

# Assurance of Faith

VBS "20-20 Vision" - being planned...  
Meeting April 5 and see Sign-up sheet!



"We are not of those who shrink back" ... "Therefore, let us run the race that is set before us!"  
"We are...of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:39). When is a perfect time to discuss what real faith is all about and what real faith does?

Hebrews 3 detailed the faith of Moses and Jesus contrasted that with the faithfulness of the ancient Israelites. The good news preached to the Israelites was of no profit because "it was not united by faith in those who heard" (4:3). "We who have believed enter that rest" (4:4). Courage! Do not "be sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (6:12). Draw near "in full assurance of faith" (10:22).

Hebrews chapter 11 details how faith remained firm despite what, at times, seemed like overwhelming obstacles. Satan launches a fury of fiery arrows in an attempt to destroy faith. Will you let him succeed? What do we say to people in danger of abandoning the only hope of assurance concerning eternal salvation? Hebrews 11 serves as an inspired blueprint concerning how to approach people with weak or faltering faith. Please consider...

**Hebrews 11:1-3 (NASB) "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (2) For by it the men of old gained approval. (3) By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."**

The best test of  
faith and doctrine  
is their application  
in your life.

The word "assurance" can be understood in three ways. 1) As substance or underlying reality, 2) As confidence or full conviction. And 3) As a guarantee. The word "conviction" means "to be certain" or to have "concrete evidence." Although there are things "not seen," a person who has faith is completely and totally convinced they exist. The things "not seen" refer to the spiritual realm: God, angels, love, hope, etc.

Faith is not simply a subjective feeling. It is logical and sensible. The details of faith are described in those men of old. The writer began with Abel and detailed faithful individuals throughout the centuries—God *always* notices! People moved beyond the superficial are able to develop a real faith based upon the abundant evidence supplied by God (See Romans 1:18ff). They received divine approval. Do we have the same type of faith?

There is a unique blend of what is seen and unseen. We are able to see the "worlds" (literally "ages"), and through the eyes of faith are able to look unto that which is *not* visible. It is by faith that we understand the Word of God. "And God said..." rings in our ears of faith—believing the Word of God is true. We look at the world and have evidence for the existence and power of God. A person cannot put that in a test tube.

While many people cannot accept the concept of creating something "out of nothing," the Hebrew writer explains this is clearly what God did. Genesis—the beginning—is real and verifiable. The person of faith reasons from that which is invisible to that which is visible, and thus, a Creator exists—namely God. It may not seem logical to many individuals, but God's word testifies to its truthfulness nevertheless. We have assurance of faith! Right?

**To all our visitors:** *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

*We are glad you decided to worship God with us!*

Who spoke  
the words  
"What have I  
done to you,  
that you have  
struck me  
these three  
times?"

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** 2nd Sunday

**Friday Bible Study:** 7—8PM. Consider your

study of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Night Singing:** here (3/19)  
at 7PM ... sounds of joyfulness!

**Teacher's Meeting:** (3/22) after AM services

**Fellowship Evening:** here (3/22) after PM

**Men's Day:** at Howe (3/28) beginning at 9AM

"The Bride of Christ" - Ephesians 5

**Ladies Day:** in Bonham (3/28) Northside at

8:30AM "Are You Practicing Half Hearted or  
Whole Hearted Love for God?"

**Shannon Worship Series:** begins

Sunday (3/29) at 7:30PM "The Acts of Scriptural

Worship" - Kevin Shimp speaks about Singing!

**NMCCH:** collecting aluminum foil and kitchen  
trash bags (pick up will be Friday, 4/3)

**Please** look at the bulletin board for future  
events being posted—THANK YOU for reading!