

# The Surprising Substance of Faith



## Introduction - Faith Is Central to the Christian Life

- Faith is the key to receiving, pleasing, and connecting with God (Hebrews 11:6).
- Everything in the Christian walk—salvation, righteousness, and spiritual growth—comes **by faith**, not effort (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 1:17).
- Illustration: Like a phone that only functions when connected to Wi-Fi and wireless power, we can only live and thrive spiritually when **connected by faith**.

## Point 1: Faith Connects Us to the Unseen Realm

- Faith bridges the gap between our physical world and God's spiritual, invisible realm (2 Corinthians 4:18; John 4:24).
- Hebrews 11:1 — "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
- God's blessings exist in a realm that we cannot perceive with the five senses—faith enables us to perceive and receive them (1 Corinthians 15:50).

## Point 2: Faith Always Involves God's Word and Action

- Faith starts with hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17) and results in action.
- Hebrews 11 examples:
  - Noah obeyed divine warning about unseen danger (Hebrews 11:7).
  - Abraham left without knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8–10).
  - Moses left Egypt, seeing "Him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27).
- True faith leads to obedience and transformation, even without visible proof (James 2:18).

## Point 3: Faith Transcends Emotions and Circumstances

- Faith is not based on feelings, signs, or being emotionally stirred.
- Paul and Silas worshipped in prison—not by sight or mood, but by faith (Acts 16:25).
- Paul endured severe trials because of faith, not strength (2 Corinthians 1:8–10; 4:6–8, 13–18; 7:5).
- Ephesians 1:18 — Paul prays believers' spiritual eyes would be opened to grasp the invisible hope and power.

## Conclusion: Practical Life Applications

Faith connects us to God's realm, enables us to receive power, and results in visible action and testimony.

## Questions

1. What would it mean to "walk by faith and not by sight" in your everyday life?
2. Can you share a time when you trusted God without having all the answers or visible evidence?
3. What are some practical ways we can strengthen our faith and stay connected to God's Word during the week?

# List of Verses used in this talk

Why is Faith so important?

- We can't please God without it. Heb 11v6
- We overcome the world by Faith. 1 Jn 5v4
- We're saved by it. Eph 2v8, Ro 3v28, Ro 5v1
- We live by it. 2 Cor 5v7
- Our Christianity is by Faith from First to last. Romans 1:17
- It is called "the only thing that counts. Gal 5v6
- Anything else is sin. Rom 14v23

Jhn 4:24 NKJV - "24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

**1Co 15:50** NKJV - "50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

**John 3:3, 6** NKJV — "3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Heb 11:1 NKJV — "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

**Heb 11:3** NKJV - "3 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."

Col 1:15 NKJV - "15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

**Heb 11:7** NKJV - "7 By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things **not yet seen**, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Exo 3:14 NKJV - "14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' ""

**Heb 11:8,10** NKJV — "8 By faith **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going**." 10 for he waited for the **city which has foundations**, whose builder and maker is God."

**Heb 11:13, 16** NKJV — "13 **These all** died in faith, not having received the **promises**, but having **seen them** afar off **were assured of them**, embraced them and **confessed** that they were **strangers and pilgrims on the earth**."

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a **heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

Heb 11:40 NKJV - "40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us."

**Heb 11:27** - By faith he (**Moses**) forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as **seeing Him who is invisible**."

**Eph 1:18-20** NKJV — "18 the **eyes of your understanding** being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead"

**2Co 5:7** NKJV - "7 For we walk by faith, not by sight."

**2Co 9:7** NIV - "7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

## Acts 16:25 - Paul and Silas worship in Jail

### Paul's struggles

**2Co 1:8-9** NKJV — "8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,"

**2Co 7:5** NKJV — "5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears."

**2Co 4:8- 10** - 8 We are **hard-pressed** on every side, yet not crushed; we are **perplexed**, but not in despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

**2Co 4:16** - 16 Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

**2Co 4:13** — "13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

Eph 1:3 NIV - "3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

**2Co 4:17-18** - 17 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."

**Ecc 3:11** NKJV - "11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

Heb 11:2 NKJV - "2 For by it (faith) the elders obtained a good testimony."

Rom 10:17 NKJV - "17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Rom 4:3 NKJV - "3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.""