

1st Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3 (CEB)

11 Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. **2** The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

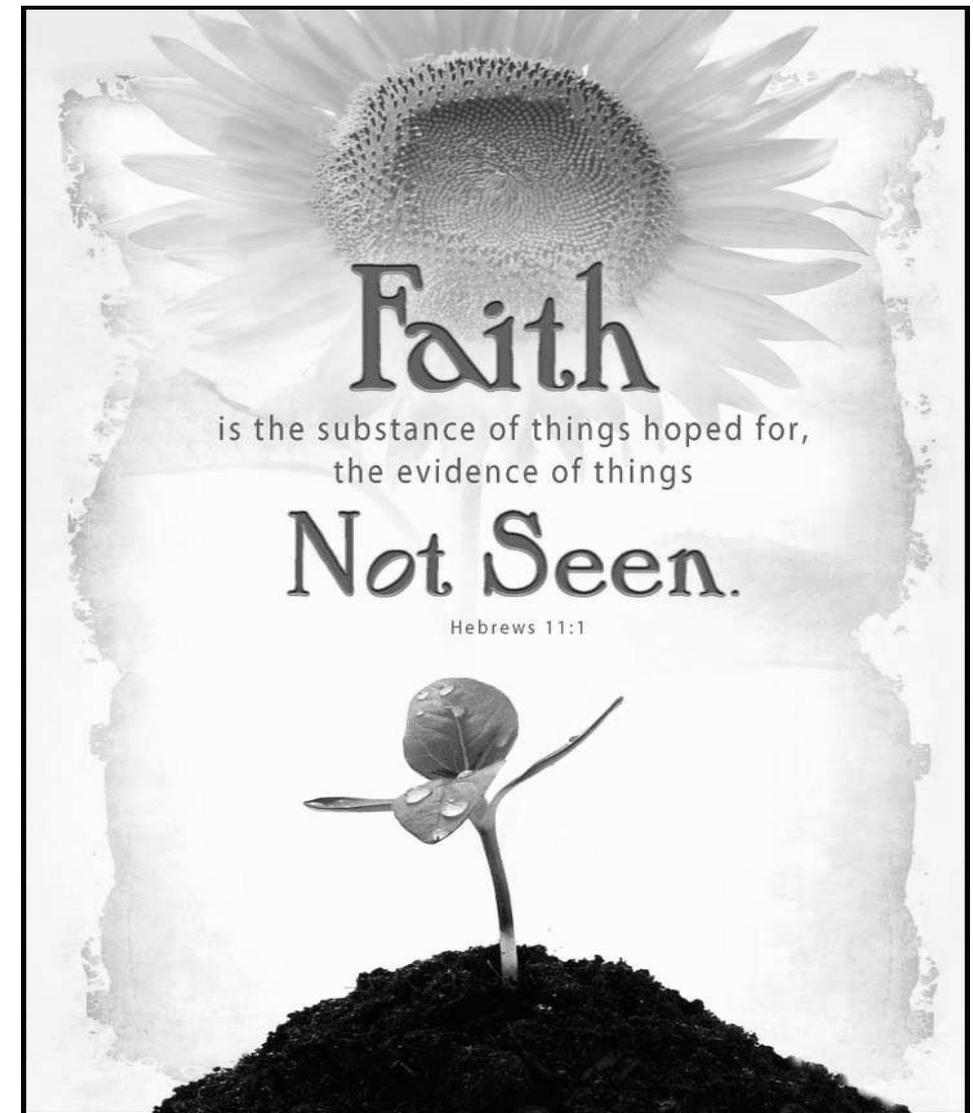
3 By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

13 That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. **2** Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

3 He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. **4** As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. **5** Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. **6** But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. **7** Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. **8** Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. **9** Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

18 "Consider then the parable of the farmer. **19** Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. **20** As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. **21** Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. **22** As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. **23** As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."



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