

## By Faith...

Aron Osborne

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>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. – Hebrews 11:1-3

### Keep Your Eyes on What You Do Not Yet See!

- being our sympathetic high priest before God (4:14-16)
- interceding for us day after day in heaven (7:25)
- being our God (8:10)
- remembering our sins no more (8:12)
- giving himself once for all as a final sacrifice for our sins (9:14)
- giving us a clean conscience by his own blood (9:14; 10:22)
- perfecting us for all time by a single offering (10:14)
- promising never to leave us or forsake us (13:5-6)

“There were many men and women who had nothing but the promises of God to rest upon, without any visible evidence that these promises would ever be fulfilled; yet so much did these promises mean to them that they **regulated the whole course of their lives in their light**. The promises related to a state of affairs belonging to the future; **but these people acted as if that state of affairs were already present, so convinced** were they that God could and would fulfill what he had promised. In other words, they were men and women of faith.” – FF BRuce

For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property since **you knew** that you yourselves had a better possession and abiding one. – Hebrews 10:34

### Keep Your Eyes on What You Do Not Yet See!

“All this great truth is aimed practically at making us into this kind of people. People who risk property and life in order to bring the love of God to others. People who do not look for comforts and ease and security as a necessary thing in life. People who are free from the American assumptions of style and safety and wealth and leisure. People who know there is one life to live and only what’s done in the name of Christ and for the eternal good of others will count in the end.” – John Piper

## What is Faith?

- Faith is a persistent hope in the promises of God; the internal assurance of what is hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- It is not imaginary or wishful thinking; it is a confidence that something is settled for the future.
- It is not a leap in the dark, hedging our bets; it is a confident trust in the eternal God, who has revealed himself in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is tenacious in the face of obstacles, trials, struggles, temptations and snares.
- This faith goes right to the core of our understanding of the very existence of the world; by faith we believe God spoke, and out of nothing he created everything that we now see!

“It is a spiritual act that sees the fingerprints of God. This does not mean that you believe them into being. That would be wishful thinking - the power of positive thinking. That is not authentic faith. Real faith is based on real Truth. It looks deeply at the world God has made – looks through it, so to speak - and by the grace of God, it sees the glory of God (as Psalm 19:1 says) standing forth off creation like a 3-D image.” – John Piper

## Imperfect Saints Who Persisted by Faith

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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**. – Hebrews 11:8

### Keep Your Eyes on What You Do Not Yet See!

#### Apply

- What is regulating your life right now? What is your anchor? Whatever the day brings, what is your fallback conviction about what you are doing on this planet?

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- Is Heaven real to you today?
- How are God’s promises regulating your living, deciding, giving?
- The focus of Hebrews 11 is on their faith, not their deeds, not their perfection.
- One of the promises of Jesus is to remember our sins no more...don’t stay stuck in your most recent doubt, sin or shackle...look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith!
- What is one new, or return to old way the promises of God would regulate you?
  
- Remember, new saint, weary saint, struggling to see saint...the message of Hebrews is not that you cling to faith...your Great High Priest has you in His loving, firm, unyielding, won’t let you go...grip. Your faith is in the One who is able to save to the uttermost as you draw near to him, because every day you keep your eyes on what you do not yet see your Great High Priest is making intercession for you! He will never let go!