

Word Study Helps

Lesson 14, Days One Through Five, #1

***“faith”* as used in Hebrews 11**

#4102G = *pistis*

Persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction of religious truth, reliance upon Christ for salvation, constancy in such profession and, by extension, the system of gospel truth itself. Its chief significance is a conviction concerning God and His Word and the believer’s relationship to Him—Strong’s

Primarily, firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing. Used in the NT always of “faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual.” The main elements in “faith” and its relation to the invisible God— as distinct from “faith” in man—are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb (see #4100, *pisteuo*, below); they are:

- 1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgment of God’s revelation or truth
- 2) a personal surrender to Him
- 3) a conduct inspired by such surrender

Prominence is given to one or other of these elements according to the context. All this stands in contrast to belief in its purely natural exercise, which consists of an opinion held in good “faith” without necessary reference to its proof. The object of Abraham’s “faith” was not God’s promise (that was the occasion of its exercise); his faith rested on God Himself—Vine’s

***“believe”* as used in Hebrews 11**

#4100G = *pisteuo*

Verb form of 4102; to have faith in, upon or with respect to a person or thing. By implication, to entrust, especially one’s spiritual well-being to Christ—Strong’s

To be persuaded of, place confidence in, trust; signifies reliance upon, not mere credence—Vine’s