

Living in the NOW!

“Forever is composed of nows.”

~Emily Dickinson

Hebrews 11:1 says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* I like to focus on the first three words of this passage of scripture—*Now Faith Is*. If you notice it doesn’t say now faith was (past tense) or now faith will be (future tense). It says now faith is (present tense). In the Amplified Bible, the first three words are capitalized and italicized. I believe that’s because God wants us to pay close attention to and have a clear understanding of those first three words before we even get into the rest of the verse.

There is something about those first three words that set the tone for the words to follow, and so without a clear understanding of those first three words, the rest of what you read could potentially be skewed. I mean, before you even think about getting into the substance and the evidence, you must first realize that faith is a present tense verb. Without understanding that, you won’t even look at the rest of the passage correctly.

Now faith is (Hebrews 11:1). Let’s break that down for a moment. Is, is an action word; action meaning it is active or actively doing something. So just use of the word now in Hebrews 11:1 lets us know that some sort of action is taking place. If you remember English in school you may remember that passive verbs usually refer to past and future tense verbs in which there is no action, just the implication or promise of action. For example, he will walk in circles, or he will play ball. Just the inclusion of the word *will* changes the sentence and makes the verb passive. However, by removing the word will, you take away the passive element and add the power of now or activity. So

now the same sentence reads: he walks in circles, or he plays ball. Do you see how the dynamics of the sentence changed just by activating the verb? Well, we have to do the same thing with our faith. That scripture doesn't say faith was or faith will be. It has no passive undertone. It's bold and active. Our faith must also be bold and active.

When I was growing up in church, I always heard people say, this is going to happen or God is going to do this or that. But as I began to understand that God has already, past tense, done everything He's ever going to do, I began to wonder why people postponed their faith instead of looking at it as a now thing. They reserved it for the future, when God gave it to us for right now! When Jesus died on the cross, He said, "... *It is finished,*" (John 19:30). At that very moment, everything we ever needed God to do was done! So my job as a Believer is to live by faith in the now.

As you can obviously tell, faith is a hot button topic for me. I think it's because for so long I misunderstood the whole concept. I realize that I was so frustrated with faith because for years I'd put my faith in the future and totally eliminated the miracle of living in the now. But once I got the right outlook, I began to take the correct corresponding actions of faith.

James 2:17 says faith without works, or action, is dead, which means your faith will ALWAYS be attached to some kind of action or activity that corresponds with what you believe. If you ever want to know what people believe, look at their actions. When you have faith in God, your belief will propel you into action.

Let's clarify this and bring this down to a very practical level because there are a lot of deep people who think prayer is action, and while I am not negating that prayer is

absolutely an essential action and element of faith, I want to focus in on the demonstrative movement of faith.

Go, run, walk, say—these, like faith, are all action words. Just like they require action to be in operation, so does our faith. Just like you don't go, run, walk and say while being stationary, you don't have faith being stationary. The Bible says we walk by faith, not sit still by faith.

I know some of you may be thinking, but what if I act now and it's not the right action. Well, here's my philosophy. There have been plenty, and I do mean plenty of times where I have moved on what I thought God said, only to later find out that I'd totally missed God. But it was during those leaps that I learned to hone in on my ability to hear His voice. Peter only walked on water for a moment (Matthew 14); but at least he got out of the boat. You have to be willing to try; and even if you miss it, at least you have more information for the next time. If you keep going after God, you will eventually get it right!

I don't regret anytime I acted in faith because the lessons I've learned have been invaluable and are the main reasons why I am in the will of God for my life! It's like a child learning how to ride a bike. They will fall, but eventually they are going to learn how to ride. Proverbs 24:16 says a just man falls seven times. Yes, you are going to fall, but the key is to keep getting back up. As long as you don't quit, God will make sure you learn and become a better person for it.

I said all that to say that faith does not live regretfully. There is no way a person can live by faith and have regrets. A person of faith never talks about what they should've done, where they should've gone, or what they should've said. Mainly because

faith, which is derived from the Word and voice of God, will always seek God as it moves. Remember, the underlying principle of faith is obedience to the Word and voice of God. But even when it gauges wrong, faith accepts its mistakes and uses them as development.

If we ever want to see results from our faith, we must act in the now and renew our mind to now faith. Faith will never have you somewhere waiting to act. We must always ask ourselves, “What can I do now to demonstrate my faith?” Even if you have faith for something in the future, there is something you can do now to demonstrate your faith.

Here’s a quick lesson: Faith says lets do it now. Fear says let’s wait. Fear never wants to do things at the same time faith does. Fear is fearful about tomorrow. Faith takes no thought for tomorrow because it knows it can get the same results tomorrow that it did today. Fear questions what’s going to happen. Faith knows what’s going to happen because the Word tells us.

When God talked to men of the Bible like Joshua, Moses and Abraham, He always talked to them in the now. He didn’t just give them all these things to look forward to in the future. Sure He gave them promises they could anticipate, but those promises always came attached to an action—something they were able to do immediately.

What is it that God has called you to do that you have not acted upon because you think everything has to be perfect before you move? Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, “*He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.*” You cannot ever expect to reap what you have not sown; and if you are constantly waiting for

everything to be perfect before you move, you're never going to reap. Now, again, I'm not saying that you should get ahead of God or outside of His will, but I am saying that there's something you can do right now to demonstrate your faith. It doesn't have to be a huge gigantic action; it can be something as simple as doing some research on the area God is leading you in. Just do something!

Arthur Ashe said it best: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can!" It's very simple, but it applies to the practical level of faith. I am praying that God give you a spirit of the NOW so that you can begin your journey into your destiny today. No more delays!

This excerpt was written for and derived from my new book, ***What You Need to Know About Faith***. Visit the online eStore to purchase your copy today!