

# FAITH TERMS INTERACTION

The terms used in Hebrews 11:1 concerning faith are “evidence”, “substance”, and “hope”. Here we want to summarize how they inter-relate to one another, as well as show their distinction. Faith is interactive: We focus on future hope-promises that we read as divine evidence in the past. This is all based on the Word of God. Faith includes divine “evidence”, “substance” in our minds, and future “things hoped for”.



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



## EVIDENCE

## SUBSTANCE

## THINGS HOPED FOR



[Greek: ἔλεγχος — *elegchos*]

Divine **EVIDENCE** comes from hearing and understanding the Word of God which becomes our foundation for faith

[Greek: ὑπόστασις — *hupostasis*]

**SUBSTANCE** gives spiritual sight to future hope-promises defining and influencing how we live our lives today

[Greek: ἐλπίζω — *elpizō*]

**HOPE-PROMISES** are what we focus on, from God's Word but do not receive in our lifetime



## PAST

## PRESENT

## FUTURE

### The Word of God

- Biblical faith always has a foundation. The object of our foundation is God, and His Word. The more we know about God and His Word, the stronger our faith can become.
- Divine evidence is spiritual and unseen, but very real. It does not need material evidence.
- Biblical faith is never blind! This is because it is rooted in the Word of God.
- The evidence cannot be seen with our natural eyes, but can be seen with spiritual eyes.



### Life Experiences

- Personal testimonies, witnesses for Christ, and past experiences with God, can all help encourage our faith to grow.

- Substance means, “that which stands under”. It is the unseen support of what is standing in clear view. Like the foundation of a building: (1) It is not seen; (2) but we are confident it is there.
- The hope-promises of the future and present day principles are seen as substance for life now.
- We bring substance into the theater of our minds by the future hope-promises we are focused on.
- Substance is spiritual sight though our physical eyes cannot see it.
- The unbeliever sees nothing spiritually. The believer says there is something there.
- Substance is a shadowing form of the future hope-promise.
- Future hope-promises are real now in the form of substance.
- Substance comes from the future hope-promises based on past foundational evidence from the Word of God.
- Life principles and future hope promises from the Word of God give us the substance image that can influence our walk of faith. Spiritually we see the Word of God lived out in our lives even before we step out.

- Hope is so strong that it can change our lives as it become substance. Believing the truth of God's Word energizes us to live contrary to our flesh.
- Hope is a future promise based on past evidence from the Word of God.
- Hope that sees for itself is not hope. Hope is for what we do not see (**Rm.8:24-25**)
- The patriarchs did not receive the promises in their lifetime (**Hb.11:13,39**). For believers today, God always fulfills His promises either immediately or ultimately.
- Conditional promises are fulfilled in our lifetime as we obey. The unconditional promises will remain future to us, but will ultimately be fulfilled.

