

*"Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **BY FAITH** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:1-6 KJV*



Granite is the “substance” of mountains. Wood is the “substance” of trees. *“Faith is the ‘substance’ of things hoped.”* What is the “substance” of your hope? What do you look forward to after this life, if anything? Faith pleases God when we apply the value of “substance” to our faith. In other words, faith determines all of our decisions. Either God’s Word is completely true or it is completely false! There is no middle ground. Many say they believe in Heaven and pay homage to God’s infinite love, but refuse to believe in the existence of Hell or His vengeance and wrath. They delude themselves that God’s Love includes tolerance of sin. IT DOES NOT! God’s character and attributes are infinite! God took human form and died to rescue the repentant from the inescapable penalty of sin! Why did He do that if sin is tolerable?? Only faith in God’s love transforms sinners to saints, wretched to wealthy, vile to victorious, and carnal cretins to citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven! In no way, shape, or form does it accept, excuse, or tolerate that which opposes God! He does not accept partial obedience. King Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites INCLUDING the sheep and oxen, but he disobeyed and allowed the people to keep the best of the sheep and oxen *“for sacrifices.”* That which costs you nothing is no sacrifice! Saul’s throne was stripped from him and given to another. Disobedience IS rebellion! God’s Word says, *“Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.”* God’s Word is plain. It needs no priest or pastor to decode it. Many attempt to rewrite and retranslate with the stated intention of making it more “readable,” but, without exception, they salve the severity of sin and deny the deity of “Jesus Christ. *“Jesus Christ, THE SAME yesterday, today, and forever! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is NO VARIABLENESS, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING!”* God changes not!

When all around have fled and gone,  
And hope of rescue there is none,  
To calmly face the test of Grace,  
Will bring the saint before God’s face. ~CGP

Placing a higher value on God’s Word than your own life is what it takes to please God, and you cannot unless you believe and trust it. Do You? Paul wrote, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the Life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your Life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our Life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in Glory.”* Faith trusts and obeys in spite of circumstances, not because of them! The martyrs went singing through the flames into the everlasting arms of the Father. How could anyone sing who was actually burning in flames? God was with them in the flame! If you trust and obey, He’ll give you grace and power when needed for He will walk beside you. Jesus said, *“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”* Men, who

think to evade God's Judgment by changing God's Word, need to heed this warning from the Book of Revelation:

*“For I testify unto every man that heareth the Words of the Prophecy of this Book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this Book: And if any man shall take away from the Words of the Book of this Prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this Book. He which testifieth these things saith, ‘Surely I come quickly!’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:18-20 KJV*

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