

**Cultivating Bold Faith**  
**Lesson 2: Faith Defined**

**Matthew 19:26 NKJV**

**"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

**Mark 9:23 NKJV**

**..."If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."**

In practical terms, this means that, \_\_\_\_\_, the

things that are \_\_\_\_\_ are made

\_\_\_\_\_ to the one who \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that makes \_\_\_\_\_

of God's possibilities available to \_\_\_\_\_.

**TRANSLATING "FAITH"**

In English we have two different words forms for faith:

**Noun:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Verb:** \_\_\_\_\_

The word for faith in the Greek is *pistis*, and the word for believe is *pisteuo*. The verb is formed directly from the noun. The stem of each word is made up of the first four letters—*pist*. In the Greek, there is a direct connection between faith and its opposite. Faith is *pistis*; unbelief is *apistia*. (In Greek, the negative prefix *a* corresponds to the English prefix *un*.)

Then we have the adjective *pistos*, which means faithful, believing. From this, the negative prefix *a* gives us the opposite adjective, *apistos*, which means unfaithful, unbelieving.

	<u>Greek</u>	<u>English</u>
Noun:	<i>pistis</i>	faith
Noun:	<i>apistia</i>	unbelief
Adjective:	<i>pistos</i>	faithful, believing
Adjective:	<i>apistos</i>	unfaithful, unbelieving
Verb:	<i>pisteuo</i>	believe

**Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words:**

**Faith** - NT: 4102 *pistis* - primarily, " \_\_\_\_\_,"  
a conviction based upon hearing, is used in the NT always of "faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual."

The main elements in "faith" in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from "faith" in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, *pisteuo*; they are:

1. A firm conviction, producing a \_\_\_\_\_ of God's  
revelation or \_\_\_\_\_

2. A personal \_\_\_\_\_ to Him

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ inspired by such surrender

This a good time to remind ourselves of one of our points from last session:

***Our faith is rooted in YAHWEH, and His faithfulness in HIMSELF.  
True Biblical faith is a confidence that rests in the character of God, and not ourselves.***

### **DEFINING FAITH**

**Hebrews 11:1 NKJV**

**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

Three main truths about faith:

**1. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of things hoped for**

Faith is so real that it is actually called a substance.

**Substance** – G5287 *hupostasis* – a setting or placing under; a substructure, \_\_\_\_\_;

that which has foundation, is firm; that which has \_\_\_\_\_.

That which \_\_\_\_\_ or provides the

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

We can then say that Hebrews 11:1 is telling us that faith is the underlying reality of things hoped for. Faith is real; faith is a substance.

**2. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of things \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Faith relates to the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Hebrews 11:3 NKJV**

**By 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 are visible.**

Our \_\_\_\_\_ connect us to the \_\_\_\_\_,  
to “what is seen.”

Faith relates to the two eternal, \_\_\_\_\_: to

\_\_\_\_\_ Himself and to His \_\_\_\_\_. Biblical  
faith only has these two realities at its core.

***Faith is taking what is already a certainty in a realm we cannot see  
and making it a reality in this realm.***

**NOT BY SIGHT**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV**

**For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

If we walk by sight, we do not need faith. If we walk by faith, we do not need to sight.

**Psalms 27:13; Hebrews 11:27; John 11:39-40**

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV**

**For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

We see here that \_\_\_\_\_ serves a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for believers. It forms and strengthens our character and prepares us for the eternal glory that lies ahead.

Affliction serves us only \_\_\_\_\_ we keep our \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ realm.

We are caught between two worlds: the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
The temporal we can see we contact it with our senses. But the eternal is the world God wants us to be at home in. And we can only access that by faith.

We must \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ with God  
through \_\_\_\_\_.

When we do, we are enabled to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ the  
tests and hardships that confront us in our daily lives. This causes these trials to become

\_\_\_\_\_ for God to reveal to us His \_\_\_\_\_ and  
His \_\_\_\_\_.