

4-17-2021

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT IS FAITH?

Some define faith as “a leap in the dark” implying that faith is based, not upon provable and objective evidence, but merely upon one’s subjective feelings. However, the Bible does not describe faith in such terms. Instead, it declares “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). The Greek word translated as “substance” means “a setting under” or a “support.” (Strong’s). Thayer says it refers to that which has a foundation or “that which has actual existence.” Our hope of salvation is not based upon how we feel about it, but upon the firm foundation of substantial and factual “evidence.” None of us have seen God with our eyes but the evidence for His existence is present, both in nature and in the revelation of His divine will in the Bible. The Psalmist wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalms 19:1). There is no excuse for rejecting what nature reveals about the existence of God. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

The material universe does not provide the only substance for faith in God. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). God’s written revelation provides sufficient and objective evidence that, not only does God exist, but that He loves us and provides for our salvation from sin through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Romans 5:8-9). Faith is man’s response to what God has revealed. Faith is essential to salvation for without faith no one can please God (Hebrews 11:6). Yet, genuine faith is always accompanied by active obedience to what God commands (Read Hebrews 11). Faith without obedience is “dead” (James 2:26).

Bible faith is not “a leap in the dark” but the “substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” Exercise your faith in God by obeying His plan for your salvation. greenplainchurchofchrist.org.