

The Reality of Faith

By Charles Mwewa

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,” (Hebrews 11:1, KJV).

In this sermon, we will consider the topic of Faith. We will provide a thematic review of the “Reality of Faith.” Faith, is more real than both reason and reality. And the assumption is that what we sense is less real than what we can only perceive with the mind of Faith. To assist us make a thorough review of this subject, we will discuss the following three points: Faith is the substance; Faith is the evidence; and Faith is the confidence. We will proceed with this sermon in that order before we make a conclusive application of the principles we will learn.

1. Faith is the Substance

The author of the book to the Hebrews defines Faith as, “...the substance of things hoped for...” in Hebrews 11:1.¹ Faith is not illusion, a far-fetched or distant reality; Faith is the present reality perceived by the senses of the unseen reality.

For anything to be a substance, it should, of necessity, not be spiritual, a fiction of imagination or an unreachable reality. A substance is a material reality, a thing. In essence, it is something you can see, feel, touch, smell, hear, and taste. In short, it is anything capable of being perceived and identified by the human sensory mechanism.

A substance exists in the realm of human mental and sensory circumference. It can be sensualized. A substance is a thing, and, therefore, it can be experienced. Between the womb and the tomb exists this dome we call reality. It enables us to be human and experience things as we view them now. It excludes non-matter and, in this real, physical realm, if you can't see anything, can't feel it, can't touch it, can't smell it, can't hear it, or can't taste it – then, it doesn't exist. However, Faith connects us to the reality that we can't see and materializes the “things” that exist beyond the realm of reality. Thus, “...faith is the *reality* of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.”² Emphasis here is on, “reality.”

2. Faith is the Evidence

In law, evidence is that which proves material facts. Evidence is proof. There is no legal proceeding that succeeds without evidence, even if such a process may be based in equity.³ The Courts will award remedies to a party that has evidence. The standard of proof may be one of overwhelming evidence, such as beyond a reasonable doubt as it is in criminal matters. Or, it could be one of preponderance or predominance, in situations of civil litigation on a 51-49 percentage basis, commonly referred to as on the balance of probabilities.

¹ King James Version or KJV

² Hebrews 11:1, CSB (emphasis added)

³ A body of English law which was developed in the Court of Chancery. It provides legal solutions or resolutions known as remedies where neither law nor precedence is able to. In other words, it proves a case simply based on what is fair or equitable.

Faith is said to be “the evidence of things not seen”⁴ or the “the proof of what is not seen.”⁵ This notion cannot be fathomed within the scope of our “normal” sensory stipulations. It requires extra-sensory cogitation. In other words, it goes beyond the realm of our everyday thinking and perception. In reality, you can’t have evidence for that which is not seen. The “unseen nature” is the prerequisite for the absence of evidence. If you appeared before a Judge and claimed that you had evidence, but the Courts could not see it, you would be considered to be either insane or a clown. You will lose your case, no matter how simple the course of action. To be evidence, something must be seen. To be proof, it must be perceived by physical senses.

Faith is the evidence of what is not seen by the physical optical sensory system. It is perceived by spiritual “senses.” To the person schooled in extrasensory perception (faith),⁶ to a person who “believes,” the unseen is as real as the seen. And it is imperative that humans pay attention to this aspect. To a child, as long as she can’t see water but only an ice block, she thinks, erroneously, that there is no water. However, to a mature person, water is present, albeit, in a solid form of matter. An adult understands that water may exist in three forms of matter: Gas, liquid or solid. So, in whatever form water may exist, to an adult, water is still present.

Once you believe that you have something, having seen it with the eyes of Faith, you have presented God with evidence of what you need or desire. Thus, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”⁷ Not everyone who prays may receive. There is a condition to it. They must first believe, and then what is immaterial in nature will be transformed into a material reality. It is a spiritual principle. In vernacular, Faith is the heat that melts solid into liquid and evaporates liquids into gases, and the chemical reactivity that crystalizes gases into solids. Without this knowledge, you may die of thirst, when water had always existed around you.

Faith is not only the evidence a supplicant takes before God, but it is also the instrument God, the Great Judge, uses to award rewards (answered prayers). For Faith is also defined as “...the *conviction* of things not seen.”⁸ Faith is the final verdict or sentence that the unseen, in fact, exists. And once that conviction is certified, it cements that fact that the things desired are here and now and can presently be utilized into manifest reality. Thus, healing will manifest, breakthroughs will manifest, salvation will manifest, finances or jobs or opportunities will all manifest, and so on. For everyone who believes, receives.⁹

3. Faith is the Confidence

The word “confidence” is translated Faith. It is the assurance that the things you hope for, will be yours. It is notable throughout the Bible that hope precedes Faith. One may have hope without Faith; however, no-one can have Faith without hope. Hope is necessary to Faith. It is important to bear this this in mind: Hope includes wishes, aspirations, desires, beliefs, optimism, chances, expectation, ambition, aim, plan, yearning,

⁴ Hebrews 11:1, KJV

⁵ *Ibid*, CSB

⁶ Faith may also be defined as extrasensory perception, and this is not the same as ESP commonly adjudged in mystic and paranormal observatories. Such has no basis in the Bible and is used strictly for psychic or telepathic mysticism. The train of thought in both is similar; the difference lies in motivation. In Faith, the motive is the glorification of God, and not man or the devil.

⁷ Matthew 21:22

⁸ Hebrews 11:1, ESV (emphasis added)

⁹ See Acts 10:43, Mark 16:16, John 3:36, Romans 10:9-14, John 11:25-26, Matthew 21:22, Hebrews 6:15, Hebrews 10: 19,22.

longing, dreams, hankering, craving and promises. Hope feels, desires, and expects that certain things will happen. It is that strong expectation, that desire, that dream, that confidence that makes Faith show up. It costs nothing. You lose nothing. You gain everything.

Conclusion & Application

As sermonized, Faith is more real than reason or what is called "reality." What we already see were the works of original Faith, for God spoke the things we see into existence at some point in the past. To achieve future or present results, we need to "create" them by Faith. Thus, with Faith, we can bring into reality the unseen realities. These could include healing for the bodies, acquiring new opportunities in business, employment, or enterprise, or gaining new favors and abundant blessings. You don't need Faith for what you currently have and see; you need Faith for the achievements and accomplishments you need or want in your near or distant future. Faith is for what you desire to have or succeed in next.