

Faith

- *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1-2 NKJV*
- *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. NASB*
- Two Translations that give the scope to the words Substance/Assurance and Evidence/Conviction.

Faith

- *Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen. (NKJV)*
- *Now faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the CONVICTION of things not seen. (NASB)*

A difference in perspective.

The NKJV is the journey.

The NASB is the destination.

Where are we on this journey?

Substance of Things Hoped For

- *hupostasis* ... originally referred to "*that which stands under*," the "*basis*," from which developed a range of meanings in secular Greek: "*basis, foundation, support, guarantee, possession, existence, deposit.*" (Exegetical Dictionary NT)
- Faith is what we stand upon in our hope.
- It is the basis (substance) and support (assurance) that allows us to make sacrifices and endure hardship
- There is no end to the substance God has given to base our hope upon.
- The issue for us is in how much assurance it gives to us.
- The rest of chapter 11 gives the substance and how that substance gave assurance to those who lived before us.

Substance of Things Hoped For

*These all died in **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were **assured** of them, **embraced** them and **confessed** that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. Heb. 11:13-14*

Their faith led to substance and assurance.
That substance and assurance led them to sacrifices.

Substance of Things Hoped For

- *And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they **desire** a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Heb. 11:13-16*
- These people were exactly like us.
- They had the same choices and temptations we face.
- They conquered those temptations with the substance and assurance of hope.

Substance of Things Hoped For

*By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 **choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 **esteeming** the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Heb 11:24-26*

Moses had the same substance and hope.

It led him to make the sacrifices that to him were not sacrifices. They were not sacrifices because they led to greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt

Our Reasons

- At this point in the lesson we are ready for a question.
- What are the substance and assurance of our hope?
- What reasons can we give?
- *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason** for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear 1 Peter 3:15-16*
- When we have the same substance and assurance as those who lived before us we can give our defense.

Basis of Substance

- *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, Heb 6:13-20*
- God made a promise to Abraham that He trusted.
- God confirmed it by an oath
- He wanted to show more abundantly the immutability of He counsel.

Basis of Substance

- *18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, Heb 6:13-20*
- 2 immutable things.
- 1. The promise
- 2. The Oath
- Impossible for God to Lie.
- *Strong Encouragement*
- *An Anchor of the sould both sure and steadfast*
- But only if we change substance to assurance

From Substance to Assurance

- Peter begins his first letter with the substance that has changed to assurance
- God's promises given the same strong assurance.
- *Blessed (be) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6*
Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, 1
Pet 1:3-6

Assurance Leads to Eager Waiting

- *we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Rom 8:23-25*

The Substance offered by Witnesses

- *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1-2*
- Every man and woman listed has a story to tell and testimony to give. Like Abel though dead they are still speaking.
- Are we listening closely?

The Substance leading to Conviction

- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:16-18*
- We never lose heart!
- With the witnesses and substance our inner man is renewed daily.
- Like Moses, affliction becomes “light affliction”
- We don’t look at things seen but things not seen.