



August 30, 2026

## Faith of Allegiance, Pt 2

Hebrews 11:1–3 (ESV)

By Faith

*1 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. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

- We get to have hope in this life and the life to come because of the promises of God.
- Hebrews ties this hope to our faith. The degree of our experience of hope is directly proportional to the degree of our faith. The deeper our faith, the greater our hope.

Last week we looked at the definition of faith.

- Faith begins with my **head**, with truth.
- Faith grows as I come to agree in my **heart** that the truth is really true based on the evidence I gather.
- Faith only finds its completion as that evidential true truth causes my **hands** to act.
- Pro Tip: every time in the Bible you come to the word faith, change it to the concepts we talked about last week.
- The three words are fidelity, loyalty, and allegiance.
- By fidelity (devotion), Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice. (11:4)
- By loyalty, Enoch was taken up and didn't see death. (11:5)
- By allegiance, Noah constructed an ark to save his household. (11:7)

- See how that helps? It helps us clarify what faith is.
- In clarifying what faith is, we also get to see what faith is not.

If faith is fidelity, then that means faith is not

### How we feel.

- So many people misunderstand faith because they understand it to be a feeling.
- Faith cannot be reduced to a feeling. Faith has a foundation that is based in real and true and verifiable events of history.

If faith is the loyalty we declare, then that means that faith is not

### What we think.

- Christianity is about thinking. But Christianity is not only about thinking.
- Every one of us know someone who would say all the right things but do wrong things.
- James writes that that's what demons do. They believe that Jesus is Son of the Most High God. We have record of them saying that. (Mark 1:24; 3:11; 5:7)
- But is that knowledge of who Jesus is enough to save them? Obviously not. Facts about Jesus are not enough.

If faith is the allegiance we practice, then that means faith is not

### What we see.

- Vs 3. *By faith (devotion/loyalty/allegiance) we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*
- Everything we can see points us to the unseen reality of God all around us.
- Paul talks about faith in 2 Corinthians 5:7. He says there that we walk by faith, not by sight. It means what we see can actually cause harm to our faith.
- The future can be made to be seen, and the unseen can be made real, by faith.
- The certainty of our hope is not in what we can see, but in what we can't, but we know is true anyway.

Faith is not how we feel. Faith is not what we know. Faith is not what we see.

### Faith is what we do.

- It is living confidently, in assurance, because of the unseen things that God has already done.
- It is fidelity. It is loyalty. It is allegiance.
- Abraham. How do we know he had faith?

- God called him out of a land to go to another land he'd never been. And he went. This was not a leap in the dark that Abraham made, it was a walk in the light.
- It was based on what he knew about God and God's loyalty to him in the past, that he went. Trusting that God would be loyal to him in the future.
- That's the model for you and me.
- Authentic faith comes from our hearts and heads, but it is expressed through our hands.
- Do you have faith?

*God, we've dissected faith...and in the end, it just means being faithful to you. May we show you allegiance with every step we take. In the name of the only King worthy of our loyalty, Jesus, we pray, Amen.*