray for VBS.	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.
Saturday, June 21 10 a.m.	Women's Prayer Brunch	Mammoth Assembly of God

June Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

6-1 John Abraham
6-8 Mark Lane
6-15 David Stevens
6-22 Don Luna
6-29 John Abraham

Communion & Closing Prayer

David Stevens
D. E. Pleasant
R. J. Moyers
Dana Crisp
Halbert Smith

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

June 8, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: **Law or Faith**

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#970, *I'm Gonna View that Holy City*; #33, *The Love of God*

#342, *We Saw Thee Not*; Communion Service

#615, *He Keeps Me Singing*

Sermon and Invitation

#560; *Living by Faith*

#864, *When the Gates Swing Outward Never*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us