



# “The Substance of Faith”

Pastor Paul Taylor/January 24, 2010

## How many of us want to please God?

- **Hebrews 11:1** (MKJV) Now faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### The Substance of Faith:

- Faith really does have substance because God is real.
- Faith is tangible. It is the inner witness that provided by the Holy Spirit
- Faith in God has many enemies that want to destroy it, and rob us of the benefits of faith. **1Peter 5:9**
- Faith is a gift that has been given by God to each of us. **Eph 2:8**
- Faith calls us to action. (**Hebrews chapter 11**)
- Faith needs to be exercised in order to grow. **Jude 1:20**, But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

**In a sense, faith is the “currency” that God values.** **Hebrews 11:1-6**, (ESV) 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*. (6) And *without faith it is impossible to please him*, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- **“IMPOSSIBLE” in Strong’s Dictionary:** *unable*, that is could not do, impotent, not possible, weak.

### Illustrating faith by making butter:

- **STEP 1:** We start with someone who believes it can be done. **Hebrews 11:1**, Now faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- **STEP 2:** Do you believe enough to put your faith into action? **James 2:17-18**, So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (18) But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- **STEP 3:** What do you do when you become tired and don’t see what you expected? **Hebrews 10:35-39**, Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. (36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (37) For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; (38) but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." (39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.  
**Martin Luther said “Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.”**  
We can encourage one other to believe and trust God, but in the end, only I can chose to believe that God is true.

### Learning not to believe your eyes...

The story of “doubting” Thomas.

- **John 20:27-29**, (ESV) Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." (28) Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (29) Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*"
- **Believe God and rejoice that his power goes beyond anything that you’ve ever seen.**
- **STEP 4: Finally-The fulfillment of our faith-SUCCESS!** **1 Peter 1:6-7** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith--

more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**You don't have to be a spiritual giant to exercise your faith and receive God's approval.**

- **James 2:5**, Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?
- **Hebrews 12:2**, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith