

# HEBREWS 11:1-3 — FAITH CHARACTERISTICS

## Nature of Faith (11:1)

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

- What we believe in is what we hope for and yet faith gives them a present substance.
- Faith gives substance to things hoped for that are yet in the future.
- Faith provides the firm ground (substance) on which we stand.
- Faith is not a wishful longing, that something’s going to come to pass in a nebulous tomorrow.
- Faith defies everything the world calls “normal”.
- Faith says it’s better to suffer with God now, knowing what shall be, than to prosper with the world now.
- Faith is rejecting our senses for the sake of our hope. We will place ourselves in harms way for Christ.
- If you really believe that the future that God has promised (“hope”) is for real, then you will patiently wait for it.
- Faith is the “evidence” or “conviction” that the unseen exists.
- “Substance” realizes a future truth — “Evidence” demands action. It commits a life to it.



## Testimony of Faith (11:2)

**“For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.”**

- God only approves (“good testimony”) those who operate on faith (11:6).
- There is nothing in our human experience that could give us that faith.
- The unregenerated cannot understand supernatural faith that is grounded in convictions in things never seen.
- “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise” (He.11:39)
- The faith that God gives endures everything, from being cut in half to being thrown to lions.
- Those who have gone before us (He.12:1, “great cloud of witnesses”) give testimony to the power of a life of faith.
- Let us run the same race.

## Illustration of Faith (11:3)

**“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”**

- Belief that the visible world was created by God is a conviction of faith not sight.
- Nobody knows that by sight. Nobody was there to see creation.
- If you have problems with **Genesis 1:1** which we believe by faith, you will have problems with the rest of Scripture.
- We can trust that the same God who spoke creation into existence by His Word, and has spoken another world into existence which awaits us is equally true.