

Sermon Notes – Faith Is Hebrews 11:1

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Introduction

Substitution

“Believing” for “faith” – no English verb form for “faith”

Believe – connected with childhood fantasy characters (Santa Claus, Easter bunny, tooth fairy)

Stop believing, they go away

Statements like “believing in Jesus” are connected to opinion, not fact

Faith is:

1. To the non-Christian – one’s religious opinion; attitudes, perspectives that are arbitrarily chosen, or a product of upbringing
2. To the baby Christian – means to an end; have faith in order to be saved from hell, to be delivered from a bad situation, bad circumstance; to be part of the church for reputation’s sake
3. To the growing Christian – is a commitment, loyalty to Jesus, to do the things Jesus said
4. To the mature Christian – a relationship of trust; a bond of love, affection, sharing; emerging from an experience of one another’s commitment to each other

Faith is:

1. The assurance of things hoped for
Hupostasis – deepest held convictions of life; knowing; objectivity; entrust; guarantee

What are we sure of? This is about what we know

Hoped for – hope is a positive expectation of the future, not knowledge; very strong emotion

Not saved by hope; this is the only thought we can contribute

2. The evidence of things not seen

elenchos – evidence, conviction, proof, correction

not seen – most of truth is not visible; footprints of God

Types of evidence – 1. Creation – Rom 1:20

Thomas – prints of the nails – **John 20:25** The other disciples therefore were saying to him, **“We have seen the Lord!”** But he said to them, **“Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”**

Col 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Col 2:7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Process of

Walk

Growth

Rooted – hope

Walking – Col 2:6-7

Built up – trustworthiness of God

Abiding – John 15

Established – faith

Goal – Matt 22:37

Love God with heart, soul and mind

The Bible is the standard by which we recognize the activity of God

Shows what to look for in evidence – observable

How God has committed to act – predictable