

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?