

Let us look together at the book of Hebrews, the 11th ch. Let me read the first 16 vv. of Heb. 11. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This gives the clear sense in the NIV. In the KJV "faith is the substances of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen", and I doubt if many people today would get much idea out of it being a substance of things hoped for. NIV may not be exactly the idea, but it's pretty close to it. It does convey a very definite idea.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what ~~do~~ we do not see. . . .(reading through v. 16)

This is the great ch. about faith in the NT (Heb. 11). There are those who think that faith is a foolish, outworn, medieval idea. Why bother about faith? We're interested in what we can see! We want to live by knowledge. Actually faith is one of the commonest things in life.

I'll like this morning to mention 7 aspects of faith. One or two I'll be able to speak about at length; others we will not do much more than mention them.

First, faith is a common fact of all human life. If you did not know--if this were an old room, and if you did not know that there were holes under the coverings on the floor, you would not dare to walk rapidly down the aisle. You would not know but that you might slip through. If we did not ~~xxx~~ have faith that the thing(s) would hold us up, that we would be steady, all life would be shortened, we would be slowed down, we would be greatly hampered. Everyone shows faith many many times a day.

You make a plane reservation. You heard some sounds over the phone that tell you there is a certain reservation. Perhaps you bought some ticket on it, and you have a little piece of paper in your hand. You have faith that this plane will leave at that time. You have faith there will be a plane. You have faith that there will be a seat for you on it. You act on that assumption.

You drive on a highway. You are going fairly rapidly if it's a good road and the road is going uphill. You look ahead and see the crest of the hill. You don't stop and say, Is this road going to end just over the top of the hill? Is there going to be a ~~q~~ big drop there? Am I going to have to wait and go very slow to find out what's over there? You have faith that the makers of the highway have continued it on beyond that, and if they had not= they would have put a sign up there to warn you. You drive at the speed limit up to the top of the hill never thinking of the possibility that they may not be a good road going on the other side of the hill

At ~~xxx~~ every step in our lives, faith is active in our lives.

The second thing I'd like to mention about faith is that faith can be a very powerful force. I heard a speaker once at a Chataqua meeting who made an announcement to the people he spoke to.