Hebrews 11:1-2; 11:6

Hebrews 11: 6 tells us that “Without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone that comes to God must believe that God exists and God is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him.” **Hebrews 11:1-2** says, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for,” however, it is important that we understand it is the God kind of faith that determines our hope. It is the God kind of faith that seeks what God hopes for us. What we want, and what we desire gets in the way of our understanding of what God does and how God acts in our lives. What we want limits our ability to understand how God is acting in our midst. What we want to happen in our lives limits what we are willing to understand as God is acting in our lives. What we want controls our ability to see how God is acting, and how God is performing. “Lord, I don’t want it to happen *that* way” and it did. We just don’t understand how God could let that happen.

It is our faith that produces the hopes we have. Faith is in fact the substance of things hoped for – in the natural and in the spiritual. Our faith produces every hope. Faith gives reality to our hopes. If you did not believe that all things are possible, you could not hope for the things we sometimes hope for. Most of our hope is in the natural. There is a natural hope and there is a spiritual hope. Both use the same formula. Both use “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.” “Hope” in the Bible, and the “Spirit” is different than the hope we have in the natural. In the natural “hope” is a word that is used all over the world. It represents the

possibility of a positive outcome. Hope in the natural is a small light shining in the darkness.

The word “Hope” that is spoken of in the Bible is very different from the word “hope” we use in our everyday language. In the natural, hope is expecting something to happen, but not being entirely sure that it will happen. In the natural hope is more like a wish. It is like, “I hope it doesn’t rain,” or hoping to get that promotion. Hope in the natural is connected to doubt and uncertainty. Hope in the natural is based upon human ability, human understandings. Biblical hope, “Spiritual” hope is knowing for a fact that the outcome that God has ordained for us will happen. This kind of hope is not wishful thinking. It is placing complete trust in God. It is complete confidence in the power and will of God.

A couple of weeks ago I stated that prayer is always about the will of God. Prayer is never about our will. It is never about our desires. Prayer is a surrendered heart and mind that has given itself over to the will of God; whatever that will might be. Our hope is made visible by our faith in God doing what is best for the entire universe at all times. In the Spirit, with the God kind of faith, our hopes come into being in our spiritual minds before believing and trusting in God’s will. Our hopes are always connected to the will of God by our faith in God. It is when we trust God to do what God knows to be best for us, that we begin to rest in God’s peace; confident that God has everything under control.

In the natural, our hope is centered on human desire. It is centered on what we want. In the spirit, it is centered on God’s will in

what God wants. “Not my will but Thine be done.” That is an extremely difficult thing to understand and it is even more difficult to do. For us to understand, we must strive to do what God expects of us. This an example of how human desire impacts surrendering our hopes to the will of God.

“**Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**” When we read this text, from that moment forward, ask yourself what you are hoping for. Is your hope located in the natural, in your desires, or is your hope located in the will of God? To give God our hopes is a level of trust I encourage everyone to strive toward. It is then that you know you are in the will of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool