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**Confession:** *This is my Bible, the Living Word of God. I am, what the Word says I am. I have, what the Word says I have. I can do, everything the Word says I can do, and I will do it, in Jesus Name!*

**Text: Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Introduction:** Every day we rely on what we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell—our five senses guide almost every decision. Yet God invites us into a different dimension of trust, one that does not depend on physical proof but on the living promises of His Word. Today, we will explore how natural, human faith differs from the Biblical, God-kind of faith and discover practical steps to live by faith.

1. **Defining Faith**
2. **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
3. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for” and “faith is the evidence of things not seen.” In essence, it is saying “faith is substance.”
4. “Hope” does not have any substance, but “faith” gives substance to hope.
5. There are number of different kinds of faith. Every human being has a natural human faith. Some examples of human faith:
6. Physical evidence: A chair will hold you because you believe it sturdy enough to support you.
7. Reputation: Trusting a doctor with your health because of a belief of their medical expertise.
8. Past experiences: The sun will rise in the east every morning.
9. Agreements/Contracts: Believing that a friend will meet you at an appointed time or a contracted party will fulfill a written contract.
10. In this verse God is NOT speaking of natural human faith but instead of Bible faith or the God-kind of faith.
11. Hebrews 11 is known as the “Hall of Fame of Faith.” Acting solely on God’s Word and nothing else:
12. By faith, Noah built an ark, saved his family, and became an heir of righteousness. This was despite no physical evidence of rain.
13. By faith, Abraham left father’s house into a foreign Promised land, and became the father of many nations. Even though he was too old and his wife was too old and barren.
14. By faith, Sarah at 92 years old received strength and bore a child. Even though she was too old and had been barren even when she was young.
15. By faith, Moses forsook the palace in Egypt, kept the Passover, stood before Pharoah, led the Israelites out of Egypt, and through the Red Sea.
16. By faith, Joshua led the Israelites into the Promise Land and by faith the walls of Jericho fell down because the obeyed the Word of God when He told them to march around the city and blow the trumpet.
17. **The Source of Faith**
18. Natural human faith springs from our five physical senses, past experiences, and rational deductions.
19. We trust a chair to hold us, a doctor to properly treat a wound, the sun to rise in the east every morning, or a friend to keep an appointment based solely on tangible evidence or a proven track record.
20. **Romans 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
21. Bible faith is born when we hear God’s Word and choose to believe it, regardless of what our senses report.
22. **The Basis of Faith**
23. Natural faith is based on what observable and tangible.
24. Bible faith considers NOT what is natural and ONLY considers what God has promised and while considering His nature, which cannot lie.
25. **2 Corinthians 1:20** For all the promises of God **in Him** are “Yes,” and **in Him** “Amen,” to the glory of God through us.
26. We do not have to try and make the Word work. The Word works because “It” is God and His Word is just as real and powerful as God Himself, and His Word is IN us, IN Christ!
27. **Hebrews 1:3** He is the brightness of His glory, the express image of Himself, and upholds all things by the word of His power…
28. **John 1:1-4** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were created through Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created. 4**In Him** was life, and the life was the light of mankind.
29. **1 Peter 1:23 AMPC** You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the *ever* living and lasting Word of God.
30. Same Word, same power! IN Christ, we are the Word of God. God is inseparable from His Word.
31. Salvation, all the healing, peace, love, joy, our resources we could ever need are in the Word of His power which are now resident on the inside of every believer!
32. We must awaken to who we are, what we have, and what we can now do, IN Him!
33. **The Action of Faith**
34. Natural faith involves actions based on tangible proof.
35. Bible faith involves acting on the promise of God when you do not see any tangible evidence and naturally it may seem or is impossible.
36. **Mark 9:23** Jesus said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”
37. There is a big difference between believing what your physical senses are telling you versus believing with your heart despite your physical senses.
38. Bible faith is laying hold of the unseen realm of “hope” and bring it into the realm of “reality.”
39. Bible faith is born of and grows out of the Word of God.
40. **Hebrews 11:1 AMPC** Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].
41. Faith is the “title deed,” the thing for which you have hoped for.
42. If you “hope” for finances to meet a need or a desire then “faith” is the “substance and the assurance” that you will have the money when you need it because, faith is “the evidence of things not seen.”
43. Many “hope” for strength or wisdom to perform their job assignment or to run their business. But faith says “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom will I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom will I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)
44. His light is my light, His salvation is my salvation, His strength is my strength, of whom shall I fear?
45. Faith says about itself EVERYTHING that the Word says, for faith in God is faith in His Word!
46. Every Word Promise is already “Yes and Amen” the establishing covenant witness in the earth is you.
47. It will become manifest for you when you make the decision to stand on His Word even when it seems like all hope is lost.
48. **The Assurance of Faith**
49. **1 John 5:14-15** This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15So if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have whatever we asked of Him.
50. This is where most Christians miss what faith is. They want to get what they are believing God for and then believe that they have received it.
51. Biblical faith reverses the order: we believe we already have what we have asked for, and then we receive it.
52. **Mark 11:24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you will have them.
53. If we ask according to His will (Word), we know He hears—and because He hears us, we know we **have** what we asked.
54. It will become manifest for you when you make the decision to stand on His Word even when it seems like all hope is lost.
55. Over the years I have prayed with thousands of people and often they say “Well, I sure hope God heard my prayer, or I hope that it works this time.”
56. Hope is not what causes God to hear or answer your prayer or petition even though you may be quoting many Scriptures that promise healing for example.
57. You receive the answer to your request because it is faith alone that activates the Word of God, NOT hope, not strong desire, and not because you have great need of it. (Hebrews 11:6)
58. Faith alone gives substance to your hope.
59. “Hope” says I want, I need, I desire \_\_\_\_\_\_ and I will have it “sometime.” “Faith” says, I have the answer to my request, “NOW!”
60. Every Word Promise is already “Yes and Amen” the establishing covenant witness in the earth is you.
61. A corn farmer plants a seed in dark soil and walks away in faith that roots form before shoots appear. The seed does not look alive; yet life is happening beneath the surface. Faith believes in the unseen work of God long before we see green. “First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.”
62. **Hebrews 10:23, 35** 23Let us firmly hold the profession of our faith without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

35Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which will be greatly rewarded.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does Hebrews 11:1 say faith is?
2. What distinctions can you draw between natural human faith (trust based on senses and experience) and biblical faith (trust anchored in God’s promises)?
3. Bible faith is laying hold of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ realm of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and bringing it into the realm of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. How does the concept of “acting solely on God’s Word” contrast with how we often make decisions?
5. What Word Promise of God you have stood on in the past. How did that Promise impact your actions and confidence?