

What Is Faith?

¹⁰ "They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. ¹¹ "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man. "Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:10-11 (NASB)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)

Observation

Have you ever wished something great would happen to you? Many of us have. Yet, wishing and faith are very different. Faith is an assurance or a confidence that the things you hope for in Christ will happen. Faith is the activating ingredient to the promises of God. When we hear the promises of God and believe them, we see faith rise in our hearts. Faith gives us the courage to overcome our doubts and fears.

Nehemiah has faith that God was going to give him favor with the king. So much so that he was bold enough to make a crazy request of the king. Faith gives you confidence. If God is going to do something great through you, it will require faith - faith that what God has placed in your heart will come to pass. The Bible tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith; therefore, we can assume God will never call us to something that does not require faith. As you look at what God is calling you to during this Open: Next Chapter journey, ask yourself, "Does this require faith?" If it does, then you are on the right track to pleasing God and seeing Him do something special in your life. If you can do it alone, you need to dream bigger and let God increase the faith in your heart. He wants to move through you and give you a great assurance today.

Application

When you consider your commitment to the Open: Next Chapter journey, does it take you beyond your comfort zone? Does it challenge or frighten you? Does it make you doubt? If it does, this is a pretty normal thing. Here is where faith comes in. God calls us to go beyond ourselves in order to depend on Him. Take time to pray about your fear and doubts until God fills your heart with confidence. You want to trade in your doubts for faith that comes from God.