

# Hebrews 11:1-7

- 10:39-12:2 is focused on encouraging the readers to continue in confidence (*hypostasis*, also 3:14) and endure (*hupomone*)
  - 10:39 – “We however are not of those who draw back to destruction, but are of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”
  - 12:1,2 – “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us , looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”
- Definition and identification of faith in verses 11:1,2,6 –
  - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for.
  - (faith is) the conviction of things not seen.
  - By it (faith) the people of old received their commendation.
  - Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)
  - Whoever would draw near to God must believe:
    - that he exists and
    - that he rewards those who seek him
- Examples of those how lived and performed because of faith in verses 11:3,4,5,7 –
  - By faith we...UNDERSTAND
  - By faith Abel...OFFERED and WAS COMMENDED AS RIGHTEOUS
  - By faith Enoch...PLEASED GOD and WAS TAKEN UP
  - By faith Noah...BUILT AN ARK and CONDEMNED THE WORLD

Hebrews 11:1 – “**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**”

1510 [e]	1161 [e]	4102 [e]	1679 [e]	5287 [e]	4229 [e]	1650 [e]	3756 [e]	991 [e]
Estin	de	pistis	elpizomenōn	hypostasis	pragmatōn	elenchos	ou	blepomenōn
1 Ἔστιν	δέ	πίστις	ἐλπίζομένων	ὑπόστασις	, πραγμάτων	ἔλεγχος	οὐ	βλεπομένων .
Is	now	faith	of [things] hoped for	[the] assurance	of things	[the] conviction	not	being seen
V-PIA-3S	Conj	N-NFS	V-PPMP-GNP	N-NFS	N-GNP	N-NMS	Adv	V-PPMP-GNP

εἰμί δέ πίστις ἐλπίζω ὑπόστασις πρᾶγμα ἔλεγχος οὐ λέπω  
 now is faith of things being hoped reality of things proof not being seen

1. Faith is now. Faith is in the present.
2. **Elpizomenon** – elpizomenōn – “of things hoped for” -
  - a. From *elpidzo* /el-pid-so/ which means “to expect”, “to hope for”/
  - b. This hop is actively waiting for God’s fulfillment
3. ὑπόστασις - **hypostasis** - “reality” - “a support, substance, steadiness, assurance”
  - A. Translations:
    - NIV “being sure”
    - KJ “substance”
    - American Standard Version “assurance”
    - Weymouth “confident assurance”
    - Rotherham’s “confidence”

- Berkley “faith forms a solid ground for what is hoped for”
- Montgomery “title-deed”
- B. The Linguistic Key says:  
**“Assurance” - hypostasis** - The word has a number of connotations and usages:  
essence, reality, substance, foundation, or confident assurance, hope or guarantee, attestation, as in documents that attest or provide evidence of ownership”
- C. This word “assurance” - *hypostasis* - has been used twice in Hebrews:
  - 1:3 where the Son is said to be the exact representation of God’s *hypostasis* (translated: “being”)
  - 3:14 where the believers are told to hold firmly till the end the *hypostasis* (translated: “confidence”)
- D. The meaning of this word can be objective or subjective:
  - Objective (KJ, NEB) where it speaks of “substance” or “reality”. This is the use of *hypostasis* in 1:3.
  - Subjective (ERV RSV) where it speaks of “assurance” or “confidence”. This is the use of *hypostasis* in 3:14. Read Paul in Romans 8:24 “hope that is seen is no hope at all.”

4. [ἔλεγχος](#) - **elenchos** - means “evidence” “proof” “certain”

- A. This word is found in ancient papyri of legal proofs of an accusation.
- B. *elenchos* has the same two-fold meaning as the English word “conviction” such as is seen in the ideas in these two verses:
  - 2 Tim. 3:16 where it is the conviction or refutation of error -  
*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*
  - Here the word *elegchos* is used which means “a proof”, “a test”:

3956 [e]	1124 [e]	2315 [e]	2532 [e]	5624 [e]	4314 [e]	1319 [e]	4314 [e]
pasa	graphē	theopneustos	kai	ōphelimos	pros	didaskalian	pros
16	πᾶσα	γραφὴ	θεόπνευστος	καὶ	ὠφέλιμος	πρὸς	διδασκαλίαν , πρὸς
Every	Scripture [is]	God-breathed	and	profitable	for	instruction	for
Adj-NFS	N-NFS	Adj-NFS	Conj	Adj-NFS	Prep	N-AFS	Prep

1650 [e]	4314 [e]	1882 [e]	4314 [e]	3809 [e]	3588 [e]	1722 [e]	1343 [e]
elegmon	pros	epanorthōsin	pros	paideian	tēn	en	dikaiosynē
ἐλεγκμόν	, πρὸς	ἐπανόρθωσιν	, πρὸς	παιδείαν	τὴν	ἐν	δικαιοσύνῃ ,
conviction	for	correction	[and] for	training	-	in	righteousness
N-AMS	Prep	N-AFS	Prep	N-AFS	Art-AFS	Prep	N-DFS

- Also it means assurance, conviction or evidence as is the case with Moses in Hebrews 11:27 where Moses “saw him who is invisible” as in:  
*“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because **he saw** him who is invisible.”*
  - It is also a different word in the Greek text, but it captures the other idea of *elegmon* other than “conviction” but as “evidence”

4102 [e]	2641 [e]	125 [e]	3361 [e]	5399 [e]	3588 [e]	2372 [e]	3588 [e]	935 [e]
Pistei	katelipen	Aigypton	mē	phobētheis	ton	thymon	tu	basileōs
27 Πίστει	κατέλιπεν	Αἴγυπτον	, μὴ	φοβηθεῖς	τὸν	θυμὸν	τοῦ	βασιλέως ;
<u>By faith</u>	he left	Egypt	not	having feared	the	anger	of the	king
N-DFS	V-AIA-3S	N-AFS	Adv	V-APP-NMS	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

3588 [e]	1063 [e]	517 [e]	5613 [e]	3708 [e]	2594 [e]
ton	gar	aoraton	hōs	horōn	ekarterēsen
τὸν	γὰρ	ἀόρατον	ὡς	ὁρῶν	, ἐκαρτέρησεν .
the	for	Invisible [One]	as	seeing	<u>he persevered</u>
Art-AMS	Conj	Adj-AMS	Adv	V-PPA-NMS	V-AIA-3S

“do not see” is used because the promises are:

1. Spiritual
2. Future

Faith is “conviction or proof of the things that are not seen”

- Faith has conviction, evidence or proof of what it is trusting in and what it is waiting for.
- Faith is a confidence that something in the future that is not yet seen or measurable that has been promised will “soon” manifest to be experienced and seen.
- Faith is confident trust in God as revealed in his Word.
- Faith trusts in God’s unseen realities. (For example, the universe at one point was an unseen reality only known by God.)
- Faith is NOT blind.
- Faith is NOT contrary to Reality
- Faith is NOT a vague hope based only in your imagination
- Faith is NOT wishful thinking.
- Faith is NOT you wishing the world and situations would match your desires or baseless preconceived expectations.

11:2 – “For by it the people of old received their commendation.

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1063 [e]	3140 [e]	3588 [e]	4245 [e]
en	tautē	gar	emartyrēthēsan	hoi	presbyteroi
2 ἐν	ταύτῃ	γὰρ	ἐμαρτυρήθησαν	οἱ	πρεσβύτεροι .
In	this	for	were commended	the	ancients
Prep	DPro-DFS	Conj	V-AIP-3P	Art-NMP	Adj-NMP

ἐν	οὗτος	γὰρ	μαρτυρέω	ὁ	πρεσβύτερος
by	this	for	obtained witness	the	elders

1. “commended for” or “obtained witness” is aorist indicative passive which means someone else testified to their faith. That someone else is God.

- a. People with faith received commendation, or a good recommendation or a good testimony, from God.
  - b. God provided a character witness for these people because of their faith. They believed what God said before they could see it.
2. “**elders**” is the list of names that follows in chapter 11.
  3. The author is describing what faith looks like in the life of a believer.

**11:3 – “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.”**

4102 [e]	3539 [e]	2675 [e]	3588 [e]	165 [e]	4487 [e]	2316 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	3361 [e]	1537 [e]	5316 [e]	3588 [e]
Pistei	nooumen	katērtisthai	tous	aiōnas	rhēmati	Theou	eis	to	mē	ek	phainomenōn	to
3 Πίστει	νοοῦμεν	κατηρτίσθαι	τοὺς	αἰῶνας	ῥήματι	Θεοῦ	, εἰς	τὸ	μὴ	ἐκ	φαινομένων	, τὸ
By faith	we understand	to have been formed	the	universe	by [the] word	of God	so that	which	not	from [things]	being visible	the things
N-DFS	V-PIA-1P	V-RNM/P	Art-AMP	N-AMP	N-DNS	N-GMS	Prep	Art-ANS	Adv	Prep	V-PPM/P-GNP	Art-ANS

991 [e]	1096 [e]
blepomenon	gegonenai
βλεπόμενον	γεγονέναι .
being seen	have been made
V-PPM/P-ANS	V-RNA

πίστις      νοιέω      καταρτίζω      ὁ      αἰών      ὄημα      θεός  
 by faith    we understand    to have been adjusted    the    ages    word    of God

εἰς ὃ      μὴ      ἐκ      φαίνω      ὃ      βλέπω      γίνομαι  
 so as    not    out    things appearing    the thing    being seen    to have become

1. To understand anything about faith and reality we must understand that it all began when God spoke. Everything that is seen comes from the unseen.
  - a. This is **ex nihilo** (Latin for “from nothing”) which is the doctrine that God made things out of nothing other than his will and his word.
  - b. The Greek/Roman cosmology (the science of the origin and development of the universe) of 63 AD taught that matter existed eternally. And, the gods organized the visible universe out of some kind of visible, preexisting matter.
  - c. Verses that support Hebrews 11:3 are:
    - i. Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
    - ii. Psalm 33:6, 9 – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth....For he spoke, and it came to be;
    - iii. he commanded, and it stood firm.
    - iv. Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
    - v. John 1:3 – “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
    - vi. Acts 14:15 – “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.”

- vii. Romans 4:17 – “As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”[a] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.”
- viii. Colossians 1:16 – “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

2. Faith is the doorway into reality. Faith is not fantasy, but confidence in the truth. In this case the truth comes to us in the forms of promises or the word of God
3. [νοιέω](#) “understand” expresses a mental perception and not a sensuous perception.
4. [καταρτίζω](#) “was formed” or “to have been adjusted” speaks of the creation and its vast variety and its unity. The tense of the word indicates this is still seen in creation.
5. [αἰών](#) “ages” speaks of Time and Space
6. [ῥῆμα](#) “Rhema” or “word” “utterance” is the spoken word and is not *logos*
7. Romans 1:20 Paul says we can perceive or understand the invisible through having seen the visible:  
“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

11:4 – “By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

4102 [e]	4119 [e]	2378 [e]	6 [e]	3844 [e]	2535 [e]	4374 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1223 [e]	3739 [e]	3140 [e]	1510 [e]	1342 [e]
Pistei	pleiona	thysian	Habel	para	Kain	prosēnenken	tō	Theō	di'	hēs	emartyrēthē	einai	dikaiois
4 Πίστει	πλείονα	θυσίαν	Ἄβελ	παρὰ	Καῖν	προσήνεγκεν	τῷ	Θεῷ	, δι'	ἧς	ἐμαρτυρήθη	εἶναι	δίκαιος ,
By faith	a more excellent	sacrifice	Abel	than	Cain	offered	-	to God	through	which	he was testified	to be	righteous
N-DFS	Adj-AFS-C	N-AFS	N-NMS	Prep	N-AMS	V-AIA-3S	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Prep	RelPro-GFS	V-AIP-3S	V-PNA	Adj-NMS

3140 [e]	1909 [e]	3588 [e]	1435 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]	1223 [e]	846 [e]	599 [e]	2089 [e]	2980 [e]
martyrountos	epi	tois	dōrois	autou	του	Theou	kai	di'	autēs	apothanōn	eti	lalei
μαρτυροῦντος	ἐπὶ	τοῖς	δώροις	αὐτοῦ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	; καὶ	δι'	αὐτῆς	, ἀποθανῶν ,	ἔτι	λαλεῖ .
bearing witness	to	the	gifts	of him	-	God	and	through	it	having died	still	he speaks
V-PPA-GMS	Prep	Art-DNP	N-DNP	PPro-GM3S	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Conj	Prep	PPro-GF3S	V-APA-NMS	Adv	V-PIA-3S

[πίστις](#) [πλείων](#) [θυσία](#) [Ἄβελ](#) [παρὰ](#) [Καῖν](#) [προσφέρω](#) [ὁ](#)  
By faith a greater (a better) sacrifice Abel than Cain offered

[θεός](#) [διά](#) [ὅς](#) [μαρτυρέω](#) [εἰμί](#) [δίκαιος](#) [μαρτυρέω](#)  
to God through which he obtained witness to be just witnessing

[ἐπί](#) [ὁ](#) [δῶρον](#) [αὐτός](#) [ὁ](#) [θεός](#) [καί](#) [διά](#) [αὐτός](#) [ἀποθνήσκω](#) [ἔτι](#) [λαλέω](#)  
over the gifts of him God and through it having died still speaks

11:5 – “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

4102 [e]	1802 [e]	3346 [e]	3588 [e]	3361 [e]	3708 [e]	2288 [e]	2532 [e]	3756 [e]	2147 [e]	1360 [e]	3346 [e]	846 [e]
Pistei	Henōch	metetethē	tou	mē	idein	thanaton	kai	ouch	hēurisketo	dioti	metethēken	auton
5 Πίστει	Ἐνώχ	μετετέθη	, τοῦ	μὴ	ἰδεῖν	θάνατον	; καὶ	οὐχ	ἠύρισκετο	, διότι	μετέθηκεν	αὐτὸν
By faith	Enoch	was translated	-	not	to see	death	and	not	was he found	because	had taken up	him
N-DFS	N-NMS	V-AIP-3S	Art-GNS	Adv	V-ANA	N-AMS	Conj	Adv	V-IIM/P-3S	Conj	V-AIA-3S	PPro-AM3S

3588 [e]	2316 [e]	4253 [e]	1063 [e]	3588 [e]	3331 [e]	3140 [e]	2100 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]		
ho	Theos	pro	gar	tēs	metatheseōs	memartyrētai	euarestēkenai	tō	Theō		
ὁ	Θεός	·	πρὸ	γὰρ	τῆς	μεταθέσεως	, μεμαρτύρηται	εὐαρεστηκέναι	τῷ	Θεῷ	·
-	God	Before	for	the	translation	he was commended	to have pleased	-	God		
Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	Conj	Art-GFS	N-GFS	V-RIM/P-3S	V-RNA	Art-DMS	N-DMS		

πίστις Ἐνώχ μετατίθημι ὁ μὴ ὁράω θάνατος καὶ οὐ εὕρισκω διότι  
 by faith Enoch was removed not to see death and not was found because

μετατίθημι αὐτός ὁ θεός πρὸ γὰρ ὁ μετάθεσις μαρτυρέω  
 removed him God before for removal he has obtained witness

εὐαρεστέω ὁ θεός  
 to having been well pleasing to God

**11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

5565 [e]	1161 [e]	4102 [e]	102 [e]	2100 [e]	4100 [e]	1063 [e]	1163 [e]	3588 [e]	4334 [e]	3588 [e]
chōris	de	pisteōs	adynaton	euarestēsai	pisteusai	gar	dei	ton	proserchomenon	tō
6 χωρίς	δὲ	πίστεως	, ἀδύνατον	εὐαρεστήσαι	· πιστεῦσαι	γὰρ	δεῖ	τὸν	προσερχόμενον	τῷ
Without	now	faith	[it is] impossible	to please [Him]	To believe	for	it behooves	the one	drawing near	-
Prep	Conj	N-GFS	Adj-NNS	V-ANA	V-ANA	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Art-AMS	V-PPM/P-AMS	Art-DMS

2316 [e]	3754 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	1567 [e]	846 [e]	3406 [e]	1096 [e]	
Theō	hoti	estīn	kai	tois	ekzētousin	auton	misthapodotēs	ginetai	
Θεῷ	, ὅτι	ἔστιν	, καὶ	τοῖς	ἐκζητοῦσιν	αὐτὸν	, μισθαποδότης	γίνεται	·
to God	that	He exists	and [that]	to those	earnestly seeking out	Him	a rewarder	He becomes	
N-DMS	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Art-DMP	V-PPA-DMP	PPro-AM3S	N-NMS	V-PIM/P-3S	

χωρίς δέ πίστις ἀδύνατος εὐαρεστέω πιστεύω γὰρ δεῖ ὁ προσερχομαι  
 without but faith impossible well pleasing to believe for it the approaching

θεός ὅτι εἰμί καὶ ὁ ἐκζητέω αὐτός μισθαποδότης γίνομαι  
 to God that he is and the seeking out him a rewarder becomes

11:7 – “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.

4102 [e]	5537 [e]	3575 [e]	4012 [e]	3588 [e]	3369 [e]	991 [e]	2125 [e]
Pistei	chrēmatistheis	Nōe	peri	tōn	mēdepō	blepomenōn	eulabētheis
7 Πίστει	χρηματισθεῖς	Νῶε	περὶ	τῶν	μηδέπω	βλεπόμενων	, εὐλαβηθεῖς ,
By faith	having been divinely instructed	Noah	concerning	the things	not yet	seen	having been moved with fear
N-DFS	V-APP-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	Art-GNP	Adv	V-PPMP-GNP	V-APP-NMS

2680 [e]	2787 [e]	1519 [e]	4991 [e]	3588 [e]	3624 [e]	846 [e]	1223 [e]	3739 [e]	2632 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	2532 [e]
kateskeuasen	kibōton	eis	sōtērian	tou	oikou	autou	di'	hēs	katekrinen	ton	kosmon	kai
κατεσκεύασεν	κιβωτὸν	εἰς	σωτηρίαν	τοῦ	οἴκου	αὐτοῦ	, δι'	ἧς	κατέκρινεν	τὸν	κόσμον	, καὶ
prepared	an ark	for	[the] salvation	of the	household	of him	by	which	he condemned	the	world	and
V-AIA-3S	N-AFS	Prep	N-AFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-GM3S	Prep	RelPro-GFS	V-AIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj

3588 [e]	2596 [e]	4102 [e]	1343 [e]	1096 [e]	2818 [e]
tēs	kata	pistin	dikaiosynēs	egeneto	klēronomos
τῆς	κατὰ	πίστιν	δικαιοσύνης	, ἐγένετο	κληρονόμος .
of the	according to	faith	righteousness [that is]	he became	heir
Art-GFS	Prep	N-AFS	N-GFS	V-AIM-3S	N-NMS

πίστις χρηματίζω Νῶε περὶ ὁ μηδέπω βλέπω εὐλαβέομαι κατασκευάζω  
κιβωτός εἰς σωτηρία ὁ οἶκος αὐτός διὰ ὅς κατακρίνω ὁ κόσμος  
καὶ ὁ κατὰ πίστις δικαιοσύνη γίνομαι κληρονόμος