

God wants us to live by faith, for without it, we cannot please God - Hebrews 11:6

Faith is Gk./pistis / firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing. N.T. faith is in God or Christ or things spiritual - Vines Dictionary. Faith is believing, trusting, relying upon God. The O.T. equivalent of faith is the word 'trust'.

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

Substance:

Gk./ hupostasis (stasis =to stand, hup =under) That which stands under, a foundation. Substance is the basis or foundation on which we stand and build our hope. It is an earnest and certain expectation. Substance was used as a **legal term** that stood for the whole body of documents related to the ownership of a person's property which were on deposit in the archives. These documents were evidence of ownership and thus were considered as a title deed. **Faith is our title deed** to things that God has promised. It is based on the **legal document** which we know as **the Bible**.

There are two evidences of faith as reported in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11.

Faith to escape: There are those who saw their mountains moved, their enemies defeated and miracles of provision, healing or deliverance.

- Noah built an ark of safety
 - Abraham offered Isaac but God provided a ram
 - Israelites passed through the Red Sea before their enemies drowned
 - Joshua saw the Jericho walls come down and enemies defeated
 - Rahab was not killed in Jericho but was protected by God
 - Some conquered kingdoms through faith, administered justice, gained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of flames, escaped the edge of the sword, whose weakness was turned to strength and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign enemies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.
- Hebrews 11:33-34. Many people of faith have claimed the protection of the promises of Psalm 91 and seen the victory over circumstances. However, not all have the same story. We should not condemn them for their 'lack of faith' for they may have a different sort of faith.

Faith to endure: Another group are mentioned who did not see their rescue or deliverance.

- 'Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might receive a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned, they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated - the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. They were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.' - Hebrews 11:35-40 NIV

God delights to see us take steps of faith to face our challenges. He wants us to believe Him to bring healing, provision, miracles with signs of His power and goodness. However, for whatever reason, there are times when our desired answer does not come. When we have done all we can to stand, we must trust God with the final conclusion, for He is omniscient, and His purposes are sometimes beyond our human understanding. God is pleased when we continue to love and worship Him for who He is; our loving Father who knows what is best.