

By Faith; Hebrews 11:1-3

I. Sight

- a. We see what we want to see
 - i. Just look at the polarity between political parties right now
 - ii. People have convinced themselves that the other person is wrong without ever taking an objective look
 - iii. It is all emotions and subjectivity
 - iv. "If you don't think the way I do, you must be a horrible person"
- b. Sight can be deceptive because we see through the lens of our own experience
- c. When we let our experiences determine what we see we end up with what we see today in the world
- d. We can let our experiences help us with our sight, but that is another lesson entirely
- e. My point is that sight is a hindrance to our faith

II. Hope

- a. Assurance – substantial nature, essence, actual being, reality
 - i. Our hope has a reality – it is the resurrection of Jesus
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:12–14 (ESV); ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
 - iii. None of us here witnessed the resurrection of Jesus
 - iv. But we know the 'actual being,' Jesus the Christ
 - v. We know the reality of His resurrection
 - vi. Our hope is a confident expectation of the resurrection of Jesus
- b. Conviction – the act of presenting evidence for the truth, proof
 - i. There is proof of Jesus resurrection
 - ii. We have a misunderstanding of faith
 - iii. Judges 6:36–40 (ESV); ³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, ³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰ And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.
 - iv. God did not tell Gideon, "you're just going to have to believe me" – God gave him proof
 - v. The Siege of Yorktown was an extremely important battle in the revolutionary war

1. General Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington
 2. The last major battle of the revolutionary war
 3. General Cornwallis' surrender forced Britain to the negotiating table
 4. General Washington gained a reputation as a great leader and eventually was elected the first President of the United States
- vi. How many of us were there for the battle of Yorktown? – How do we know that these things happened?
- c. People mistakenly call the Bible a book of faith – it is a book of history, showing us God's mighty hand creating mankind and His love for us in the sacrifice of His Son
 - d. Faith is reality (assurance) through presented proofs (conviction)
- III. By Faith
- a. Because we have this reality through proof, we behave in the manner that God prescribes
 - b. Hebrews 11:2–3 (ESV); ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
 - c. Noah – Hebrews 11:7 (ESV); ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
 - d. Abraham
 - i. Hebrews 11:8 (ESV); ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:17–19 (ESV); ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
 - e. Moses
 - i. Hebrews 11:24–26 (ESV); ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:29–30 (ESV); ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
 - f. What are you doing 'by faith'?
 - i. You don't have to build an ark or part the Red Sea
 - ii. I retired from the military earlier than I had planned
 - iii. I had one commitment from the church in Japan for support (A family of 9 at that time)

- iv. One of my friends called me 'irresponsible' for retiring without having a job lined up that would support my family
- g. We should have a new understanding of 'by faith'
- h. We have the proof of the reality of Jesus' sacrifice – the assurance (reality) of things hoped for (the resurrection of Jesus) and the conviction (proof) of things not seen
- i. "We will stand as children of the promise, We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward, Till the race is finished and the work is done, We'll walk by faith and not by sight"