



August 23, 2026

## Faith of Allegiance

Hebrews 11:1–2 (ESV) *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.*

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

- Hebrews 11 tells us what faith is, and exactly why we need it. Verse 6 is the answer... because *without faith, it is impossible to please God*.
- But what even is faith? Hebrews 11 answers that question too.
- There's probably no better way to be full of faith than by learning from the faithful.
- What would it look like for you to have something that would allow you to survive the ultimate? If you have a faith that can face that, do you see how valuable that is?
- We need faith not just to please God, but to manage life.
- One way we can understand what Hebrews is telling us is to frame it up in three ideas that involve the head, heart, hands.
  - The three aspects of faith we're given here are Awareness, Agreement, and Action.

**Awareness** has to do with our head.

- it's the thinking and reasoning part of faith.
- The word conviction means coming face to face with evidence convicts you to realize the truth or validity of something. The word even has the flavor of arguments and discussion.

## Agreement has to do with our heart.

- We see evidence that something is true, and our head tells our heart, *You need to agree with this. This is true!*
- The agreement idea comes from the word assurance. This word literally means title or deed. Because of such documents, everyone now has to agree that you are the owner.

## Action has to do with our hands.

- Awareness and Agreement are completed in Action.
- Engaging your hands to act and making changes is **the culmination of faith**.
- Our head weighs if something is true, our heart agrees that it is, and our hands are then moved to action.
- The line in verse 2 is that *faith is what the ancients were commended for*. It means they had a faith that wasn't just awareness or agreement but completed itself in action.
- The process: **Awareness leads to Agreement that turns into Action**
- Arguably, everything we know, learn, or do is a result of this faith development process.
  - How do you find a surgeon to fix your shoulder?
  - How do you choose a spouse?
  - How do you pick a mechanic for your car?
  - How do you hire a key member of your team?

## We begin in our head, we win our heart, and it moves our hands.

The word faith in the NT is the greek word *pistis*. What does it mean?

- Pistis does mean another word we use interchangeably with it: **belief**.
- Pistis frequently involves regarding something as true or real. So we say something like, *I have faith that God exists*.
- But faith has a much broader range of meaning than merely an acknowledgement that something is true. Even in scripture, this word for faith can mean reliability, confidence, assurance, fidelity, faithfulness, commitment, and pledged loyalty.
- So when a person today says, *"I am saved by my faith in Jesus,"* what part of the range of meaning of "faith" are they pointing to? The belief part? The confidence part? The loyalty part? You see the problem?

Paul says in Ephesians 2:8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.*

- What part of faith is he pointing to that might save us?
- 150 years before Jesus' death, there's a King named Demetrius. And he writes a letter to some Jewish people because he's afraid that his enemy, a guy named Alexander may have formed an alliance with these same people. So he writes to persuade them to his cause and not to Alexander's cause.
  - He writes: *"King Demetrius to the nation of the Jews, greetings. Since you have kept your agreement with us and have continued your friendship with us, and have not sided with our enemies, we have heard of it and rejoiced. Now continue still to keep*

*faith [pistis] with us, and we will repay you with good for what you do for us.* (1 Macc. 10:25–27 NRSV)

- Demetrius says to the Jews: *keep showing me pistis, or faith.* He means, keep showing me that you're with me. Keep being loyal to me. Keep showing **allegiance** to me.
- Michael Jordan was at a friend's house and needed to borrow a jacket. Jordan went to the closet and found a bunch of Nike gear and also a bunch of Puma gear. Jordan took every piece of Puma gear and carried it out to his friend's living room. He went in to the kitchen and came back with a knife, and he began shredding everything with a Puma logo on it. He carried the scraps to the dumpster, and he told his friend: *Don't let me ever see you in anything but Nike. You cannot ride the fence.*
- Josephus writes about the Jewish-Roman war in AD 66. Josephus was a general, and he's writing about an incident where he captures a rebel leader and he says to the man, *"repent and believe in me."* Believe is our word **pistis**.
- It's the same line Jesus uses when he begins his ministry. Mark's gospel tells us that Jesus went out preaching, *"The kingdom of God is near, repent and believe the good news."* Believe is again our word **pistis**.
- To keep faith...to believe...is so much more than mere intellect. The idea is join me in my cause. The idea is turn away from your present course of action and be loyal to me. Give me your allegiance in this war and with this brand.
- And so when Jesus says, repent and believe...have faith...what does he surely mean? Along with the ideas of trusting him and believing in him he certainly also has the idea of pledging fealty to him as the cosmic Lord of the universe or allegiance to him as the King of salvation.
- It's certainly clarifying then, to say, *I'm saved through my allegiance to Jesus.* I'm saved because in head, heart and hands I'm loyal to Jesus. I'm on his side, taking up his battles, fighting for his cause.

So here's the question as we begin this great series: **Do you have it? Do you have faith in God? Do you have allegiance to Jesus as your Savior?**

Here's a test so you can know where your allegiance really is: You always ask one of two questions:

1) "Is this all I have to do?" OR 2) "What else can I do?"

It's the question that comes to your heart in every action that will uncover your allegiance. With Jesus: *Is this all I have to do?* or *What else can I do*

Faith/Trust/Allegiance in something or someone always manifests itself in a *"What else can I do"* kind of posture. Always.

- This is the posture that Jesus had for you.
- Hebrews 12:2 - *for the joy set before him, endured the cross.*
- He loved you so much that He asked, *What else can I do?* until there was nothing left to do because that question took him to a cross.

That's faith. Jesus was faith FULL for you. With you be faith FULL for him?

*Prayer: God, you ask for our faith. Because the greater the faith, the greater the relationship, and the stronger the relationship, the more trust and intimacy we can have with you. We understand that your heart's desire is that we would trust you in faith. We declare our allegiance to you once again today, in Jesus name...Amen.*