

15 July 2018

## Faith – Pt 1 Faith is made up of substance and evidence

### Reading – Heb.11

Given that it is impossible to please God without faith, salvation is through faith, and once saved a Christian is to live by faith we begin a study today on the topic of faith. In this study we establish that faith is the substance of the things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

#### 1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb.11: 1).

The substance of faith is what we hope for. The Greek word “substance” is also translated “confidence”, “confident” and “person”, and the Strong’s Exhaustive Dictionary suggests it carries the meaning of “essence”, hence faith is the essence of things hoped.

#### 2. Faith is the evidence of things we cannot see.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb.11: 1).

The evidence of faith is things that we cannot see – is it any wonder that those who claim to have no faith – see those who do as being foolish because they hope in that which they cannot see. The Greek word “evidence” is also translated “proof”, and the Strong’s Exhaustive Dictionary suggests it carries the meaning of “proof, conviction” with a sense of “conviction”, hence faith is the conviction of things we cannot see.

#### 3. Faith is believing

“Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing” (Jn 20:27).

#### 4. Faith is being fully persuaded that what is promised can be performed.

“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith...And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Rom.4: 20 & 21).

### An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Hari Krishna’s attired in their long dresses walk past the preachers on Queen st chanting Hari Krishna. Some when asked about Jesus have said that they believe in Jesus.

Question to think about.

Given that faith is believing does their believing mean that the Hari Krishna has faith in Jesus?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

No. Faith is made of two elements –

He that cometh to God must believe that He is – and that includes His Son, who He is according to the scriptures.

And that the promises that God has given in His word that will be fulfilled in Christ are believed (“he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” – Heb.11: 6).

Hence faith is not solely about believing, but also a matter of what we believe. And then faith in the God of the Bible motivates us – as the scriptures say – “faith without works is dead” (Jam.2: 26). The “devils also believe and tremble” (Jam.2: 19). By faith Noah prepared an ark, Abraham went as God commanded, therefore faith motivates action. And faith in the Lord Jesus Christ does not motivate a person to get dressed up and dance around the street chanting the name of a false god. But rather faith in Jesus would motivate a person who is in the Hari Krishna movement to “come out from her, my people” (Rev.18: 4) – because Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn.14: 6). Hence, God tries our faith for evidence of the substance that makes it up. Amen!