

"Faithful - In Christ (Part 3)" [Hebrews 11:1, 2](#)

Paul showed us just how important our relationship with Christ is in Philippians 3:7-9

- In Christ starts with our **position at Salvation** Phase 1, can (and should) **continue in a relationship** Phase 2 and **culminates in eternity** Phase 3
- This relationship should be the **most important** thing in our lives. Above and beyond anything.
- We are never standing still in our Spiritual life

The faithful believer

- A faithful believer can't exist without 1st a position in Christ and 2^{ndly} a relationship with Christ through a consistent intake and application of Truth.
- In order to have the confident expectation in God from Heb. 11:1, we must get to know the object or our confidence
- Its a **process**, just as the strengthening of our **faith** is a process (they go hand in hand!)

Spiritual

- A spiritual person is a person filled with the Holy Spirit.
- There is not spirituality without the Holy Spirit

Heb 11:1-6

- **1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**
- **2 For by it (by what?) the men of old gained approval (μαρτυρέω).**

Various translations of **μαρτυρέω**

- NASB95 For by it the men of old **gained approval**.
- ESV For by it the people of old **received their commendation**.
- KJV 1900 For by it the elders **obtained a good report**.
- AV 1873 For by it the elders **obtained a good report**.
- ASV 1901 For therein the elders **had witness borne to them**.
- NIV This is what the ancients **were commended for**.
- NKJV For by it the elders **obtained a good testimony**.
- NET For by it the people of old **received God's commendation**.
- NLT Through their faith, the people in days of old **earned a good reputation**.
- YLT for in this were the elders **testified of**;
- RSV For by it the men of old **received divine approval**.

Μαρτυρέω martureō

- **Usage: Verb, 3s, Aorist, Passive, Indicative: to bear witness, testify, give evidence or proof**

Aorist tense

- The author is speaking about Old testament believers (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah)
- The point in time is looking back on the events in their life that gave evidence of their reliance on God through faith
- Just as we too will one day look back at our life testimonies as a point in time. But we aren't there yet...our testimony, our witness is in effect right now
- Court is in session. The opportunity is available right now. **Redeem** the time (Eph. 5:16 *eksagorázō to buy up, ransom, to rescue from loss*)

Passive voice

- We receive the testimony or evidence
- We are incapable of giving a testimony that God approves of on our own

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- The only way our lives can be a positive testimony is through the Holy Spirit (which we receive).
- The only valid testimony is that which is received from God
- This verse is telling us that ONLY by faith can our lives be evidence of Christ
- Because only through faith can we allow God to do what he desires to do (through us and on our behalf)
 - In this way we can glory God

Our life is evidence, witness, testimony

- The issue is not the adversity, but how you handle the adversity (our audience consist of the human and angelic realm)
- Are we glorifying God when we want to give up, toss in the towel? NO!
- The issue is not retreating in adversity, but letting God take the stress, the worry
- The issue is not becoming a victim of your circumstances but staying on the offensive through the Filling of the Holy Spirit
- Stay on the offensive!!!!

Noun form μάρτυς, martus – witness

- A person who sacrifices something of great value and especially life itself for the sake of principle
- Phil. 2:4-8

Higher purpose

- We must remember that our suffering in this life is for an infinitely higher purpose than our own
- It's for God's purposes, and our benefit
- Through adversity we continue to grow our relationship with Jesus Christ