

## **Living by Faith, Part 2**

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### I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 10:35-11:1ff.

1. "Believe" is the verb for the noun "faith."
2. Faith is a conviction of things that we hope for but do not see.
3. Let's look at 4 aspects of the nature of faith.

### II. Faith is paradoxical.

A. Ordinarily, hope implies desire and conviction, but not certainty. Here, hope expresses a confident expectation. (Hebrews 11:1)

1. This hope is only possible with the promises of God.

B. Usually seeing is believing, but here there is a certainty of unseen spiritual things. (Hebrews 11:1)

### III. Faith is a work of God's grace in our heart through the Holy Spirit, rather than the product of reason.

A. Reasoning actually produces doubt instead of faith in regard to God's promises.

B. The Spirit's work allows us to have faith even before illogical circumstances. (Mark 9:24)

C. Faith is superior to reason because it takes into account God's omnipotent character. (Luke 1:6ff, 20; Luke 1:32-37; John 12:24; Romans 8:28)

### IV. Faith receives a divine revelation. (Hebrews 11:4ff)

A. God's word is our divine revelation, but it takes faith to receive it. (Matthew 6:33)

### V. Faith not only receives a divine revelation, but also responds in obedience. (Hebrews 11:8)

A. Faith is obeying God and trusting Him for the results.

B. God will fulfill the promises He gives us.

**Application questions:**

1. Which of God's promises are the most difficult for you to have faith in?

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2. How does reading the Bible increase our faith?

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3. Has God ever asked you to have faith in his promises and step out in obedience? Are you still trusting God to fulfill a promise in regard to that situation? What effects of that obedience have you seen in your life?

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