<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
What Is Faith And How Does It Work?
Hebrews 11:1-2

<u>Because</u> Jesus is the perfect priest with the perfect sacrifice for our sins	**<u>Therefore</u> draw near to God hold fast to His promises, encourage each other, and stir up your faith in Him as your better possession**	**<u>Because</u> look at what God did for Old Testament saints who trusted Him**
Chapters 5—10:18	**10:19-39**	**11:1-39**

<u>Introduction</u>

The Christian life is all about faith in Jesus Christ. Everything we are called to be and do is said to come through faith. So it's crucial that we understand what faith is, and how it works. Those questions are answered in Heb 11:1-2.

<u>What is faith</u>? (v.1)

Some take this verse to mean that faith means having assurance and conviction of biblical truth. Faith does mean that. But this verse seems to say something more.

<u>How is faith the assurance of things hoped for</u>? (v.1)

The word "assurance" means the substance, or the reality, of something.
How is faith the substance of things hoped for? It's that when we have faith, God will sometimes give us an actual taste of His presence and His reality.

<u>How is faith the conviction of things not seen</u>? (vv.1-2)

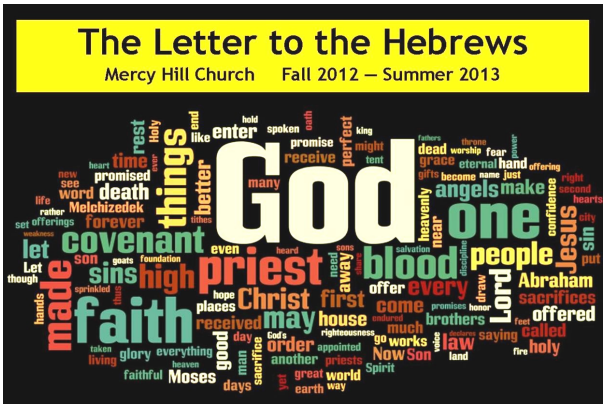
The word "conviction" means evidence or proof.
How is faith the evidence of things not seen?
V.2 gives the reason for how faith gives us evidence that God is really there —
It's because God will sometimes give us a commendation that we are pleasing to Him — personal assurance that we are saved..

<u>Is that really what this verse means</u>?

Other Bible teachers say the same thing.
Heb 10:19 and 6:19 illustrate this.
David Brainerd is an example of this.

<u>What does this mean for us</u>?

Trust Jesus Christ
Take time every day to nurture your faith


The Letter to the Hebrews
Mercy Hill Church Fall 2012 – Summer 2013
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HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Have you ever thought that by faith you could experience a substantial taste of what God has promised of heaven? Why or why not?

How does it affect you to think that this is what faith can bring?

Do you agree with this understanding of Heb 11:1? Why or why not?

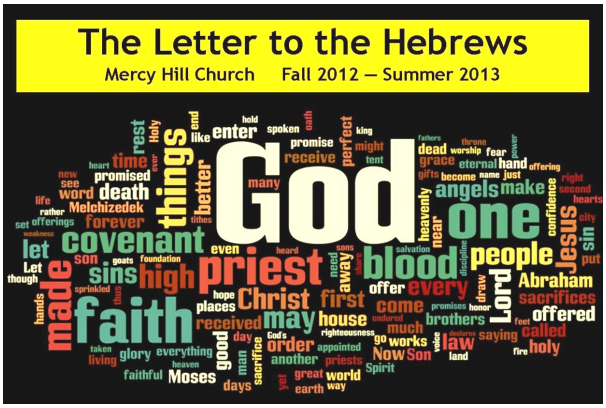
Have you had times when you experienced faith being the substance of things hoped for? How did that affect you?

Have you ever had times when you experienced faith being the evidence of things not seen? How did that affect you?

What helps you or hinders you from experiencing faith in this way?

What do you do to nurture your faith in Christ?

What might you do this coming week to nurture your faith in Christ?

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.