

Convinced in My Conviction

Hebrews 11:1-3 & 2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 11:1-3

- ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good report.
³ 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.

- “A society in panic can easily be led or misled” – Doug Clay
- “We (the AG) will never offer a person the benefits of grace without talking about the cost of discipleship” – Doug Clay

- “Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ” – Bonhoeffer
- Discipleship without the Bible is impossible and leads to selective morality and spirituality.

- “When a church gets too distracted for Bible engagement as their central ministry it simply produces a Christian who does not know enough to be faithful follower of Christ” – Doug Clay

Hebrews 11:1

- Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. (NLT)
- Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]. (AMP)

- “Substance” in the Greek is “hupostasis”. It means a setting under or support. Assurance or confidence. It is the opposite of hypothesis.
- Faith is not about trusting a hope or a guess, faith is having a trust in a fact that cannot be disputed.

- “If your faith does not rest upon the Word of God, it is not biblical faith” – J. Vernon McGee.
- We can have assurance of our salvation when and only when we have assurance that the Bible is true.

2 Timothy 3:16 (AMP)

- ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];

- It is impossible to claim Jesus as your Savior and not make Him your Lord. Either our lives will reflect Jesus' lordship or our lordship.
- When we do not live for Jesus our lack of works, especially works of righteousness, reflect our lack of faith in Jesus Himself.

- John 14:26 – ²⁶ ...the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you
- Philippians 1:19 - ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

1 John 2:27 (AMP)

- ²⁷ As for you, the anointing [the special gift, the preparation] which you received from Him remains [permanently] in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But just as His anointing teaches you [giving you insight through the presence of the Holy Spirit] about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as His anointing has taught you, you must remain in Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him]

- The strength of our defense against the lies of false doctrine and false teachers and a protection from all sin is not predicated on our intellect or even how much Scripture we have memorized, but upon the Holy Spirit revealing, teaching and making God's Word come alive in us.

- The Word of God is the Final Word
- “We will not believe more than we know and we will not live higher than our beliefs” – Doug Clay
- “God’s Word provides a sustaining stability in a morally shifting world” – Doug Clay

- “Religion [The Church} today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society’s own level, and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender.” – Tozer

Hebrews 11:3 (AMP)

- ³ By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed *and* created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (AMP)
- The word that spoke the universe into existence spoke the Bible into existence.

- “The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.” – A.W. Tozer

- The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. – D.L. Moody (this is the transformative power of God's Word)
- To be a transformative church you must first be a transformed church
- To be a transformed church you must first be a transformed Christian