# The Difference Between Faith and Trust

**Hebrews 11:1**

Last week, during our Vacation Bible School, we had an in-depth discussion on the difference between faith and trust. Our class leader, Rose Childress, was correct in her assessment and teaching on the subject, as well as some other members in the class. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the distinction between faith and trust.

**The Walk Across the Rope: A Story About Faith and Trust**

The question of trust and hope resurrected itself in my mind the very next morning. Not because I was mistaken, because everyone knows that I was not, **LOL**. But it is important to me that the church grasps concepts that can be, and sometimes are, life-altering. I in no way wish to contribute to any kind of biblical error. Life can be uncertain, and moving through it can present challenges even when our faith is grounded. If we are not clear about who God is and what faith in God represents, it becomes even more uncertain. That discussion weighed on my mind. Hence, this week's midweek message. The Holy Spirit has a way of dogging you until you relent, surrender, and say "Uncle."

**Is faith just another word for trust?**

It seems like it should be. That's how most people use it. We say we "have faith" in someone the same way we say we "trust" them. But something in us knows there is more to it. Something deeper. Something harder.

That week, I started paying attention to how I used the word "trust." I trusted my car to start when I turned the key. I trusted my doctor's diagnosis. I trusted the bank to keep my money. But here's the thing: I trusted all those things because they'd been proven. I had a reason, a track record, a past I could point to.

Trust, I realized, is built on what we've seen. It's history. It leans on experience.

I trust a chair because I've sat in hundreds like it. I trust a friend because they've shown up before. Trust has evidence. That's what makes it feel safe. It gives your mind something to hold on to.

But that wasn't what I was feeling. What I was facing had no evidence. No history. No guarantees.

That's when the Holy Spirit sent Hebrews 11:1. The word of God, along with the Holy Spirit, if we allow it to marinade, will give us eyes to see:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Faith not seen. Not proven. Not confirmed.

Faith isn't the same as trust.

It goes beyond it.

Where trust rests on what's behind, faith leans into what hasn't happened yet.

I remember reading a story once about a tightrope walker. He stretched a rope between two buildings and walked across it while a crowd watched from below. The rope was high, and the wind was strong. He made it to the other side, and the people erupted in applause. Then he asked the crowd if they believed he could do it again, this time, with someone on his back.

They all cheered. "Yes!" they shouted. "We believe!"

Then he asked for a volunteer.

Suddenly, silence.

That was the difference between trust and faith.

Trust cheered from the sidelines. Faith climbed on his back.

Faith means you go.

You move.

You step.

And not because there's proof, but because something inside says, *He's worth believing anyway*.

How many times have we thought we were living by faith, but really, we were just staying where it was safe? We said we believed God would provide, but we kept our fists closed. We said we believed He could heal but never asked. We said we trusted His plan, but we kept making our backup plan.

James writes, *"Faith without works is dead."* We must understand what James is saying. If faith doesn't do something, it isn't faith. It's just an idea.

Faith is not about guarantees. It is not about boxing God in a corner and demanding He respond to our prayer in a particular way. It is seeking His will without ever seeing or knowing what the outcome is going to be. We must learn to stop asking for guarantees and start asking for courage.

Faith doesn't require that the rope doesn't feel steady. And you don't get to see all the way across.

But faith walks anyway.

It isn't reckless. It isn't loud. It's not about trying to impress God with big gestures.

It's quieter than that. Slower than that.

Sometimes, faith looks like showing up when you'd rather quit.

Sometimes it's making the phone call.

Sometimes it's forgiving someone who doesn't deserve it.

Sometimes it's saying "yes" when everything in you wants to say, "maybe later."

Faith acts when the outcome is still invisible.

"Faith is not feeling certain. It's moving anyway."

And that's really the truth of it.

Trust is a wonderful thing. It gives us confidence when we've seen God work before. But faith is what keeps us walking when everything in us wants to turn back.

Faith moves when sight fails.

Faith loves when love is risky.

Faith stays when staying hurts.

Faith gives when giving costs something.

If you say you believe, but never take the step, your belief remains an idea. It never becomes a story.

But when you act on it, when you let your feet touch the rope, that's when faith gets an opportunity to breathe.

Real faith is always tied to movement. Not big, dramatic leaps. Just forward steps. Just one more "yes" when you could say "no." One more inch in the right direction. One more prayer when the answer's still quiet.

That's what I'm hoping we all learn to do.

Learning to live less from what we've seen and more from what He's said.

Learning to let conviction carry us when our eyes don't see the outcome.

Learning that if we wait to feel ready, we'll never go.

But if we move, He meets us.

Not always with the result we expect, but always with Himself.

Faith isn't about forcing something to happen.

It's about trusting that the One who called us is already on the rope, steady, strong, and waiting.

So we'll keep walking.

Even if the wind picks up.

Even if we're shaking.

Even if the crowd below is silent.

Because faith doesn't just mean believing.

It moves.

And that's how the unseen becomes real.

Blessings,

*Pastor Gool*