

# Hope and Faith: Believing the Unseen and Speaking What Is Finished — Hebrews 11:1

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## Hope and Faith — Believing the Unseen and Speaking What Is Finished

*“Now faith is the **substance of things hoped for**, the **evidence of things not seen**.” — Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

**Highlight key:** = grace / faith-truth · = precious promise · **bold** = key terms

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### 1□ Hope Waits for What You Cannot See

We are called to two related but distinct realities: **hope** for what we do not yet see, and **faith** that gives substance to that hope. It is easy to trust what is already visible — sickness on the body, trouble in the account, delay in the promise. When we speak only from what our eyes report, we describe the problem accurately but leave no room for God to introduce the solution.

Scripture calls us higher: to hope patiently for health while symptoms remain, for joy while grief lingers, for breakthrough while the night still feels long. Your healing, peace, growth, and deliverance may all be unseen today — yet hope waits with perseverance, and faith gives them present weight in the spirit.

- **Seen vs unseen** — believing visible circumstances is natural; hoping for invisible outcomes is spiritual
- **Patience** — hope waits with perseverance for what has not appeared
- **Example** — seeing illness yet hoping for health is hope, not denial
- **Promise** — you may not see dawn yet, but hope expects the morning

**Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV)**

“For we were saved in this hope, but **hope that is seen is not hope**; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we **hope for what we do not see**, we **eagerly wait for it with perseverance**.” — Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV)

**Ephesians 1:18-19 (NKJV)**

“...the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the **hope of His calling**, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power** toward us who believe...” — Ephesians 1:18-19 (NKJV)

**2□ Hope and Faith Are Not the Same Word**

Romans and Ephesians use *elpis* (hope). Hebrews and Romans 10 use *pistis* (faith). They partner together — faith is the substance of what hope anticipates — but they are not interchangeable. Hope waits with the mind for an unseen future. Faith is a present spirit-reality that speaks and creates.

| Hope (elpis)                      | Faith (pistis)                              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Waits for what is not yet visible | Gives <b>substance</b> to what is hoped for |
| Patient endurance while unseen    | Evidence and creative power now             |
| “I hope healing comes”            | “I believe, therefore I speak”              |
| Mental orientation toward future  | Spirit that frames worlds by God’s word     |

**Hebrews 11:1-3 (NKJV)**

“Now faith is the **substance of things hoped for**, the **evidence of things not seen**... By faith we understand that the **worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” — Hebrews 11:1-3 (NKJV)

**Romans 10:10 (NKJV)**

*“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the **mouth confession is made** unto salvation.” — Romans 10:10 (NKJV)*

### 1 Peter 1:8-9 (NKJV)

*“...**whom having not seen you love**. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the **end of your faith**—the salvation of your souls.” — 1 Peter 1:8-9 (NKJV)*

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## 3☐ Tree by the River — Faith Without Seeing the Heat

Jeremiah paints a picture of faith: a tree planted by water spreads its roots toward the stream. It does not *see* the coming heat wave — yet when scorching days arrive, its leaf stays green. It does not panic in drought because its trust is anchored somewhere deeper than visible weather. That is how hope and faith operate together in your life.

- **Roots by the river** — trust anchored in God, not in current conditions
- **Heat unseen** — trouble may be approaching before you perceive it
- **Green leaf** — steadfast fruitfulness because hope looks beyond sight
- **Watering trough** — where you drink from God’s word shapes what you produce

### Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV)

*“**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD**, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But his leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” — Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV)*

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## 4☐ Jacob’s Rods — Look at the Unseen Picture

Laban’s flocks were plain, but Jacob needed speckled and spotted offspring. He peeled white strips into rods of poplar, almond, and chestnut — creating streaked

patterns — and placed them before the flocks at the watering troughs. When the sheep came to drink and conceive, they brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted young.

The striking detail is where Jacob fixed his gaze. The sheep on the ground had no stripes — yet Jacob looked at the **rods**, not at the plain flock. He believed the unseen picture would become visible harvest. God confirmed that faith in a dream: rams leaping on the flocks were streaked and speckled, and Jacob became exceedingly prosperous.

- **Peeled rods** — Jacob prepared a visible picture of the outcome he believed for
- **At the troughs** — where flocks drank and conceived, the picture was set before them
- **Looked at rods** — he did not fix his gaze on plain sheep; he looked at the streaked pattern
- **Prosperity followed** — God multiplied what Jacob saw by faith

#### Genesis 30:37-39 (NKJV)

*“Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and almond and chestnut, and **peeled white strips in them**... And the rods which he had peeled, he **set before the flocks** in the gutters, in the watering troughs... So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth **streaked, speckled, and spotted**.” —*

**Genesis 30:37-39 (NKJV)**

#### Genesis 30:43 (NKJV)

*“Thus the man became **exceedingly prosperous**, and had **large flocks**, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.” —* **Genesis 30:43 (NKJV)**

#### Genesis 31:9-12 (NKJV)

*“...I lifted my eyes and **saw in a dream**... the rams which leaped upon the flocks were **streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted**... ‘Lift your eyes now and see... for **I have seen all that Laban is doing to you**.’” —* **Genesis 31:9-12 (NKJV)**

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## 5☐ Bronze Serpent — Look at Christ, Not the Bite

Israel was dying from fiery serpent bites in the wilderness. God did not tell them to stare at the wound or the snake on the ground. Moses lifted a **bronze serpent** on a pole — and whoever looked at *that* lived. They looked at what God provided, not at what was destroying them.

The bitten Israelites could see real serpents all around — yet life came from looking at the bronze figure on the pole. They trusted that Jesus would finish their healing on the cross before Calvary ever happened. Jesus said the Son of Man would be lifted up the same way: look to the cross and live.

| What they saw biting         | What they looked at to live            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Fiery serpents on the ground | Bronze serpent <b>lifted on a pole</b> |
| Visible death and poison     | God’s appointed remedy                 |
| Problem-focused gaze         | Faith in what God said would heal      |
| Wilderness judgment          | <b>Jesus lifted up</b> — John 3:14-16  |

### Numbers 21:8-9 (NKJV)

“...**when he looks at it, he shall live.**’ So Moses made a **bronze serpent**, and put it on a pole; and so it was... when he looked at the bronze serpent, **he lived.**” — Numbers 21:8-9 (NKJV)

### John 3:14-16 (NKJV)

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the **Son of Man be lifted up**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” — John 3:14-16 (NKJV)

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## 6▯ The Same Word That Framed Worlds Frames Your Life

Hebrews 11 declares that the visible universe was framed by God's word — things seen were made from things not visible. Worlds were not assembled from visible matter; they were spoken into being. The same creative word spoken over chaos now speaks through believers who have the **spirit of faith**.

When you declare peace you do not yet feel, health you do not yet see, or provision not yet in the account, you are not lying — you are speaking from the finished work of Christ on the cross. That word can create health in your body, peace in your home, and increase in your path — the same way it once framed the stars.

- **Creation pattern** — God spoke light before light was visible
- **Your words** — the same kind of word can frame your circumstances
- **Cross foundation** — Jesus took sickness, poverty, and bondage; speak the unseen outcome He won
- **Spirit of faith** — believe first, then speak — not the reverse

### 2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV)

*"...we have the same **spirit of faith**... '**I believed and therefore I spoke**,' we also believe and therefore speak," — 2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV)*

### 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NKJV)

*"So we are always confident... For we **walk by faith, not by sight**." — 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NKJV)*

### Psalms 116:10 (NKJV)

***"I believed, therefore I spoke, 'I am greatly afflicted.'"** — Psalms 116:10 (NKJV)*

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## 7▯ Faith Becomes Visible When You Speak

You may carry great faith in your heart and still see no outward change — until you **speak**. Faith in the heart is like seed in the ground: invisible until the mouth opens. You can carry enormous belief in your spirit and leave unchanged if your mouth never

confesses what you believe.

God did not look at darkness and describe darkness; He spoke light into being.

Believers who speak unseen healing, peace, and life are not denying reality — they are aligning with what Jesus already finished. Psalm 116 models the pattern: believe first, then speak.

1. **Believe in the heart** — righteousness is received by faith (Romans 10:10)
  2. **Confess with the mouth** — salvation and substance become audible
  3. **Speak the unseen** — health, peace, freedom — because the cross already paid
  4. **Watch it manifest** — what was hidden in the heart becomes visible in experience
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## 8□ **Mary's Oil — Speak the Cross Before You Understand**

Mary poured costly spikenard on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The house filled with fragrance. She did not yet grasp the full theology of the cross — but her act **spoke** a burial message before any disciple preached it in words.

Jesus said she kept it for the day of His burial. True worship speaks what Christ has finished: He bore sickness, carried sorrow, and purchased wholeness at the cross. Many things may tempt us to boast — gifts, service, fasting, knowledge — yet Paul leaves one boast standing: the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Costly oil** — worship that declares value beyond calculation
- **Anointed feet** — honour poured out before understanding fully arrived
- **Burial message** — her act prophesied the cross without a sermon title
- **Boast in the cross alone** — not in fasting, knowledge, or service records

**John 12:3, 7 (NKJV)**

*"Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, **anointed the feet of Jesus...** Then Jesus said, 'Let her alone; she has **kept this for the day of My burial.'**" — John 12:3, 7 (NKJV)*

## Matthew 26:12 (NKJV)

*“For in **pouring this fragrant oil on My body**, she did it **for My burial**.” —*

**Matthew 26:12 (NKJV)**

## 1 Peter 1:18-21 (NKJV)

*“...you were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a **lamb without blemish and without spot**... so that **your faith and hope are in God**.” — 1 Peter 1:18-21 (NKJV)*

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## 9□ Speak the Unseen — God Will Bless

The closing call is practical: be people who **speak** what we do not yet see — healing while symptoms remain, peace while storms rage, provision while the ledger looks empty. Look at the cross, not the bite. Set the rods of promise before your eyes, not the plain circumstances.

Hope waits with perseverance; faith gives substance and opens the mouth. Both anchor in what Jesus finished before you ever felt it. Close your eyes in prayer if you must — not to escape reality, but to fix your gaze on the unseen finished work until your words match what He has already done.

- **Speak unseen health** — because Jesus bore sickness at the cross
  - **Speak unseen peace** — because He is our shalom
  - **Boast only in the cross** — Galatians 6:14 pattern; every other boast is secondary
  - **Pray with eyes closed** — fix gaze on finished work, not present trouble
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## The Takeaway

1. **Hope waits for unseen** — Romans 8:24-25; patience for what you cannot yet see
2. **Faith gives substance** — Hebrews 11:1; evidence and creative power now
3. **Jacob's rods** — look at God's picture, not present plainness (Genesis 30-31)

4. **Bronze serpent** — look at Christ lifted up, not the bite (Numbers 21; John 3)
5. **Believe and speak** — 2 Corinthians 4:13; faith becomes visible when the mouth opens
6. **Mary's oil** — worship speaks the cross; boast only in what Jesus finished

Scripture-based study on hope and faith — believing the unseen, speaking the finished work of Christ, and walking by faith rather than sight.