

Module : Foundation or Elementary Doctrines of Christ

Session : Faith in the Person of God as FATHER

Focus : Faith Confidently Trusts in God and Patiently Endures in Hope

In this session, we essentially continue our definition of faith by focussing on the meaning of the word, 'SUBSTANCE'. We indicated in the prior session that this word, in the Greek, has THREE meanings.

- Substance = HUPOSTASIS¹** = (1) What really exists under any appearance; reality; essential nature.
- (2) That which is the basis of something, hence assurance, guarantee, confidence;
- (3) That quality which leads one to stand under, endure, or undertake something, firmness, boldness, confidence

The first of these was explained in session one. Here is a brief recap:

The 'essential nature' of God, that which really lies under the 'appearing' and exhibition of His glory (the exact representation of his nature), is His GRACE, His substance. Faith is a firm persuasion or belief regarding, as true and reliable, something heard from God in respect to His Person, His Promise or His Purpose. This strong ability to believe and be fully convinced or persuaded of things about God in respect to these three areas (His person, promise or purpose), is purely the result and outcome of the access to and reception of His grace (substance). The fact that we have faith is only possible because God's grace in us grants to us that capacity to believe. Hence, we concluded, faith's focus and pursuit is GOD, the PERSON of GOD Himself – His essential nature and being. As offshoots from this, we can then secondarily trust Him for the realisation of His promises and execution of His purposes in and through our lives. All these points were adequately demonstrated as principles, and by the reference to certain persons in the Bible who modelled the principles by their practice, e.g. Gideon, David, Abraham, Noah and Stephen.

In this session, we explore the second and third meanings of 'hupostasis'.

(2) That Which is the Basis of Something, Hence Assurance, Guarantee, Confidence.

In the light of this second meaning of hupostasis, the NASB version of the Bible frames Hebrews 11:1 as follows ...

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the CONVICTION of things not seen.

Again, I remind you that the words '*of things*' in Heb. 11:1a, are not in the original Greek manuscripts. So it should read, "Now faith is the assurance hoped for". The person of faith or who has faith is fully assured, confident and has an internal sense of being guaranteed as to the outcome of or the realisation of God's person, promise or purpose.

Faith (firm persuasion) is the 'basis of the assurance' hoped for. This may sound rhetorical, since faith - pistis in the Greek - already alludes to a conviction or firm persuasion. This has to be understood in respect to hypostasis as a primary reference to the essential nature of God, viz. His grace, which underpins all of His demonstrated glory and goodness.

God's essential nature, His grace, is the very grounds upon which we can have a firm assurance and be fully persuaded concerning the things He says, promises or requires of us. **Your position of faith is rooted in your understanding of the Person of God as FAITHFUL. You can trust God because you can trust His nature or being as trustworthy. You can have faith in Him because He is faithful.**

Our faith is not in 'faith' as a principle, but our faith is in God, as a person, specifically in God, as our FATHER.

FAITH PLEASES GOD BECAUSE IT KNOWS GOD AS 'FATHER'

Many people believe IN God, but few believe God. Believing in God accepts that He exists. Believing God demands that you trust Him implicitly as your Father, and this is what really pleases Him.

Apart from faith, it is absolutely impossible to **please God**.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He IS and that He is a REWARDER of those who SEEK Him.

Faith in God pleases Him, for it conveys to God that we trust HIM, His Person, His nature and character. Faith trusts God! This posture of faith PLEASES God and evokes within Him a willing and kind intention towards REWARDING the person of faith with His goodness, grace, power, provision, preservation, etc.

God does not take pleasure in the absence or lack of faith. Faith pleases God. Faithlessness displeases Him.

Heb. 10:38-39

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, **but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**

FAITH 'COMES' TO GOD

Note in Heb. 11:6, the person of faith COMES TO GOD. The person of faith knows where to go. They run to God. They do not put their trust in man. They not only know to come to God, but also in what disposition to approach HIM, viz. IN FAITH.

Heb. 10:19-23 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **LET US DRAW NEAR** with a sincere heart in **FULL ASSUARANCE OF FAITH**, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Moses 'BROKE FAITH' with God by striking the rock when God commanded him to speak to it for water to flow.

Deut. 32:50-52 Then die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, because **you broke faith with Me** in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did **not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel**. For you shall see the land at a distance, but you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel."

Moses succumbed to the rebellious nature of the people of God he led, and disobeyed God's instructions. Faith's ultimate expression is meticulous obedience to the detail of what God speaks. Instead of speaking to the rock, he struck it. God regarded this as a lack of faith. Moses' faithlessness was described by God as, **"YOU BROKE FAITH WITH ME"**.

God was saying to him, ...

"You did not obey me with specificity. I clearly told you to SPEAK to the rock. You struck it, and although you got the result of your actions (i.e. water), you have demonstrated that you perceive of me as not completely trustworthy enough. You have done it your way and achieved a positive outcome and my people are happy with you as their leader, but I am dissatisfied with you as my servant."

In this instance, Moses' faithfulness had serious consequences. He was barred from entering the Promised Land – he did not get the reward of faith. Faith demands that we pay attention to detail

of commands. God is precise in how He speaks and expects exact obedience. Faith then must seek to obey God fully and precisely. This PLEASES GOD!

An Aside: It is a frightening thought, that Moses achieved what he anticipated even through his faithless disobedient actions. It is not always the case, that because you can point to what you estimate as a positive result or outcome of your 'belief' or 'faith', does it necessarily imply that that outcome was the result of true faith. Recall that Abram, through impatience, produced Ishmael. But Ishmael was not the fruit of faith but of the flesh.

If we seek God, we will find Him.

Matt. 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek, and you will find**; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and *he who seeks finds*, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

But when we **DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM** - which is the posture of faith – we not only find Him, but He **REWARDS** us. Faith is not oblivious to nor dismissive of the **REWARD** of God. It does first seek the Person of God as its priority, but it knows that attendant with this, comes the access of God's benevolence and gracious kindness.

Out of interest the Greek Word for SEEK in Matt 7:7 is 'ZETEO', meaning to 'strive after'. The Greek Word for the phrase 'DILEGENTLY SEEK' in Heb. 11:6 (NKJV) is EKZETEO, meaning to **EARNESTLY DESIRE** or to **CRAVE**. So add the 'EK' to your 'ZETEO'. Get it? **CRAVE** after God!

Confident faith has a GREAT REWARD from God.

Heb. 10:35 Therefore, **DO NOT THROW AWAY OUR CONFIDENCE**, which has a **GREAT REWARD**.

Heb. 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he **looked to the reward**. **(NKJV)**

This 'reward' would be for you whatever your faith is focused on. It could be some aspect of ...

- **God's Person** or nature, or
- The fruition of **God's Promise**, or
- The successful execution of some aspect of **God's Purpose**

GOD 'IS' - HE EXISTS AS FATHER

The beginning of living a life of faith starts with the acceptance of the existence of God: ***'must believe that He is'.***

Atheists deny the existence of God or any 'god'. Agnostics do not know that any god exists or not. Both atheists and agnostics, have an internal 'measure of faith' to actually believe in the existence of God and believe in the one and only true God. They can come into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. To start to grow in faith demands an acceptance that God 'IS' - that God exists. To really excel in your growth in faith requires, not just that you accept the existence of God and believe in HIM, but that you understand Him and relate to Him in a personal, intimate and subjective manner as YOUR FATHER.

How does God exist? **He exists as a FATHER.**

Before stating in chapter eleven, that the person of faith who pleases God must believe that God 'IS', the writer of the book of Hebrews, has already in the previous chapters of the book presented God's existence as FATHER in loving relationship to Jesus Christ as His Son. God 'IS' as 'FATHER'. One of the main principles contained in the book of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ is set forth as God's Son and relates to God as His Father. And if Jesus, the Son's relationship with God, is as 'Father', then we too, who are sons of God are to relate to God as FATHER.

Consider:

Heb. 1:1,2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Heb. 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "**You are My Son**, Today I have begotten You"? And again, "**I will be a Father to Him** And He shall **be a Son to Me**"?

Heb. 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "**You are My Son**, Today I have begotten You"

Heb. 3:5-6 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as **a Son** over His house - **whose house we are**, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

We are heirs of Father God in the same degree as Jesus Christ is. We are heirs of Father God and JOINT-heirs in this inheritance along with and as much as Jesus Christ is. Hence, Jesus Christ is unashamed to identify with us as, not just our Saviour, Lord and King, but also too as our BROTHERS, who have the same FATHER as Him. These thoughts are captured in the verse below.

Heb. 2:11-13 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are **all from one Father**; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them **brethren**, saying, “I will proclaim **Your name to My brethren**, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.” And again, “**I will put My trust in Him.**” And again, “Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me.”

Note too also, that as the Jesus, the Son declares, “I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM” - so too must you and I as God’s sons too. Trust here is akin to ‘faith’.

Heb.12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; **God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Faith’s strong position of confidence is rooted in God’s nature as a FATHER who is thoroughly committed to ensuring the well-being of His sons in all respects. As God’s sons, we are confident that He, our Father, is positively INCLINED towards our good. Faith is not trying to convince God to act in the favour of His sons. He is already this way disposed. Faith locks into the Father’s heart of kindness, goodness and generosity.

Matt. 7:7-11 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

When, for example, we ask God IN FAITH for something within His will for our lives, we ask as SONS of a FATHER who is not just able but very willing to do for us what we ask (Consider the parable of the importunate widow in Luke 18:1-8). **Prayer in robust faith does not seek to overcome God’s reluctance to do a thing, but taps into His already clearly stated, willing intention to do it.** Faithlessness communicates to God that you have no trust or confidence in His nature as a Father to adequately take care of you, and to reward you every time you express active dependence on Him or diligently seek Him.

Excelling in the life of faith is the portion of those who believe in God’s Fatherly nature as a rewarder of those who seek Him. God will reward those who pursue Him, yearn after Him and unswervingly believe His Word.

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO DO WHAT HE PROMISED - HENCE WE HAVE FAITH IN A FAITHFUL GOD WHOSE WORD IS FAITHFUL

THE MEANING OF FAITHFULNESS

Faithful = pistos (Grk.) = Worthy of **belief**, **trust**, or **confidence**².

This word is used **in three respects** in the Scriptures:

- (i) Trustworthy; True, Sure, Believable, Worthy of credit; That which can be Relied on
- (ii) Faithful in Duty to Oneself and to Others; Faithful in the Execution of Commands, or the Discharge of Official Duties
- (iii) Firmness in Faith, Confiding, Trusting, Believing,

GOD IS FAITHFUL

I encourage you to listen to an audio teaching series I have taught titled, '**THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD AND HIS SONS**', available on my website and on our church's YouTube channel - refer to endnotes for links³. **FAITH's confidence is rooted in God's nature as FAITHFUL**. God is described as faithful many times in the scriptures. By examining these scriptures we get a more complete picture of exactly what constitutes faithfulness. Quickly note the following passages:

▪ **God is God, The Faithful God**

Deut. 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, **He is God, the faithful God**, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

▪ **His Faithfulness IS EXPANSIVE**

Psalm 36:5 Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your **faithfulness reaches to the skies**.

▪ **His Faithfulness ENCOMPASSES HIM**.

Psalm 89:8 O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your **faithfulness also surrounds You**.

Because His faithfulness is all encompassing around His own person, when He engages His sons, this same faithfulness governs how He engages His sons. In the same Psalm, in verse 24, you see this in reference to a promise made to David

Psalm 89:24 **My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, And in My name his horn will be exalted.**

- His Faithfulness is PERFECT

Isaiah 25:1 O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; **Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.** (NKJV)

Isaiah 25:1 O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, **Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.** (NASB)

- He is Faithful because of the privileged estate of sonship and fellowship with His eternal son (Jesus Christ) He has called us into

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- He is Faithful, not permitting us to endure a measure of suffering, trial or testing we will not be able to endure

1 Cor. 10:13b God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

- He is Faithful, committed to our protection and preservation from all evil

2 Thess. 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and **He will strengthen and protect you** from the evil one.

Deut. 32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

- He is Faithful to DO WHAT HE PROMISED.

Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope **without wavering**, for He who PROMISED is FAITHFUL;

We, as humans, often express trust and assurance in a specific promise to us by someone. This trust (faith) is founded upon the nature and character of the person who promised, not much the promise itself. It is WHO promised, not WHAT was promised that faith's focus, strength and surety. This Heb. 10:23 encourages us to HOLD FAST our hope as a key element of our faith for one reason only, viz. The God WHO PROMISED is FAITHFUL!!

If in an interview with Sarah, you probed the basis of her faith, she would answer something like this, “I HAVE CONSIDERED and ESTIMATED THE GOD WHO PROMISED AS FAITHFUL’. Sarah’s

‘consideration’ of God as faithful was what initialized and sustained her faith to believe His promise that she would have a son.

Heb. 11:11,12 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she **considered Him faithful who had promised**. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Sarah CONSIDERED God as Faithful.

Consider = hēgéomai = To lead or go before, go first, lead the way⁴.

As indicated above, this word means to ‘lead’ and is used of leaders who exert great influence and authority. Hence in Sarah’s mind, the faithfulness of God was the dominating influence or authority that ‘lead’ her to a place of faith. A deep meditation on the faithfulness of God will naturally lead and direct you to a place of unswerving faith in Him.

Metaphorically, the Greek word hegeomai, means ‘to lead out before the mind, i.e., to view, regard, esteem, count, reckon’. When get the English word ‘hegemony’ from this Greek word. A **‘hegemon’ is a leader**. Hegemony refers to leadership, dominance, dominion, supremacy, ascendancy, predominance, primacy, authority, etc. Specifically, it refers to political or cultural dominance or authority over others. The thought of **‘dominance over’** is key.

“Hegemony, the dominance of one group over another, often supported by **legitimizing** norms and ideas. The term **hegemony** is today often used as shorthand to describe the relatively **dominant position of a particular set of ideas** and **their associated tendency to become commonsensical and intuitive**, thereby **inhibiting** the dissemination or even the articulation of **alternative** ideas.”⁵

The ‘faithfulness’ of God became the ‘legitimising norm’ in Sarah. God’s Faithfulness was the truth that was lead out at the forefront of her mind and thinking. It became so overwhelmingly dominant within her, that any contradictory or opposing idea did not have a chance to subvert and override it. An alternative to God’s Faithfulness was even possible within her thinking. Not even the fact that she was passed the age of child-bearing could rival the certain fact of God’s faithfulness within her.

The Result? **SHE RECEIVED STRENGTH TO CONCEIVE SEED**. When you marinate your mind in the revelation of God’s faithfulness, **STRENGTH** to realise God’s promise fulfilled in your life is supernaturally **IMPARTED** to you. You overthrow the limiting conditions and circumstances. **A fixed focus on the Faithfulness Father God is able to depose and decapitate any mentality that**

seeks to instill faithless in you. The 'faithfulness of God must be the 'DOMINANCE OVER' every other thought.

The Word of God is described as a SEED (eg. see the parable of the Sower and the Seed in Matthew 13). This incorruptible contains the very fullness of the nature of God and by it we are born again.

1 Peter 1:22-23

22 Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

23 for you have been **born again** not of **seed which is perishable** but **imperishable**, *that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

When you hear the Word, this seed is deposited in you. This Word is designed to bear fruit in your life and bring you to maturity into the fullness of the stature of Christ Jesus. CONCEPTION is a necessary process that initiates a process towards birth. The essential thing is that when you consider the God of the Word as FAITHFUL and true to His promises, then an impartation of GRACE or STRENGTH is given to you to CONCEIVE this word in you. Once conception takes place, birth is the next expectant inevitable outcome. While there is a waiting period between conception and birth, the fact that conception took place makes the certainty of birth believable.

Before Sarah received strength to conceive a son (the promised fulfilled), she first had to conceive the seed of God's Word in her life.

The necessity to become one with the Word.

Sarai could not 'receive strength to conceive seed'; only SARAH did. The name, Sarai, was changed to Sarah by God. Sarai means 'contentious; quarrelsome'. Sarah means 'chieftainness; noblewoman'. This name change was done simultaneously with the name of Abram to Abraham. Abram means 'high or exalted father' and Abraham means the 'father of a multitude'. The name change from Abram and Abraham demands the insertion of the fifth letter of the Hebrew Alphabet - symbolically denoting the addition of the new level of grace (the number 5 = grace).

'Abraham' suggest enlargement, expansion. For the added grace to work in and through his life, Abraham needs Sarah's womb, not Sarai's womb. A womb of strife and contention will never conceive the seed of God's word, not the seed of the promise of God.

The state of the heart is important for faith to work:

James 1:22 Therefore, **putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness**, in humility receive **the word implanted**, which is **able to save your souls**.

Engrafted/Implanted =

Receive = déchomai = To accept an offer deliberately and readily.
To take to oneself what is presented or brought by another, to receive.

The imperative to PUT AWAY FILTHINESS and WICKEDNESS

Filthiness = moral uncleanness

Wickedness = an abundance of malice

Evil heart of unbelief

Heb. 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an EVIL, UNBELIEVING heart that falls away from the living God.

Notice in the text above, the heart condition of UNBELIEF denotes the absence of FAITH (“unbelieving heart”). But the first adjective of this heart, before ‘unbelieving’ is first “evil”. An evil heart is an unbelieving heart. The evil-ness of heart (mind) negates the reception and development of strong faith (belief).

Heb. 3:18,19 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Our own human faithlessness does not in any alter or affect God’s determined commitment to consistently be faithful to us. His faithfulness is something we must install into our spirits and soul as an unshakeable disposition.

2 Tim. 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

God remains faithful - He cannot deny Himself - i.e. **He cannot act inconsistently** with who He is and what He represents within Himself - He is **true to His internal nature**. If He promised something, He will stand behind His word and will be completely committed to its ultimate fulfillment. He is not a man that He should lie. We must follow God’s example and be faithful in this regard as well. Your word is your bond. Be faithful to execute the tasks/functions allocated to you, backing every promise and commitment you make with **solid and consistent obedience and follow through with it**.

JESUS IS CALLED ‘FAITHFUL’

One of the titles by which Jesus is called is ‘Faithful’.

Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the **faithful witness**, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. (NKJV)

Rev. 3:14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the **Amen, the Faithful and True Witness**, the Beginning of the creation of God. (NKJV)

Rev. 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (NKJV)

Heb. 2:17,18 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, **He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.**

JESUS IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER (PERFECTER) OF FAITH

Faith has its source and conclusion in God. Whilst in scripture we have terms like “your faith”, the faith is not really yours per se, but has its source in God. God is the author and finisher of faith. Faith begins and ends in God.

Heb. 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, **the author and perfecter of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Perfecter = eleiōtēs = (1) completer, particularly one who reaches a goal so as to win the prize.⁶
(2) Consummator⁷

The word ‘**author**’ means ‘**originator, leader**’. Jesus is the originator of our faith and also the one who will lead us in the development of our faith.

Jesus is also the ‘perfecter’ or the ‘finisher’ of our faith, meaning He will bring it to its most mature state. This refers to both **faith as a disposition within us, as well as it being translated into a totally obedient lifestyle**. Note in the context of Jesus being described as FINISHER or PERFECTER of Faith, the text highlights the fact that He endured the cross, despising its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, His Father. ‘**Sitting**’ here denotes the **successful completion of a task; it also suggests rulership**. We reign when we complete by faith all the purposes of God attendant with our lives. Jesus completed His faith by leading a life of obedience to all God’s principles. He is the perfecter of faith, and in the words of the Greek scholar, Thayer, He is “one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith”⁸. If Jesus can do it in His own life, then so can we through His enablement.

Faith is perfected when obedience (works) is fulfilled in respect to a particular aspect of God’s expectation, or the fruition in your life of some promise of God.

James 2:22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a **result of the works, faith was perfected.**

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY 'COMPLETES' FAITH:

The Apostle Paul was convinced that he, as an apostolic representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, could similarly bring completion to and fill any deficiency in the faith posture of the Thessalonians.

1 Thess. 3:9,10 For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and **may complete what is lacking in your faith?**

Complete = Katartízō = To put a thing in its appropriate condition, to establish, set up, equip, arrange, prepare, mend.
= To make a perfect fit, suitable, such as one should be, deficient in no part⁹

Note : Mark 11:22 says, "Have faith **IN** God". The Young's Literal Translation of the Bible renders this as, "Have the faith **OF** God". Faith is of God. It is God's faith in you.

Now, having the nature of God, the character and potential of this nature is then brought to the fore. **Faith does not pursue the PROMISES and PURPOSES of God without first seeking the PERSON of God.** The **PERSON OF GOD** will ensure that the **PROMISES** and **PURPOSES OF GOD** are secured.

When we fail to have an adequate revelation of the **PERSON** of God, we fail to believe , expect and realise the fulfillment of the **PROMISE** of God and the full **POTENTIAL** vested within His Person.

Hence the next application of the Greek Word '**HUPOSTASIS**', translated as '**SUBSTANCE**' here below, becomes a reality.

(3) That Quality which leads one to Stand Under; Endure; Undertake Something; Firmness, Boldness; Confidence.

The prefix '**hupo**' means '**under**'. The term '**stasis**' relates to ones '**standing, stance or posture**'¹⁰. Hence, **hupostasis** relates to how you '**stand under**'. Faith is this substance – this '**hupostasis**'. It is the '**stance**' or '**posture**' you adopt, **firstly, before God**, your Father and **secondly, in the face of the external pressures and sometimes contradictory circumstances** you encounter in your faith disposition.

- **Faith is the way you 'stand under' the truth, with the knowledge that God is your Father and He will show up with grace and providence when you diligently seek Him.**
- You can then also 'stand under' the pressure of opposing circumstances to your faith by focusing on the **absolute reliability of the person of God as a faithful being**. Hence we can trust Him. In your faith posture, you learn how to **ENDURE with great PATIENCE**.

[To Be Continued]

Great Grace and Peace be multiplied to you,

Randolph Barnwell

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2. **Randolph Barnwell Channel** - this has teachings from my speaking at local and international conferences outside of our church, Gate Ministries DC. www.youtube.com/randolphbarnwell

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ENDNOTES

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3. YouTube Channel : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNkSbI56huk&list=PLMCj8ETli_cSR3GKdnc8FqMmq5PGFN8iJ

Audio Only : <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/faithfulness.html>

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