

SERMON

THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH
OLD AND NEW

Sermon on Day 1: The Foundation of Faith (Old Faith)

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1 — *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Introduction

Brothers and sisters, today, we are gathered to explore the foundation of our Christian life—*faith*. The writer of Hebrews gives us a profound definition of faith: *"the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* This faith is not a wishful idea or vague belief. It's something real, something solid—the *very bedrock upon which our lives as Christians are built*.

Today, we will talk about what this faith is, how it starts as "old faith," and why it's so crucial in our prophetic journey with God. We'll explore how the Bible presents this foundational faith, which, although simple in the beginning, holds immense power and promise.

I. What is Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

Let's break down this passage. Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Faith as Substance

Faith is not just an abstract belief. It is a **substance**—something that carries weight and reality, even when we cannot physically see the outcome. This idea tells us that faith is not merely positive thinking or blind optimism. It's the spiritual foundation of things hoped for, the promises God has made.

Take a moment and think: What are you hoping for today? Is it a promise of healing? A breakthrough in your family? A deeper relationship with God? Faith is what gives **substance** to these hopes, anchoring us in the promises of God, even before we see the evidence.

Faith as Evidence

The second part of the verse says, “*the evidence of things not seen.*” Faith acts as proof or conviction of what we cannot yet see with our physical eyes. We may not see God physically, but faith is the proof that He is working, that His promises will be fulfilled.

Think of the wind—you can’t see it, but you can see its effect as it moves the trees or brushes against your skin. Faith works the same way. It moves us, guides us, and shapes us, even when we cannot visibly see the outcome. Faith is the **evidence** that God’s unseen hand is moving on our behalf.

II. The Role of Old Faith in Our Journey

Let’s now shift our focus to what I call “old faith.” When we start our journey with Christ, faith is often simple, untested, and childlike. Many of us can recall the early days of our walk with God when we held onto His promises without fully understanding everything.

Biblical Examples of Old Faith

Consider Abraham. Hebrews 11:8 says that Abraham obeyed God's call to leave his homeland, not knowing where he was going. He didn't have all the details, but he had **faith** in God's word. This was Abraham's old faith—an unshakable trust in God's promises, despite having no visible proof of the outcome.

Or think of Noah. God told Noah to build an ark when there was no sign of a flood. Imagine the ridicule Noah must have faced! But Noah trusted God's word over what he could see with his eyes. That's foundational faith—a simple, unwavering belief in God's promise.

Our Own Experience of Old Faith

Many of us started with this kind of faith. Remember when you first believed? You may not have known all the theology or memorized every verse, but something in your heart was convinced of God's goodness. You believed He was with you, guiding you, even if you didn't understand all the steps.

Perhaps you trusted God with your future, your career, or your relationships, without knowing how everything would work out. This is the beauty of old faith—it's simple but solid. It's a childlike trust that says, "God, I may not see the full picture, but I trust that You do."

III. The Challenge and Beauty of Simple Faith

Faith in its early form—though simple—holds immense beauty. Jesus Himself commends childlike faith in Matthew 18:3 when He says, "*Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*"

Why does Jesus value childlike faith? It's because a child's trust is pure and untainted by doubt or skepticism. Children trust their parents without needing all the answers. Similarly, God calls us to trust Him fully, even when we don't understand everything. This is what old faith teaches us: we don't need to have all the answers to trust that God is good and that His promises are true.

Faith Anchors Us in Times of Uncertainty

Old faith, though it may seem untested, holds us steady in times of uncertainty. When we first believe, we cling to key truths: God is good, He loves us, and He desires the best for us. These truths become our anchor, especially in moments when life doesn't make sense.

Think about the early days of your faith journey. Perhaps you didn't have a deep theological understanding, but you held onto one key truth: God is with you. That simple truth was enough to carry you through difficult moments.

IV. Reflections on Your Faith Journey

Now let's turn inward for a moment. Think about your personal journey of faith. How did it begin? What moments of uncertainty did you face early on, where you had to rely on simple trust in God?

Was there a time when you were stepping into the unknown, not having all the answers, but holding onto the promise of God's goodness?

For many of us, foundational faith begins with an encounter with God—a personal moment of surrender where we feel God's presence in a deep, undeniable way. And even though we don't have all the answers, we trust that what God says is true. This type of faith is characterized by wonder, expectation, and dependence on God.

V. The Growth of Faith Over Time

As we mature in our walk with God, our faith deepens and grows. But even as we gain more knowledge and experience, we must never lose the simplicity of trusting God.

It's easy, over time, to become cynical or overly analytical, to second-guess God when things don't go as planned. But old faith reminds us to return to that childlike trust, to hold onto the wonder of believing in God's promises, even when we can't see the full picture.

Even mature faith rests on the foundation of simple belief in God's character. We must never lose that simplicity, even as our understanding of God expands.

The Importance of Revisiting Old Faith

Throughout our prophetic journey, it's important to revisit the foundation of our old faith. This doesn't mean that we stay in spiritual immaturity, but rather that we remember the core truths that first drew us to Christ: *God is faithful, He is trustworthy, and He is good.*

No matter how far we progress in our spiritual journey, we must return to the basics: God's promises are true, and He is with us, even when we don't fully understand His ways.

VI. Application: How Can We Revisit Our Old Faith Today?

Now, how can we apply this today? How can we return to that place of childlike faith, even as we mature in our understanding of God?

- 1. Reflect on God's Past Faithfulness:** Take time to remember the moments when God carried you, when He provided for you in ways you didn't expect. Recalling His past faithfulness builds your faith for the future.

2. Hold on to Simple Promises: Sometimes we overcomplicate our faith by trying to figure out every detail. Today, simply hold onto this truth: *God is good, and He will fulfill His promises.*

3. Trust God Without Needing All the Answers: Are there areas in your life right now where you feel uncertain? Perhaps God is asking you to step into something new without knowing all the details. Old faith reminds you to trust Him, even when the path isn't clear.

Conclusion

As we conclude, I want to encourage you to never lose sight of the foundation of your faith. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is the substance of what we hope for—the tangible proof of God's promises, even when we cannot see them.

Old faith, though simple, is the cornerstone of our spiritual journey. It's the faith that believes in God's promises before they are fulfilled. It's the faith that steps out in trust, even when the way forward is unclear.

Today, as we reflect on this foundation, I invite you to return to that childlike wonder and trust in God. No matter where you are in your faith journey, He is inviting you to rest in His promises and believe that He is good, even when you cannot yet see the outcome.

Prayer

Let's pray together.

Lord, thank You for the foundation of faith You have placed in each of us. Even in the moments when we don't have all the answers, You are guiding us. Help us to return to that simple

trust we had in You when we first believed. Strengthen our faith as we continue to grow in You, but let us never lose the childlike wonder of believing Your promises. Lord, increase our faith today, and help us to trust in Your goodness, even when we cannot yet see the outcome. In Jesus' name, Amen.