

Sunday, April 5, 2020  
Conviction, Belief, and Confidence

**Hebrews 11:6** (AMP), *“But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.”*

**FAITH:** GR: Pistis: “Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it; the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ; belief with the predominate idea of trust or confidence in the character of the one who can be relied on”

In this definition, there are three dominant words I would like to bring out:

1. **CONVICTION:** “A strong persuasion or belief; the state of mind of a person who is sure that what they believe or says is true.” (Merriam Webster)
2. **BELIEF:** “A state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed in some person or thing; a degree of conviction of the truth of something especially based on a consideration or examination of the evidence.” (Merriam Webster)

How many times has the Lord proven Himself to you? Have you carefully considered and examined the evidence of His faithfulness?

David declared belief by his examination of the evidence in

**Psalms 37:25** (AMP), *“I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous (those in right standing with God) abandoned or his descendants pleading for bread.”*

3. **CONFIDENCE:** “The quality or state of being certain; a relation of trust or intimacy; the feeling of being certain that something will happen or that something is true.” (Merriam Webster)

Again David declares his confidence in God because of the intimacy and trust he continually cultivated with Him in

**Psalms 46:1** (AMP), *“God is our refuge and strength [mighty and impenetrable], a very present and well-proved help in trouble!”*

**Faith then is conviction or surety of mind, belief in the consideration and examination of evidence, and certainty of truth based out of trust and intimacy!**

Fear would be the **INVERSE** of this definition:

**Fear is the lack of conviction or uncertainty of mind, unbelief in spite of the consideration and examination of evidence, and uncertainty of truth based out of a lack of trust and intimacy!**

Lets apply this understanding to Hebrews 11:6...

- Without conviction or surety of mind...
  - Without belief in the consideration and examination of evidence...
  - Without certainty of truth based out of trust and intimacy...
- ... it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to (amplified adds “walk with God”) please him!

**IMPOSSIBLE:** GR: Adunatos: “Without strength, impotent, powerless, weakly, disabled unable to be done, not possible, impossible

**PLEASE:** “To give pleasure or satisfaction; gratify, to make happy”  
(Merriam Webster)

**Without conviction or surety of mind, without belief in the consideration and examination of evidence, without certainty of truth based out of trust and intimacy it is not possible to to give pleasure to God or to gratify Him... it is not able to be done.**

Hebrews 11:6 continues on to say...

Those who would come to God:

1. Must [necessarily] believe that He exists
2. And that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him

And you need **FAITH** to do **BOTH** of these things!

You need conviction and surety of mind that He exists!

You need belief in the consideration and examination of evidence that He exists!

You need certainty of truth based out of trust and intimacy that He exists!

You need conviction and surety of mind that He rewards those who seek him!

You need belief in the consideration and examination of evidence that He rewards those who seek Him!

You need certainty of truth based out of trust and intimacy that He rewards those who seek Him!

**When conviction, belief and certainty (confidence) are in operation in your life concerning God, fear is no longer an option!**

**Romans 8:38-39** (AMP), *"For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"*

Without faith, we are unable to please God... but it gets worth than that...

**Romans 14:23b** (NKJV), *"...for whatever is not from faith is sin."*

How do you firmly establish yourself in faith... in conviction, belief, and certainty (confidence)?

The definition itself gives the answer...

## 1. CONSIDERATION AND EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE

**EVIDENCE:** “Something that furnishes or tends to furnish proof; something which shows that something else exists or is true”

(Merriam Webster)

**CONSIDER:** “To think about carefully; to take into account; to gaze on steadily or reflectively”

(Merriam Webster)

**EXAMINE:** “To inspect closely; to inquire into carefully; investigate”

(Merriam Webster)

**For conviction, belief and confidence to be in operation in my life, I need to think carefully about, I need to investigate and carefully inquire into as I steadily gaze upon that which furnishes proof and shows the existence of God and His works!**

What evidence?

### a. His Word

**2 Timothy 3:16** (AMP), “*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]*”

**Joshua 1:8** (AMP), “*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read [and meditate on] it day and night, so that you may be careful to do [everything] in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful.*”

**MEDITATE:** HBR: Hagah: “To meditate, devise, muse (to become absorbed in thought), imagine; to utter, speak, to roar”

### b. My Testimony

**Revelation 12:11** (AMP), “And they overcame and conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, for they did not love their life and renounce their faith even when faced with death.”

**1 John 5:11** (AMP), “*And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him].*”

### c. Nature itself

**Romans 1:20** (AMP), “*For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through His workmanship [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are without excuse and without defense.*”

**Psalm 19:1** (AMP), “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and the expanse [of heaven] is declaring the work of His hands.”

## **2. CULTIVATE INTIMACY AND TRUST**

**Philippians 3:10** (AMP), “And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]”

**Philippians 3:8** (AMP), “But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequaled]. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ”

### ***Authentic intimacy produces authentic trust...***

Monique and I... (pic)

**Proverbs 31:10-11** (AMP), “An excellent woman [one who is spiritual, capable, intelligent, and virtuous], who is he who can find her? Her value is more precious than jewels and her worth is far above rubies or pearls. **The heart of her husband trusts in her [with secure confidence], and he will have no lack of gain.**”

Authentic intimacy is only found in spending time with Jesus in prayer, worship, in the word...

From what we have discovered today, we can make this statement...

**Fear is the revelation of our lack of conviction, belief, and confidence in who He is.**

**Fear is also the revelation of our lack of intimacy with Him...**

We need to repent...

For putting our conviction, belief and confidence in the systems of this world

Give a call of salvation:

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and repent of our sins, we will have eternal life.”

**Romans 10:9-10** “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Just confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved!”