

## Now Faith Is

### Introduction:

- A. The common motivational statement, “You gotta believe,” indicates a total ignorance of biblical faith.
- B. Faith is absolutely essential to salvation. - Hebrews 11:6
- C. What is faith? - Hebrews 11:1-3

### I. definitions - Hebrews 11:1

#### A. “substance”

- 1. “lit. a standing under, support” (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 1:85)
- 2. assurance, confidence, firm trust

#### C. “evidence”: “proof, proving ... a proving of (or conviction about) unseen things” (W.F. Arndt & F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 248)

#### D. two elements of saving faith - Hebrews 11:6

- 1. conviction (Thus, we accept what God reveals.)
- 2. trust (Thus, we obey what God commands in trust He will faithfully reward us.)

### II. Faith accepts the unseen as if seen by accepting testimony.

- A. Faith begins and ends in the realm of the unseen. - Hebrews 11:3; 2 Corinthians 4:18
- B. Because what we believe cannot be scientifically demonstrated doesn’t make our faith unreasonable. - e.g., How do you know Columbus discovered America in 1492?
- C. Faith is not a blind leap but the honest acceptance of credible evidence.

### III. The evidence is especially strong because it is of divine origin. - Romans 3:3-4

- A. We know God is from His first and general revelation, the world. - Romans 1:20
- B. We know God’s will through His second and special revelation, the Bible. - Romans 10:17

### IV. Faith is the essential means of our salvation. - Hebrews 11:2,6

### V. Faith is the guiding principle of the Christian’s life. - 2 Corinthians 5:7

### Conclusion:

- A. Saving faith will lead you to accept God’s word and obey His commands. - Hebrews 11:7
- B. Do you have saving faith? - Acts 8:36-39