



Persevering Faith Keeps Moving Forward

Lesson Thirty-Nine • Hebrews 11:1-3

Last Major Section of Hebrews | **Keep Moving Forward to God's Future Salvation...**

by **FAITH** (Ch 11) in **HOPE** (Ch 12) with **LOVE** (Ch 13)!

Hebrews 11 | Persevering Faith Keeps Moving Forward to God's Future Salvation!

DEFINITION
of Persevering Faith (1-3)

DEMONSTRATION
of Persevering Faith (4-38)

DESTINATION
of Persevering Faith (39-40)

What's the Purpose of Chapter 11?

To **MOTIVATE**, **ILLUSTRATE**, and **ACTIVATE** persevering faith in apathetic believers and potential apostates.

To motivate apathetic, suffering, and tempted true believers to keep moving forward by illustrating the necessity of persevering faith to reach their final destination of perfection!

*"But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."
Hebrews 10:39*

Persevering Faith Defined and Displayed

1. Persevering Faith Is **DEFINED** for All Who Must Persevere.

"Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." (vv. 1-2) CSB

Remember: This is not a *formal definition* of saving faith but a **PRACTICAL** one to motivate and activate persevering faith in the apathetic!

"Every word has been carefully chosen and weighed for its significance in order to draw attention to the characteristics of faith which were especially relevant to the preacher's friends in their situation." – William Lane

Two Ways to Translate This Practical Definition of Persevering Faith

Focus on the OBJECTIVE CAUSE of Our Faith Outside of Us	Focus on the SUBJECTIVE EFFECT of Faith Inside of Us
<p>"Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." CSB</p> <p>"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." NKJV</p> <p>"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see." NLT</p>	<p>"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." NAS, ESV</p> <p>"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see." NET</p>

*"Now faith celebrates the objective reality of the blessings for which we hope, the demonstration of events as yet unseen."
– William Lane*

➤ Those with persevering faith live in sight of God's promised **UNSEEN FUTURE** realities.

1. **BRING** the promises of God's *future realities into your present struggles* to shape your daily living.

"Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for..." CSB

"Faith gives to the objects of hope the force of present realities, and it enables the person of faith to enjoy the full certainty that in the future these realities will be experienced. Faith provides the objective ground upon which Christians may base their subjective confidence. *It is this capacity of faith that allows Christians to maintain a firm grasp upon truth which cannot be demonstrated, and to display quietness in the presence of hostility, in the knowledge that the blessings for which they hope are guaranteed by the promise of God.*" – William Lane

Persevering faith is faithful in our present trials and temptations based on God's promised future realities! (11:13-16)

2. **SEE** the promises of God's *unseen realities in this seen world* to shape daily living.

"Now faith is...the proof of what is not seen." CSB

"Faith demonstrates the existence of reality which cannot be grasped through our senses. Faith confers upon spiritual reality that we cannot see the full certainty of a *proof* or a *demonstration*; it furnishes *evidence* concerning that which has not been seen. *Christians know that realities which are not seen now will be seen in the future.* In that sense, faith is the demonstration of the substantial reality of events as yet unseen." – William Lane

Persevering faith is faithful in midst if this sinful seen world based on God's promised unseen realities! (11:7, 13, 27)

Is This a "**NAME IT and CLAIM IT**" Scam Like Prosperity Gospel Preachers?

No! It's God said it, so we **WAIT** for it and live in sight of it by persevering faith! (v. 39)

*It's not our faith creating what we want to see happen, but His powerful unseen Word **CREATING** preserving faith in us until He fulfills His promised unseen, future realities in His timing for His glory and our good! (vv. 3, 9, 13)*

- Those with persevering faith are **APPROVED** by God like our Old Testament elders.

"For by it the men of old gained approval." (v. 2)

1. Argues from OT **ELDERS** to NT believers.

Why Call OT Saints "Elders"?

- Show them **RESPECT** as NT believers.
- Saved the **SAME** way under the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

2. Approved by God to receive eternal **SALVATION** in the future. (11:6, 16, 38-39)

2. Persevering Faith Is **DISPLAYED** in Creation Where Perseverance Must Take Place.

"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." (v. 3)

- By persevering faith we see that that all the universe was **PREPARED** by God for His purpose by His powerful Word. (v. 3a)

Why Does the Pastor-Teacher Begin with Creation?

1. Creation is **FOUNDATIONAL** to our worldview.
2. Creation is **ESSENTIAL** to God's redemptive plan/purpose.
3. Creation is **CRUCIAL** to the sermon letter. (12:25-29)

- By persevering faith we see that God's **UNSEEN** Word has created everything seen out of **NOTHING**. (v. 3b; 2:8-9)

Keep Moving Forward by Persevering Faith in the Power of God's Unseen Spoken Word!

Persevering faith pleases our Creator-God who will reward us with His promised future salvation in His New Creation!
One day soon our faith will become sight but for now we live by persevering faith not physical sight!