

Features of FAITH

The Book of Hebrews:

“BETTER”

Features of Faith

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What Faith Is

What Faith Does

What Faith Needs

What Faith Brings

What Faith Is

- *A Work We Do to Gain Salvation?*
- *A Tool to Manipulate God (Magic Lamp)?*
- *A Scheduling Tool Used to Make Things Happen?*
- *A Blind Optimism? (Atheistic, Modern View)*

What Faith Is

Wikipedia:

“Faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing, or a belief not based on proof.”

Richard Dawkins:

“Blind trust, in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence.”

What Faith Is

Heb. 11:1

*"Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see."*

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- *Faith is a confidence in the trustworthiness of God.*
- *Faith for salvation is receiving the work of Christ, based on the realization that you can't help yourself.*

What Faith Does (1:1)

“Now faith is *being sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see.” (NIV)

“Now faith is the *assurance* of things hoped for, the *conviction* of things not seen. (NASB, ESV)

“Now faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen.” (NKJV)

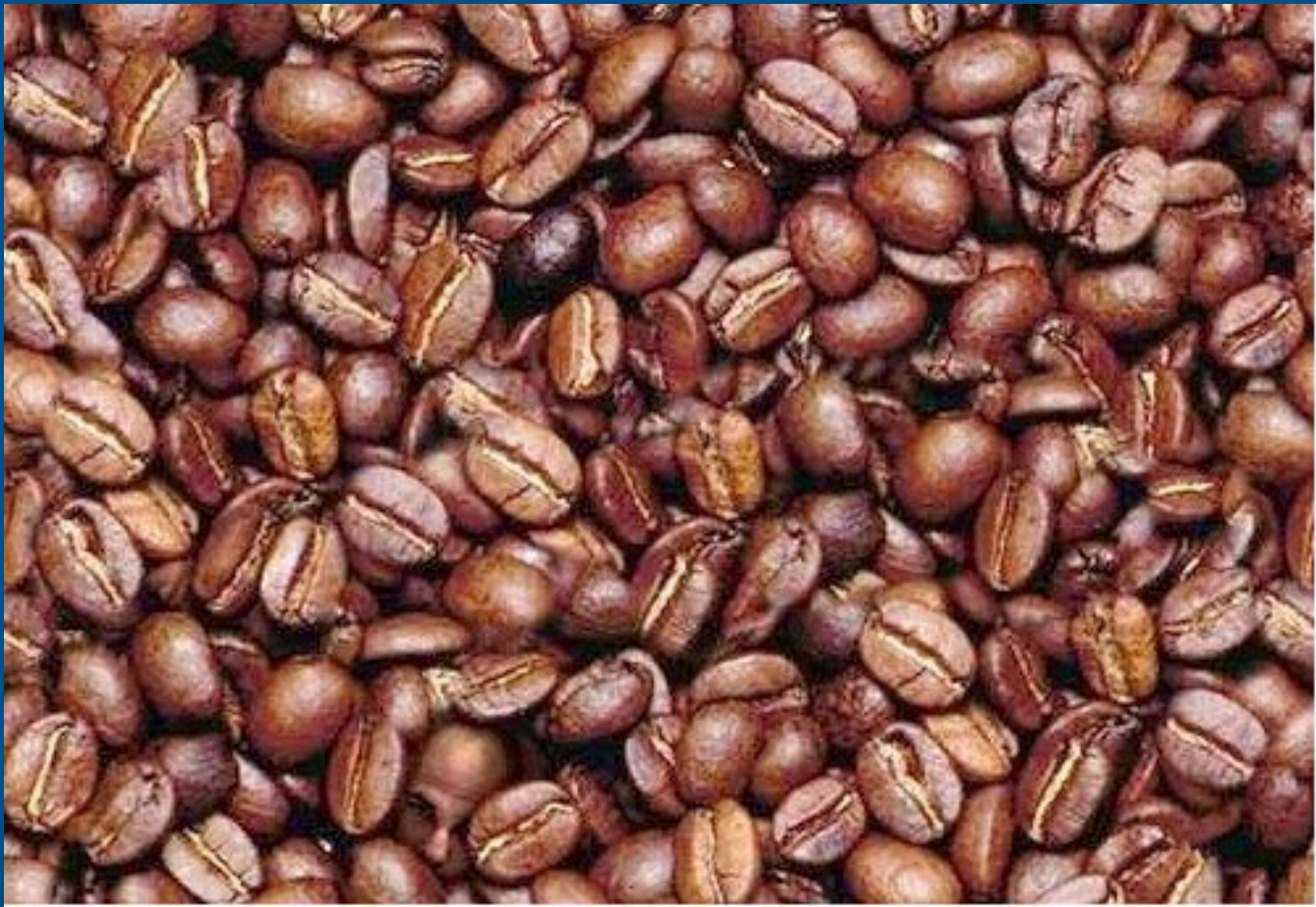
What Faith Does

It makes things hoped for as real to us as if we already had them. (V.1)

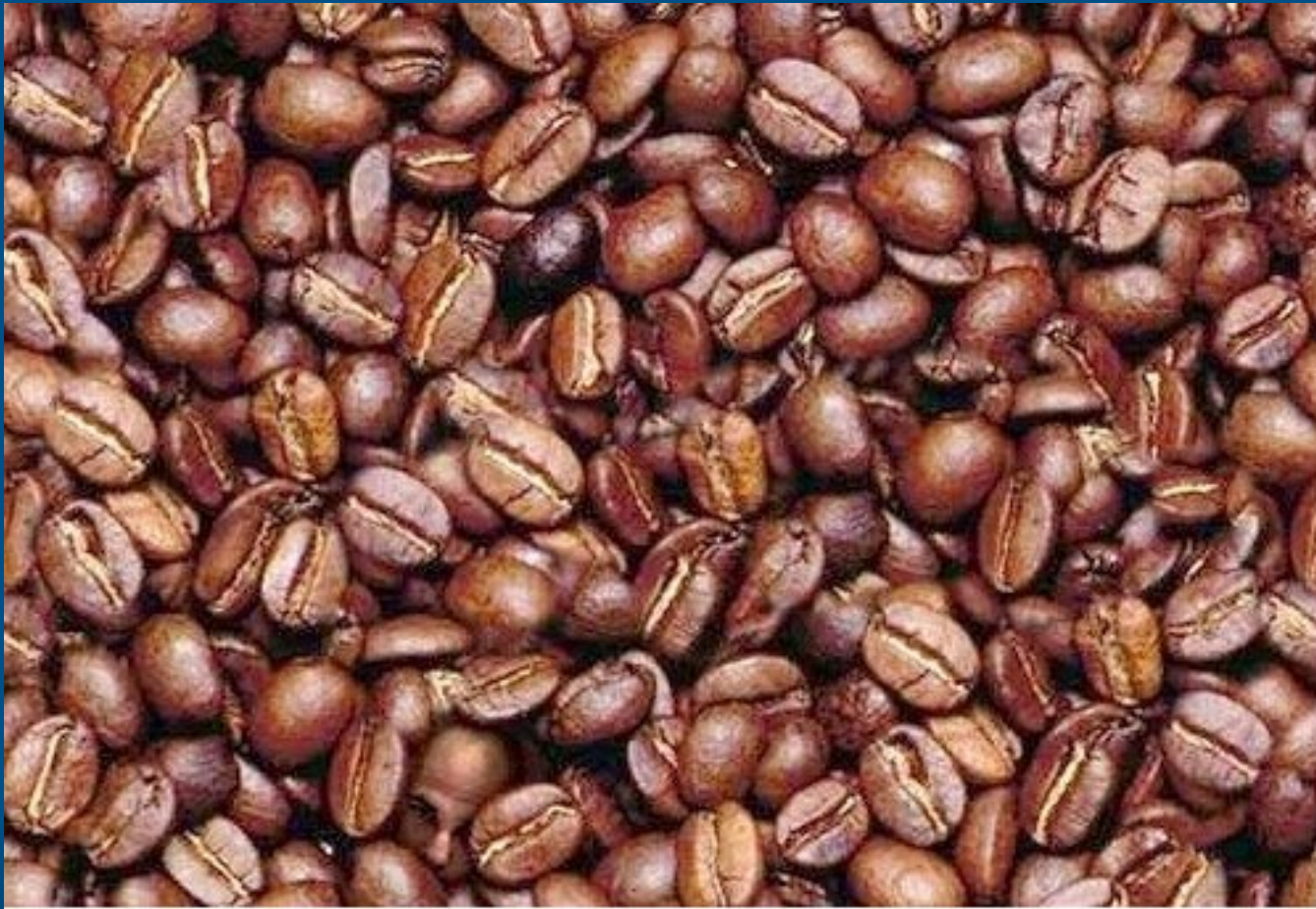
What Faith Does

It gives certain evidence that the unseen exists. (11:1,3)

V.3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." (NIV)









Proverbs 4:18

*"The path of the righteous
is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of
day."*

What Faith Needs

True Faith does not just spontaneously develop in a vacuum!

What Faith Needs

- Revelation from God (Romans 10:17)

*"...faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word of
Christ." (NIV)*

The word of Christ (**Truth**)

> forms the message (**Preaching**)

> which then forms the faith. (**Response**)

What Faith Needs

- *Revelation from God (Romans 10:17)*
- *An Object*

*“Faith is the eye of the soul,
and like our natural eye, it does not see itself,
but the object on which it focuses.”*

Trevor McIlwain

What Faith Brings

- *Approval from God (V.2)*

NIV: *“This is what the ancients were commended for.”*

NASB: *“For by it the men of old gained approval.”*

What Faith Brings

- *Approval from God (V.2)*
- *Pleasure in God (Vss. 5-6)*

Verses 5-6:

- 5 *By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*
- 6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

What Faith Brings

- *Approval from God (V.2)*
- *Pleasure in God (Vss. 5-6)*
- *Action in the Believer (Chapter 11)*

Becoming People of Faith

- *Get into the Word of God.*

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- *Get to know some living people of faith.*
- *Get to know Jesus Christ Better and Better*