

VISIBLE FAITH + UNSEEN SUBSTANCE & EVIDENCE

VISIBLE RESULT
OF FAITH

3 FAITH

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

Faith means, “belief,” “persuasion,” “fidelity” (Gk. *pistis*). It's basic meaning is “belief” with the predominate idea of trust or reliance upon.

- Faith is the beginning of everything that matters spiritually (Hb.11:6).
- Faith is being sure (substance, assurance) of what we hope for, and certain (evidence) of what we do not see (Hb.11:7,27).
- Faith is trusting in what is invisible. It has the unseen substance and divine (not material) evidence supporting it.
- Faith looks to the future (hope), has substance for life now, but does not receive that hope in this life.
- Faith involves learning to coexist with all the questions and issues that life generates.
- When we learn to trust God, He gives us direction and spiritual “eyes” to see what He wants us to know and do.
- Faith gains approval with God, but does not receive the promise in this life (Hb.11:39).

VISIBLE OUTWORKING
OF GOD IN MAN

— UNSEEN ESSENCE OF FAITH —

2 SUBSTANCE

Substance means, “that which stands under” (Gk. *hypostasis*). It is the unseen support of what is standing in clear view.

of things hoped for

- Spiritually, the invisible substance underlies, supports, and motivates visible action.
- As substance begins to take shape we can tell it exists, but cannot see it physically.
- The unbeliever sees nothing spiritually. The believer says there is something there.
- We can know something to be true, but until the substance and evidence is real in our lives we will not put it into action.
- When we rely on God's Word it creates substance now (present life) while we anticipate a future promise (hope).
- Substance is the motivation and influence of future hope-promises from the Word of God.

UNSEEN ESSENCE
OF FAITH

1 EVIDENCE

Evidence means, “proof, conviction” (Gk. *elegchos*). It can be translated “title deed”.

of things not seen

- Divine evidence is unseen, but very real. It does not need material evidence.
- How does faith in God become part of our thinking and conduct? Faith becomes an element of our thinking by hearing words that concern the object of faith (Rm.10:17). Faith must have a foundation, and listening is the means by which that foundation is formed. The object is almost always God, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, or the Gospel.
- Evidence is the objective truth of God's Word which includes seeing God at work in our lives, the lives of others, and in the world.

INVISIBLE BUT REAL WORK OF GOD