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**Series/Subject:** Faith

**Title:** NOW Faith Is

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**Confession:** *This is my Bible, the Living Word of God. I am, what the Word says I am. I have, what the Word says I have. I can do, everything the Word says I can do, and I will do it, in Jesus Name!*

**Text: Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Introduction:** The (ERV) says “Faith is what makes real the things we hope for. It is proof of what we cannot see.” Faith is not wishful thinking; faith is what takes what is hoped for out of the invisible and receives into this natural realm. Faith gives substance to what we hope for and serves as proof of what we cannot see. In other words, hope by itself is an idea; faith makes that idea a reality.

When we trust God's promises by faith, we are reaching into the unseen realm of the Spirit, grabbing hold of Truth, and bringing it into the natural. Faith does not invent the promise — it receives the promise and thereby creates the reality of it. Faith is the bridge between what God has spoken and what our eyes will one day witness. Many times, when we see the Truth in the Bible such as healing, we have tended to just hope and pray that we would get it instead of laying hold of that Promise by faith. Today we will learn how to move from passive hoping to active faith.

1. **Faith is NOW!**
2. **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
3. **Hebrews 11:1** AMPC Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].
4. The Bible says NOW FAITH IS!
5. If it is not NOW then it is not faith.
6. The present tense matters: faith is not someday or eventually; it is a present reality. Believers are not waiting for faith to arrive; they live in the possession of faith now.
7. Saying “I’ll believe when I see it” is hope, not faith. True faith takes the Promise now and treats the unseen claim as a present possession.
8. **Faith**: pistis (pis'-tis): belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness.
9. Faith originates by the Word of God and it is the tangible substance of the Word.
10. Faith begins where the will of God is known.
11. If God did not promise \_\_\_\_ then we have no basis to believe and receive it from Him.
12. **Substance**: hupostasis (hoop-os'-tas-is): standing under a guaranteed claim, entitling someone to what is guaranteed under an agreement, or having a title of possession, substance
13. Faith is a standing-under, a legal and spiritual title that supports a claim. In the spirit realm, faith functions as an actual substance that upholds God’s promise and positions the believer to receive what the Word guarantees.
14. **Of things hoped for**: elpizó (el-pid'-zo): hope for, expect, trust, to anticipate, to wait with joy and full of confidence.
15. Many will say concerning the promises of God “I believe I will get it some time.”
16. Hope is always in the future. Hope apart from faith is unbelief.
17. Hope looks at the Promise of God and says I know He did it for others and “I’m hoping and a praying that He will do it for me.”
18. While many treat God’s Promises as future possibilities instead of present possessions. Faith will not be satisfied with “sometime;” it insists on the present reality of God’s Word.
19. **The evidence if the things**: elegchos (el'-eng-khos): a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested, conviction, a persuasion
20. **Not seen**: blepó (blep'-o): see, perceive, discern, or to see something physical, with spiritual results.
21. Faith sees beyond physical sight and considers only the Word of God, and TAKES what God has promised.
22. **Stop Waiting, Start Receiving. FAITH IS NOW!** Replace “someday” talk with present-tense confession. Begin speaking and acting as though the Promise is already in your possession.
23. **Hope vs. Faith**
24. **Matthew 18:19** Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.
25. **Illustrate**: Many would call the prayer line on which I worked as a minister in which they would call in with a need. After they would share the need such as healing, I would then pray the prayer of faith according to a Scripture that promised them healing and then close the prayer with “Father we believe we receive it is done for us now in Jesus’ name, Amen.” Then many times they would respond with something like “Well I sure hope it works this time.”
26. They completely undid any agreement we had, and they cut faith off before it ever got started.
27. All they are doing day after day is hoping and praying apart from faith. They are in a wait and see mode.
28. This is precisely why prayers do not work for many Christians.
29. **James 1:5-8** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally and without criticism, and it will be given to him. **6**But let him ask in faith, without wavering. For he who wavers is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed with the wind. **7**Let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord. **8**A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.
30. James uses wisdom for an example here but this is a “faith principle” that applies to every Promise of God.
31. God will give it liberally but without faith it is impossible for Him to get it to us. (Hebrews 10:23, 35)
32. **James 5:14**And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.
33. Faith is the currency of the Kingdom – the means of exchange.
34. **Hope without faith**: Hope anticipates; faith possesses. Hope says, “Maybe God will do this for me.” Faith says, “God has promised it; I receive it now.”
35. **2 Corinthians 1:20** For all the promises of God in Him are “Yes,” and in Him “Amen,” to the glory of God through us.
36. God does not change and prayer does not change God. God has already said “YES AND AMEN.”
37. If we are not getting answers to our prayer, it is NEVER God’s fault.
38. **Why many prayers stall**: People often pray in a loop of wishing and hoping without taking the step of faith. The result is “wait and see” spirituality. God’s promises are already “Yes and Amen” in Christ; the prayer of faith aligns our hearts and lives with that settled reality despite the circumstances.
39. **John 20:24-29** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called The Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail prints in His hands, and put my finger in the nail prints, and put my hand in His side, I will not believe.” 26After eight days His disciples were again inside with the doors shut, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” 27Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Put your hand here and place it in My side. Do not be faithless, but believing.” 28Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have yet believed.”
40. We cannot ever receive anything with a Thomas kind of faith.
41. Jesus calls him out on this telling him to stop being faithless.
42. **The Thomas contrast**: Thomas demanded visible proof and missed the blessing Jesus pronounced on those who believe without sight. Blessing comes to those who act on God’s Word before the senses confirm it
43. “Blessed are those who have not seen, and have yet believed” In other words. Those who believed the Word of God apart from any physical evidence will be Blessed (they will see the manifestation of the Word in their lives and circumstances).
44. Test your praying—are you leaving the Promise at the level of wishful thinking, or are you treating it as a present reality and acting accordingly?
45. **Faith Takes it NOW!**
46. **Mark 11:24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
47. Faith says, “I receive \_\_\_\_\_ right NOW when I pray.
48. Faith is an aggressive action that TAKES it!
49. We must realize that this is the moment that faith becomes substance and starts heading our way.
50. Illustrate a request for money and what is happening in the spirit realm. What happens if we turn loose of our faith.
51. We do not receive anything from God based on hope. We receive from God by faith according to His Word.
52. Faith is the currency of the Kingdom – the means by which we make withdrawals from what already belongs to us IN Christ.
53. In the same way that we cash a check at the bank we make cash Kingdom checks according to every “Promisary Note” given us in Scripture
54. We must believe we receive our healing before we get it or see any physical difference.
55. NOW faith IS. If it is now when we pray then it is NOT faith. It is “hope” and hope without faith is, unbelief.
56. **Illustration**: My tooth in 2010. I prayed and then went to praising God in the middle of severe pain that I had my healing based on the Word and then I had the manifestation of it.
57. **Application**
58. **Romans 10:8-10** But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the **word of faith** that we preach: **9**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, **10**for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
59. The principle of faith is UNIVERSAL to every Word Promise.
60. Believe in your heart that the Word is Truth and that it will work for you the moment you confess it with your mouth.
61. Name the promise — Write down one specific promise from Scripture you need now.
62. Ask in faith receiving the Promise — Speak it as present-tense truth: In Jesus name according to Scripture I believe “I am healed,” “I am righteous,” “I am forgiven,” “I am provided for.”
63. Live by the evidence — Choose one small action today that treats the promise as real (forgiveness spoken, a step of obedience, for healing do something you could not do before, in all things praising God for your breakthrough without ceasing).

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How can you know if you are in faith, or just hoping and praying?
2. Who is at fault if our prayer does not work?
3. What things must you start doing for your faith to work for you?
4. How can you receive whatever God has promised to you in His Word?
5. After you have prayed the prayer of faith what must you do to see the manifestation of it?