"Now Faith Is"

Intro: At the very opening of this wonderful Spirit-breathed letter the Author began to proclaim the _____________ ___ __________ Christ over and above all others.

A. As many of the Hebrews were suffering terrible persecutions for their profession of faith in Jesus Christ (persecutions such as being publically scorned, having their properties seized and being imprisoned), so were they _____________ ___ ease their pains by ___________ing back to the ways of Old, effectively denying the truth of Jesus. Concerned for their salvation the Author called them to stand as they had, continuing by faith in Jesus so as not to fall away and at the last, lose out on the eternal promises of God.

B. So as to encourage the Hebrews to _____________ in their faith ___ Christ it is at this point that the Author addresses faith at length by first teaching what that _________ that God grants is.

I. "___________ ___ . . ."

A. "... the _____________ of things hoped for ..."

1. Faith is the present reality of things believed though not yet fully realized. Faith is the present ___________ ____________ of that which is promised. The believer’s faith is the authentication of that which is expectantly anticipated. Faith is the now of not yet and thus, it actively preserves the soul until then.

2. The Christian faith is that faith which stands upon the Word of God or more exactly, upon the God of the Word. The Christian faith is not nebulous. It is not an esoteric subjective kind of thing but that which is squarely and firmly _____________ ___ the truth and thus, the _____________ of God.

B. "... the _____________ of things not seen."

1. Faith is and therefore, faith produces conviction with _____________ following.

2. The conviction of faith produces the life of faith – the _________ ___ ___________.
3. "________ is the convictive power which overcomes carnal reasonings, carnal prejudices, and carnal excuses. It enlightens the judgment, molds the heart, moves the will, and _________ the life. It takes us (from) earthly things and worldly vanities, and occupies us with (unseen) spiritual and Divine realities. It emboldens against discouragements, laughs at difficulties, resists the Devil, and ______________ over temptations. It does so because it unites the soul to God and draws strength from Him. Thus faith is altogether a supernatural thing." (A.W. Pink)

Closing: How then can we get this ________? Well, if it is from God then we must look to God for it. But know this: faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word ___ _______. And if you are a believer, then in deed, God has already granted you this faith. Appropriate it! Live in it! Believe God at His Word!

And one might say, “Well, I am saved and I do believe but I do not experience faith like this.” The great enemy of the Christian faith is a lack of knowledge. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by ______ __________ of God.” How can one trust God for a promise they don’t know He made?

This faith is imperative to the preserving of our soul. Let us believe in God, know His Word, and ________ Him at His Word.

Beautifully and accurately did the German theology professor of 1563 write:

True faith –
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel –
is not only a knowledge and conviction
that everything that God reveals in His Word is true,
but also a deep rooted assurance
that not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.

These are gifts of sheer grace
earned for us by Christ.

_______ in God is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Believe in Him and so will your soul be ______________ forever and ever. Amen!

Heritage Christian Fellowship - 11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 - www.heritageabq.org