

# Seeing is Not Faith

[This is a transcript of my teaching on this topic]

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”<sup>1</sup> That’s pretty ‘airy fairy’. It’s better said this way: “Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.”<sup>2</sup> What does all that mean?

The problem we have is that we move in our faith from having faith, to having faith in our faith. You know the expression: ‘I believe’. I prefer to use the term ‘trust’ rather than ‘faith’, so I say, “I trust”. That’s because faith is founded in truth. Faith isn’t some loose thing that you’ve got to try to develop within yourself. Let me explain.

When you sit on a chair, you have faith that it won’t collapse under your weight. Otherwise, you wouldn’t sit in it, or if you did, you’d do it tentatively. Why do you have faith in the chair? It’s because you believe and trust that it’s structurally sound and it will carry your weight. So the faith that you can sit safely in the chair is based on trust in the thing itself.

That’s the way faith works in the Kingdom. We trust the Trinity, we don’t trust ourselves. We have faith in them, not faith in ourselves. So where does our faith lie? Where does our trust actually lie?

Our trust lies in two things.

1. That the Trinity's character is unchanging and that they won't deviate from it. We can trust that. When God says he is Love, not has love, we can trust that to be so. That trust will become our faith when we operate knowing that they can be trusted to adhere to their character. This is why we can have faith in anything that aligns with their character of love, and, out of faith, we can reject anything that's out of alignment with it.
2. The other place he's asked us to trust him is his word. By his 'word' I mean, what he's said to us that is relevant to us. Also, what he's said about us that is relevant and true about us. These are our *rhema* (living, active words), the words he's asked us to trust in. He doesn't ask us to trust people. He doesn't ask us to trust banks, stock brokers, employers, the government, doctors, etc. He's only asked us to trust him and we only do that when he gives us something that he wants us to trust for. That's why we need to listen to him as he talks to us and tells us what to do and what he'll do for us. This is where our faith lies because his word to us can be trusted. He's never asked us to trust a book. He's never asked us to trust church leaders.

He's only ever asked us to trust him and what he's said.

That's what faith is – trusting him for who he is, and that he'll be true to himself. Faith is trusting what he's said, that he will do it. Of course, that will be in his own way and his own time, but whatever he's said to us he will do.

This is different to what he has said in the past to somebody else. We can't put our trust in that because it wasn't his personal message to us. That may sound illogical, so I'll put it into natural context. If your boss says to a fellow employee, “You can have a 2-hour lunch today, because I just want to be generous”, you, as an employee of the same business, can't say, “OK, that means I can have a 2-hour lunch break as well”. See how illogical it is to take hold of and regard as true to you what has been said to another person. Whatever the Trinity has said to a person or a group in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, was true for them. It will not be true for us unless it is true of his character or, he repeats it to us. That's when it becomes true and we can trust it. We can have faith in it.

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1 – Hebrews 11:1-2 (KJV)

2 – Hebrews 11:1-2 (Complete Jewish Bible)

We can't have faith in what we pray for or ask. We can only have faith in knowing we've been heard. What we ask for has to fit in with Father's plans and with his timing. If we believe (have faith) because the Bible says we can have what we ask for, that's most likely 'faith in our faith', not genuine faith that pleases God. This is my experience of learning to live by faith.

We can't have faith if we can see something. By the same token, we can't have faith if we're looking for it's manifestation, either. From my experience, faith is 'switching off' and leaving it in Father's hands to bring about whatever he's already said he'd do. Here's him saying the very same thing:

*"You must believe in things you cannot see. You must trust that even when things seem silent, I am working on your behalf. If you judge my faithfulness by what you see, you aren't placing your faith in me at all. Faith believes despite the obvious. It remains tapped into me, honed in on the promises that I made. Don't let go of those promises, beloved. Don't doubt my love or faithfulness because it's taking longer than expected. Stir yourself up to believe again. Dig your heels in, take a deep breath, and trust my timing."*<sup>3</sup>

Faith isn't an easy thing to understand. It actually comes from the experience of learning to live by genuine trust.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

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3 – Brian Simmons (10-9-2020) "I Hear His Whisper..." "Trust my timing" [distributed e-newsletter]  
[mailchi.mp/broadstreetpublishing/00000-617822](mailto:mailchi.mp/broadstreetpublishing/00000-617822)