

# ***Biblical Faith # 3 It's Essence Part 2***

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**Biblical Faith - Its Essence - Part 2 - Biblical Faith # 3 - June 24, 2001**

**4 MAJOR ASPECTS OF BIBLICAL FAITH**

- 1. FAITH - ITS ESSENCE**
- 2. FAITH - THE FAITH**
- 3. FAITH - PERSONAL**
- 4. FAITH - AS A PRINCIPLE**

What we've looked at so far as we've gone through this study, is that there are 4 major aspects of faith, in terms of its essence, faith in terms of the faith then personal faith, and there is faith as a principle. We have to distinguish between these 4 aspects of faith, depending on the passage of scripture you are in, and depending on the context of the passage.

I believe that if you just take a look at this first aspect of faith, faith in its essence, that this is the most critical thing that we need to understand. This is the foundation of all the aspects of faith. If we understand faith in its essence, then we're going to understand faith in terms of the definite article, we're going to understand personal faith, and we're going to understand faith as a principle. But, we need to understand faith in terms of its essence.

**Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

Turn in your Bibles to Hebrews, chapter 11. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". We went through in some detail what this passage of scripture is saying. And we came up with a picture summarizing Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1.

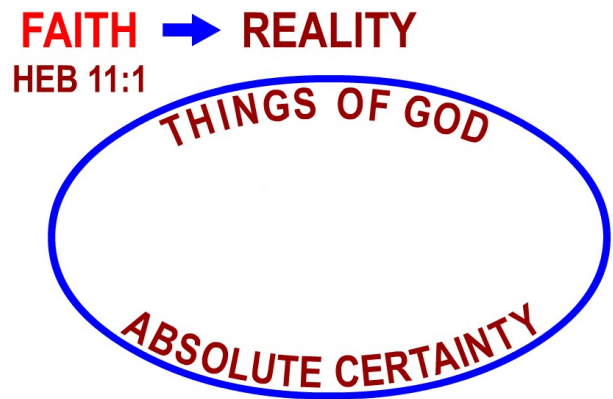
"Faith is the substance of things hoped for". We saw that the word "is" is a verb, it's an essence verb. It's describing the very essence of faith, the intrinsic nature of faith.

And when it talks about faith as a substance, the word substance could be translated "reality". That faith is reality. What God describes as Biblical faith is reality. This has nothing to do yet with personal faith.

Faith in its essence is reality. It's reality in the things of God. And these things of God are an absolute certainty.

Now we're just looking at faith from God's perspective and not our perspective. We're looking at what God reveals to us as to what faith is. It's reality about the things of God. We can say it's an absolute certainty.

Last week I asked you what are the things of God. And one of the responses was, who God is, His essence. What I did here is just to summarize the things of God, because we can't go through, in this study, all the aspects of the things of God, because I'll be here for the next four years.



**“THINGS” OF GOD – HIS ESSENCE (Glory) Heb 11:1**

<b>HOLY</b>	<b>RIGHTEOUS JUST</b>	<b>Ps 99:9, 145:17, Is 45:21</b>
<b>INFINITE</b>	<b>OMNIPOTENT OMNISCIENT OMNIPRESENT</b>	<b>Gen 17:1, Ps 139:1-7</b>
<b>SELF-EXISTENT</b>	<b>ETERNAL LIFE</b>	<b>Jn :58, 14:6</b>
<b>LOVE</b>	<b>GRACE MERCY</b>	<b>Ex 34:6,7 1 Jn 4:8</b>
<b>IMMUTABLE</b>	<b>TRUTH FAITHFUL</b>	<b>Jn 14:6, Heb 13:8 1 Cor 10:13</b>
<b>SPIRIT</b>		<b>Jn 4:24</b>
<b>SOVEREIGN</b>		<b>Gen 1:1, Rom 9:14-24</b>

## He is holy

As we look at some of the aspects of the essence of God, we see that God is holy. Which means that He's **set apart**. God is set apart from every thing that is not consistent with His essential essence.

As I have said before, you cannot "box" God. We're trying to show some of the attributes of His nature on the screen here. And please understand, you can't limit God.

What the scripture reveals is the fact that He's holy. He's set apart from everything.

He's **righteous**. He's absolutely right.

He's **just**. That means that He's fair.

## He is infinite

He's **omnipotent**. He's all-powerful. He can speak and create the world just by speaking the word.

He's **omniscient**. He knows everything. There isn't anything that He doesn't know. He knows every one of our hearts, every single one. He knows the sorrows that we have. He knows about the joy that we have. There isn't anything that He doesn't know.

Because He knows everything, doesn't mean that it's causative. Just because He knows the decision we're going to make about something, it doesn't cause us to make that decision.

For example, Adam sinned. Did God know about it ahead of time? He sure did. Before the foundation of the world, God prepared the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ, His death, burial, & resurrection, before Adam ever sinned.

But, because God knew Adam would sin, did that cause Adam to sin? Absolutely not! His omniscience is not causative.

He's **omnipresent**. He's everywhere.

## He is self-existent

He needs nothing outside of Himself to exist. We're here this morning, and we need every breath of air to exist. And if we don't get that next breath of air, we don't exist, that is in terms of the physical body. We need all of these things outside of ourselves to exist, in terms of air and food and water, etc. But, He's **self-existent**.

## He is love

Scripture reveals to us the love of God. We read this morning in first John chapter three, what manner of love that this is, that we should be called the sons of God. Think about it. Think about the love that God has for you and me. That we can be called the sons of God. But God is **love**. That's His essential essence.

Out from His love comes His **grace**. And His grace, I'd like to summarize it this way, every thing that we don't deserve, God gives us. He gives us everything that we don't deserve.

And then, His **mercy**. We deserve nothing but His wrath and punishment. In His mercy He withholds everything that we do deserve.

## He is immutable

He will never change.

He's **truth**. The Lord Jesus Christ said, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes unto the Father but by me. He is truth. He is absolute truth.

He is **faithful**. He is faithful in every aspect of our life. He is faithful in everything that He has ever said, everything that He has ever promised. He is faithful in carrying out every single promise.

## He is spirit

God is a **spirit**, and we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

## He is sovereign

He's over all. No one needs to counsel God. He is **sovereign**.

Those are some of the aspects, concerning the things of God. I've listed a few others.

## “THINGS” OF GOD (Continued) HEB 11:1

**GOD'S ESSENCE (Glory)**

**GOD'S WAYS – Isa 55:8,9**

**GOD'S THOUGHTS**

**GOD'S WISDOM – 1 Cor 1:18-21**

**GOD'S KNOWLEDGE**

**GOD'S MIND – Rom 11:33-36**

**WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

**WHAT GOD IS DOING**

**WHAT GOD WILL DO**

**GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

Not only are we talking about the **essence** of God, but we're talking about **His ways** and **His thoughts**. And He tells us in the book of Isaiah in chapter 55, that our ways are not His ways, and that our thoughts are not His thoughts. And as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His ways above our ways, and His thoughts above our thoughts.

I want you to think about it. Think about the heavens and think about the stars. How high are they above the earth. Pretty big separation isn't there? The scientist tells us that these stars are billions of light years away. Do you know how far that is?

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second, and they're billions of light years away. One light year is light traveling at 186,000 miles per second for one full year. That's a big separation! His ways are above our ways, and His thoughts are above our thoughts. So, He reveals Himself to man concerning His ways and thoughts.

He reveals Himself to man concerning **His wisdom**, **His knowledge**, and **His mind**. If we talk about the first one, wisdom. In first Corinthians chapter one, it says for the message of the cross is to them who are perishing foolishness but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God.

And then it goes on to say, and it's talking about wisdom, that the cross represents the wisdom of God. Would man ever come up with the cross, which includes the death and burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you were to tell man, that he has a sin problem, and if he would recognize it, most people would never believe that they have a sin problem, but those who recognize that they have a sin problem, if you ask them what would be the solution to your sin problem.. What would be the solution to satisfy God concerning your sin? What would be our solution?

I know what my solution was. When I was an unbeliever. That I would go to church every Sunday, and that I would genuflect before we walked into the pew. And if I did that, then God would be looking down at me and He would be pleased with me.

But God says, Hal Molloy, that's your wisdom, but let Me tell you My wisdom. My wisdom is in the cross of My Son. I sent My Son to die and pay the penalty for your sin. My wisdom is wrapped up in the cross.

My response is that's foolishness. That's moronic, that's the word in the Greek. It's moronic. It's dumb. Why would God do that?

His wisdom is not our wisdom. As higher are the heavens above the earth, so is His wisdom also higher than ours. We're poles apart. We're light years away. And that's true concerning His knowledge, that's true concerning His mind.

Isaiah 55:8

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

I want you to look at one passage of scripture, concerning this.

So will you turn to Romans chapter 11. Look how it starts out at verse 33; "O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God".

O the depth.. We just looked at Isaiah, and it talks about the height, "O the height", and now it's talking about the depth. Whether it be the height or depth, you see the distance we are from God. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.

"How unsearchable are His judgments". And the word there for unsearchable is inscrutable. How inscrutable are His judgments. What that is saying is something like this; that every single judgment that God has made, is making, or will ever make is inscrutable. You don't need to take it to a higher court, because every one of His judgments are inscrutable, they are perfect.

And then it goes on to say, "...and His ways past finding out"! They're so high we can't find out His ways. Verse 34, "for who hath known the mind of the Lord. For who hath been his counselor?" Verse 34 says something like this, that even though we progress in our knowledge about the Lord, we can never come to the end of the knowledge about the Lord. Because here we have an infinite God and finite creatures. We'll never come to that end.

Romans 11:33  
 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!  
 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counselor?  
 35 Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?  
 36 For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen.

But isn't that wonderful? Because we're going to be spending all eternity with Him and we're going to keep finding out things about Him, and we're going to keep growing in our understanding of Him.

Verse 35, "For who hath first given to Him and should be recompensed unto him again?" Verse 36, "For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him or unto Him, are all things."

Notice the word "**things**" there? What do you think "things" means in verse 36? Could it mean **the things of God**? "For out of Him, and through Him, and unto Him are all things",.. these "things" are all the things of God.

I think that's what that is saying. The things that are of God are out from Him, they are through Him, and they return back unto Him. "To Whom be glory forever, Amen".

It's interesting that the passage ends that way. "To Whom be glory forever, Amen". Everything that is out from Him, and through Him, and unto Him, is for His glory.

At this point in time, I want you to recognize, we are not in the equation. **These are all the things of God, out from God, through Him, unto Him.** We are not in the equation yet. We'll come in later on when we talk about personal faith, but we're not there yet. We're just talking about faith in its essence.

So the **things of God** not only consist of **His ways, His thoughts, His wisdom, knowledge and mind.** But it's the things in terms of **what He has done, what He is doing** right now, and **what He will do** in the future. He has revealed all of that to us. All of those are things of God.

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: 1-TO DECLARE HIS GLORY**

The list can go on, but I ended it with the fact that the things of God also relate to His eternal purpose. When we talked about **God's eternal purpose**, we said that there were four aspects of His eternal purpose.

The first aspect of His eternal purpose-- we're talking now about back before the foundation of the world, back before creation, back in eternity past. Number one is **to declare His glory**. How does He declare His glory? How does He announce His glory?

He does it in several ways. He does it **by creation**, because as you look at all of the creation, as you look at the universe. Psalm 19 tells us.. "the heavens declare the glory of God". So one of the ways He declares His glory is through His creation.

How else does He declare His glory? He declares His glory **through the person of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Psalm 19:1  
 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.  
 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.  
 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.  
 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world..

Go to John chapter 1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". In the beginning.. that "in the beginning" takes you back before the creation of the world. It takes you back into eternity past.

Then in verse 14. .. and the Word became flesh, came into a new state of being, He became flesh and He dwelt among us, ..we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. He declares His glory through the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: 2-TO REVEAL HIS GLORY**

Then, **God reveals His glory**. How does God uncover His glory to man? We certainly have **the written Word**. The written Word reveals the glory of God. It reveals all of the things of God, and the things of God, are His glory. That's one way, and the other way He reveals His glory is through the incarnation, through **the person of our Lord Jesus Christ**. God's Glory was revealed through the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Then, there's a third way that He reveals His glory to us. And that is through **you and me as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ**. Second Corinthians chapter 3 and verse 3 says that we are epistles of Christ. We are the message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we come to know Him, God conforms us into the very image of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of God manifests through us the very glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So He reveals to the world, His glory through us.

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: 3-TO SHARE HIS GLORY**

Then, **He shares His glory**. How does God share His glory?

First, He shares His glory with **the first Adam**. God said, let us make man in our image and our likeness. God shared His very glory with Adam. Adam fell. You could no longer recognize God's glory through Adam.

But God's purpose still remained the same, that He was going to share His glory with man. And even though Adam sinned, and we took on Adam's nature, God's purpose was never ever going to be changed. He never redirected His purpose. He still wanted to share His glory with man.

Then comes **the last Adam**, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ comes to die and pay the penalty for the sins of the world. So God is now free to share His glory with those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

And the first thing that God does is that **He identifies us with the Lord Jesus Christ**. He puts us in union with the Lord Jesus Christ. And He puts us in union with Christ's death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and seating. We're put in that union, and the question is why? Why does God identify us with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and all His work? Why did He do that?

The answer is, so God could share His glory with us. He puts us in union with the One Who is the glory of God. We are in that living union with Him. That's the way God shares His glory with us, through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I tell you all this. How about proving it. Turn to John chapter 17, verse 20. This is the real Lord's prayer. The Lord Jesus Christ is praying to the Father. "Neither pray I for these alone". Who are these alone? The Lord Jesus is initially praying for the Apostles, and now the prayer takes a turn. "And neither I pray for these alone", that is, the Apostles, but for them also who shall believe on Me through their word". Well, who's that?

John 17:20

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

It's all of us who believed on the Word. This is the Lord Jesus Christ's prayer for us!

Verse 21. "That they all may be one, as Thou Father art in Me, and I in Thee, that **they also may be one in Us**". Now, notice two things there. That they all might be one. That we may be one. Are we one, all of us one? And how are we one?

We're one because when we put our trust in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit baptized us into the body of Christ, in first Corinthians 12:13, and **we are the body of Christ**. So we're one.

Now look at the second part of the prayer. "That they all may be one", first part, "as Thou Father art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us". Are we one in the Father and in the Son? And How did that happen?

Didn't that happen through our identification with Christ? We were baptized into the person and the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Look at the results. It's so that God can share His glory with us.

Verse 22, "And **the glory which Thou gavest Me, I have given them. That they may be one, even as We are one**".

Every time that I come to this passage, it chokes me up. This is unfathomable. This is one of those deep things of God. That God would share His glory with me!

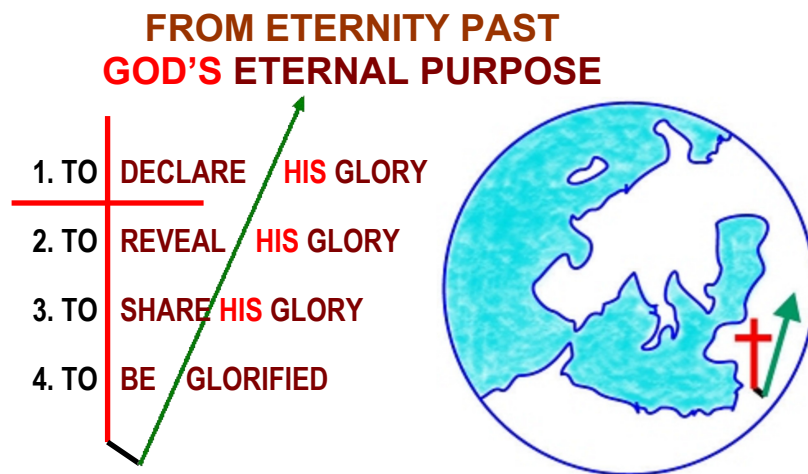
So, one of the purposes of God is to share His glory. And that's how He shares His glory with us, by identifying us with His son. And His Son then giving us the very glory that the Father has given Him.

John 17:22  
And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one:

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: 4-TO BE GLORIFIED**

Rom 11:36 For of Him, and through Him and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever.

Then, **He is to be glorified**. We read in chapter eleven in Romans that it was out from Him, through Him, and then unto Him. So it all comes then back to Him. To be glorified means simply that we magnify the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We magnify that glory.



So, I had to terminate the things of God with God's eternal purpose.

Let me just summarize. My whole purpose in all of this is that we understand starting out, what the essence of faith is. That the essence of Faith includes all of the things that we've looked at this morning. This is foundational. If we understand faith in its essence, all of the other aspects of faith, will fall into line.

### **The essence of Biblical faith is the totality of God's revelation to man**

Maybe we can say it this way. The essence of Biblical Faith is the totality of God's revelation to man. It's objective truth. It's the facts. It's reality. It's the very reality of Who and What God is and what He has done. And it's independent of us. It's independent of man, whether we believe it or not. Now God wants us to believe it. God wants us to enter into what He has revealed, to enter into those wonderful truths that He has revealed about Him, about His Son, and about us. But, independent of whether we believe or not, it's still reality, it's still truth, it's still facts.

As we've looked at this, you've probably asked the question, why is it God, God, God, God, God, God? Why is it all underlined? Because we want to stress that **this is all out from God**. It has nothing to do with man at this point in time.

As we go on, we're going to build upon this foundation.