

# ***Biblical Faith # 4*** ***“The” Faith***

Given July 1, 2001  
by **Hal Molloy** at  
**Holly Hills Bible Church**  
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Denver, Colorado 80222

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## Biblical Faith – “The” Faith - Biblical Faith # 4 - July 1, 2001

### 4 MAJOR ASPECTS OF BIBLICAL FAITH

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

Our study has been on the subject of Faith. Faith, in terms of its essence, and “the” faith, and personal faith, and faith as a principle, and what we’ve done is look at the essence of faith, and asked the question; What is the essence of Biblical faith? I qualified faith, as Biblical faith, because there is faith that is non-Biblical.

Hebrews 11:1

Now **faith** is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

We looked at Hebrews eleven verse one. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The word “substance” there means “reality”. It’s the reality of things hoped for, and the word for “hope” there means those things, which are an absolute certainty.

So when we talk about Biblical faith in its essence, we’re talking about reality. We’re talking about those things of God, which are an absolute certainty. All of this so far, is independent of man, independent of our faith. So, we’re separating out the essence of faith from our personal faith, in this initial part of our lesson.

**FAITH → REALITY**

HEB 11:1



### What is the essence of faith? God’s total revelation to man

Most through the Bible, some through general revelation.

We said last week, as we summarized the essence of faith, that it’s God’s total revelation to man. Now, most of the revelation comes through the Bible, it comes through the word of God. But there is some revelation, that God has given to man, in terms of “general” revelation, and every man has been given the knowledge of God within himself. He knows by looking at the creation that there is a God, that He’s omnipotent, that He’s all-powerful. So, every person knows that there is a God, and knows about His eternal power and His Godhead.

So, when we talk about faith in its essence, we’re talking about that which is reality, we’re talking about that which is objective truth, facts. Independent of whether you or I understand them, independent of whether we know them, independent of whether we believe them, independent of all that, independent of us. They are reality and they are an absolute certainty.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### What’s the source of the essence of faith?

Now, what I’d like to do is ask the question, What’s the source of the essence of faith? I want you to turn in your Bibles to Hebrews chapter twelve, verse one, “Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us. And let us run with patience, the race that is set before us”. How? By “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”.

I told you that we’re going to be building on this basic diagram here, in terms of faith. So the first thing that we’re going to build upon is the source of faith. And it says here in Hebrews 12:2 that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of *our* faith, and “*our*” is italicized, so it was added by the interpreter. The pronoun “*our*” isn’t there, but there is the definite article. That **Jesus Christ** is the **author** and **finisher** of the faith.

**FAITH → REALITY**

HEB 11:1



Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto **Jesus** the **author** and **finisher** of the faith.

## What does “The” Faith mean?

So, now the question is, What does the faith mean? Hebrews twelve two is in a context.

### **Hebrews 11:1 = the essence of Biblical faith (God’s total revelation to man)**

Hebrews 11:1 starts off with the **essence of faith**, “...Faith is the substance of things hoped for, or the reality of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”, or the proof of things not seen.

### **Hebrews 11:2-12:1 = personal faith (resting in the essence of faith)**

And then from verse two in chapter eleven, through verse one in chapter twelve, it’s talking about **personal faith**. Just go back to Hebrews eleven verse two, “...For by it the elders received witness, through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”, or which are visible. And then you go through God’s “hall of fame” of the men and women of faith. So you see, by faith Abel, by faith Enoch, by faith Sarah, and as you go down through all of chapter eleven, up through verse one of chapter twelve, it’s talking about personal faith.

### **Hebrews 12:2 = Jesus Christ is the author & finisher of the faith**

So now, there’s a definite article there. It’s talking about the faith. When there’s a definite article, it’s pointing out something definite. It’s making it specific. So if I were to say there’s a house. It could be any house. But if I say, there is the house; you know that it’s a specific house.

Now, in the context there’s the essence of faith, and there’s personal faith. Is it the essence of faith that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher, or is it personal faith that He’s the author and finisher, or could it be both, that He’s the author and finisher of both the essence of Biblical faith and of personal faith?

### **Personal faith = resting in the essence of faith**

Personal faith is one resting in the essence of faith. The essence of faith is the things of God, and, in the case of an unbeliever, there are specific things that the Holy Spirit reveals unto an unbeliever. And to a believer, the Holy Spirit’s job description is to reveal all of the things of God to us. So, personal faith is one just resting in the facts, or the truth, or the reality of what God said. Personal faith is where you take ownership of what God has revealed, in terms of the essence of faith. You rest in it. It becomes yours. You’re the owner of it. You believe it, and you’re the owner of that truth.

Hebrews 12:2 is in this context, that Jesus Christ is the **author** and **finisher** of the faith. Is it the essence of faith, or personal faith?

## “The” Faith in scripture can refer to:

- 1. the essence of faith, the totality of God’s revelation to man**
- 2. a portion of the essence of faith, like the Gospel**
- 3. personal faith, resting in the essence of faith**

The faith, as we go through all of these passages of scripture where there’s the definite article, could be referring to the essence of faith, in terms of the totality of what God has revealed. Or, just a portion of the essence of faith, like for example, the gospel, that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world, that He was buried and He rose again the third day. The faith can also refer to personal faith. So it can refer to any of those three. What does it refer to here in Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2?

**Author is used in 4 passages: Acts 3:15 & 5:31 – prince, Hebrews 2:10 – captain, Hebrews 12:2 – author**  
**Author can mean: originator, founder, prince, leader, captain**

The word here for “**author**” is used only four times in scripture in the New Testament. It’s used in Acts 3:15, it’s used in Acts 5:31, it’s used in Hebrews 2:10 and it’s used here in Hebrews 12:2. The word “author” has several ideas: one is “**originator**”, another is “**founder**”, and another is “**prince**”. (If we were to look at the two passages in Acts, it translates it as “prince”). “Author” could also mean “**leader**”, and “author” is interpreted sometimes “**captain**”. And so, if we were to go to the other passage in Hebrews, in chapter two verse ten, we would see it translated, “captain”. So, which idea of the word “author” is it referring to?

Turn to chapter three of Acts. Here the story is Peter & John heal a man who’s been lame from birth. And in verse 11 it says, “as the lame man who was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon’s, greatly wondering”.

And they would have worshiped Peter and John.

Acts 3:11

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon’s, greatly wondering.

But look at the response, ..and when Peter saw that the people were probably about to do that, he answered the people, You men of Israel, why marvel you at this? Or why look so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we have made this man walk? What they're saying is that; “there was nothing in and of ourselves that made this man walk”.

Verse 13 ..the God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the **Holy One**, and the **Just**. These are the titles that are given to the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Old Testament, and they understood these titles, that this was the Messiah, the Holy One, and the Just.

And he goes on to say in verse 14, “and you desired a murderer to be granted unto you”. You know, let Barabus go and kill the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 15, and you “killed the **prince** of life”, you killed the **author** of life. “Whom God has raised from the dead. Of which we are witnesses”.

Acts 3:12-15

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; Whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the **Prince** of life, Whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

So, Peter and John are telling these Jews that they have killed the prince or the author of life. What does “author” mean here? Does it mean “originator”, “founder”, “prince”, “leader”, “captain”? All of those are translations of this word.

## Jesus Christ is the originator of physical life

I think Jesus Christ is called the “**prince**” or the “**author**” of life, because He is the **beginning** or the **originator** of God’s creation.

And, just to show you that, turn over to Revelation chapter three verse fourteen. Here, John is instructed to write to the Churches, and He’s writing unto the church of Laodicea in verse fourteen, “and unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans, write, these things saith the Amen, these things saith the Verily, Verily, the Faithful and True Witness, the **Beginning** of the creation of God”. The word “**beginning**” is similar to the word “**author**”.

Revelation 3:14

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the **beginning** of the creation of God;

And as we go to John 1:3 it says, “all things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made”; everything was created by the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:3

All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

So, in Acts 3:15 when it talks about Jesus Christ being the prince or the author of life, He is the “**originator**” of life, He’s the “**author**” or “**originator**”.

Now, turn back to Hebrews, and I want you to look at one of the other passages that uses the word author, and that’s Hebrews chapter two. What’s interesting here is this. Not only is Jesus Christ the author or the originator of all **physical life**, but He’s the author and He’s the originator of all **spiritual life**.

Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

## Jesus Christ is the originator of physical life and spiritual life

Look at verse nine, “but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man”.

10 For it was fitting for Him, for Whom are all things, and through Whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, **to perfect** the **author** of their salvation through sufferings. (NAS)

The message there is this; that Jesus Christ came into the world to die for the sins of the world. For everybody’s sins? Yes, for every single person. It’s an inclusive term here in verse nine. It means every single person. So, He has died and He has paid the penalty for every man’s sin.

And then in verse ten, “for it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory”, to “perfect”, as opposed to “to make”. To perfect the captain or author of their salvation through suffering.

So, He is the captain or He is the author of salvation. And I think what that’s saying is that He is the originator. Salvation originates out from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto **Jesus** the **author** and **finisher** of the faith

So, We’re back to the question; is the faith in Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2, talking about the essence of faith, or is it talking about personal faith, or is it talking about both?

## Conclusion: **The faith = the essence of faith + personal faith**

Let me say this. I think for sure, it's talking about the essence of faith, when it talks about the faith. And I also think that it includes personal faith, because these two are intrinsic. You can't separate personal faith from the essence of faith, because personal faith is resting in the essence of faith. So they're tied together.

So, I believe that it's talking about both. That He's the originator of the faith, and in the case of personal faith, He's the leader. He has shown us, and that's what He did in totally resting upon the Father. And He totally rested up unto the Cross. And He rested in God's provision. So, it can be translated both.

So He's "the **author** and **finisher** of the faith". And the word "finisher" there means a "completer", a "perfecter", one who completes and perfects a thing. One who brings through to final attainment, or **brings to a goal**. The **Lord Jesus Christ brings to a goal the faith**. Essence of faith? Absolutely! Personal faith? Absolutely!

So I think there's no question that the faith definitely refers to the **essence of faith**, and I think it also includes **personal faith**.

### How does God convey faith's essence?

How does God convey faith's essence? How does He convey that to man?

Turn to Romans chapter 10, and let's just look at the context for a minute in verse one. It says, "brethren my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved". This is Paul's prayer for Israel, his brethren, those who were of the seed of Abraham as Paul was of the seed of Abraham, and He desires that they might be saved.

And so the question is, how can they be saved? Verse 9, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thy heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. And there's the gospel. There's the simple gospel: **That Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came into this world, and He came as a man and He was both man and God, and He went to the cross, and He died. He paid the penalty for the sins of the world.**

And there was an agreement between the Father and the Son. And the Son agreed to shed His blood for the sins of the world. And the Father's part of the covenant, the everlasting covenant, or the eternal covenant, mentioned over in Hebrews 13:20, as He said to His Son, "if You lay Your life down for the sins of the world, I'll take it up again. And, I'll resurrect You". **So, the very proof that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world, ( and no one else could do that ), the proof is in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Hebrews 13:20

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

### FROM ETERNITY PAST GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

- |       |         |           |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| 1. TO | DECLARE | HIS GLORY |
| 2. TO | REVEAL  | HIS GLORY |
| 3. TO | SHARE   | HIS GLORY |
| 4. TO | BE      | GLORIFIED |



### By **Believing**, which is just resting in God's essence

And so, that's what we're to believe. How do you believe? You just rest in those facts. The reality that comes out from God's essence, we just rest in that.

And so you go on to verse 10, it says, "for with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation". And then it goes on, "for scripture saith, whosoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed, for there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord, overall, is rich unto all that call upon Him, for whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved".

Romans 10:10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

And then, in verse 14, it goes into the question that man has today, “How about the people who have ‘no clue’, who have never heard the gospel?” Look at verse 14, “How then shall they call upon Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher”, without one who heralds the message?

Verse 15, “And how shall they preach except they be sent, as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things. But they have not all obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah says, Lord, who hath believed our report?” Then in verse 17: so “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.

In verse 17, there’s a definite article. For **the** faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

What faith is it talking about there? Is it talking about the essence of faith? Is it talking about personal faith? Is it talking about both? The faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. So God comes at man, as we build upon this, and the word of God expresses the reality of Who God is. The things of God, that which is absolute certainty, is expressed in the word of God.

Now I want to skip for a moment, the faith we’ll come back to it in a minute.

So the message, or at least the gospel comes from the word of God. So, here’s the word of God, out from the essence of God, and here comes the hearing. The hearing is by a person. And in this case, what we’re talking about in Romans 10 is the gospel. It is how the person is saved, saved through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. A person hears that by someone who heralds that message. God desires a response & every man is going to respond.

The response may be negative; I’m not going to believe that, that’s dumb. Because as we look at first Corinthians chapter one it says, “for the message of the cross is to them who are perishing, foolishness”. That’s a bunch of foolishness that God would send His Son to die on the cross for the sins of the world. I mean, if I were to have a plan, that wouldn’t be my plan. That’s right, it wouldn’t.

But the cross is the wisdom of God, and as high as the heavens are above the earth, so is His wisdom above our wisdom. So, the cross represents the power of God, and we don’t have that infinite power. But that’s what the cross represents, and that’s the essence of faith. Whether we know it, whether we understand it, whether we believe it or not, if we hear it, we’re going to respond. And the response may be negative; I don’t want to believe that, and that was my response for many many years.

Or the response may be positive, believing it and putting one’s total rest in the facts. God, you said you’ve done it and I rest in what you say. I enter in to the truth that you have revealed.

Romans 10:17 So then **the faith** cometh **out of hearing**, and **hearing** by the **word of God**.

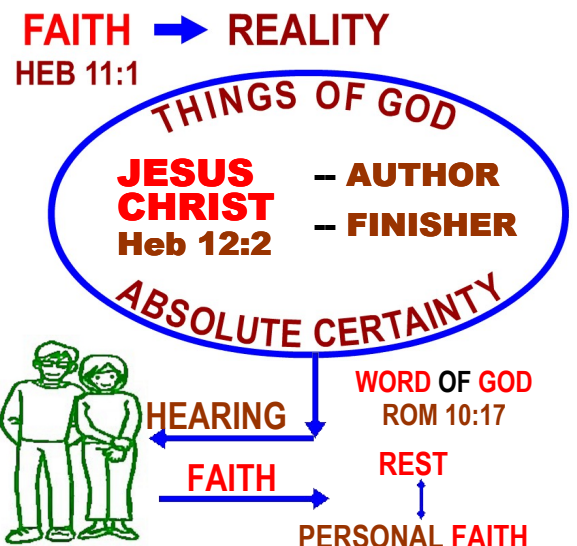
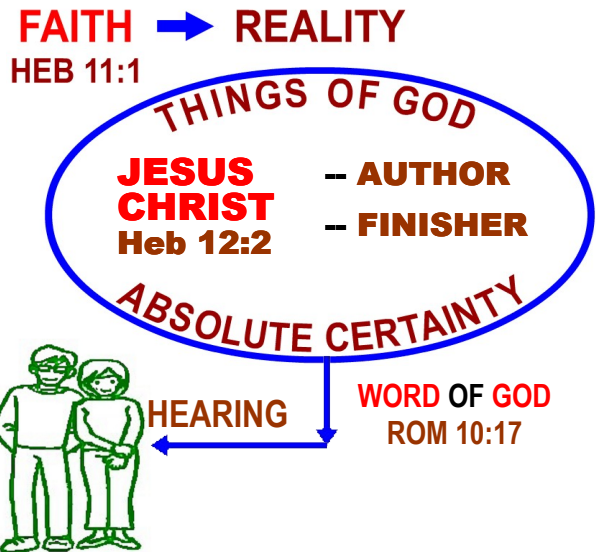
So there’s a response on the part of man. He hears the word, and it says; the faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I believe in this passage of scripture, it’s talking about **personal faith**. Because there’s a little preposition there which says, the faith comes **out of hearing**, and **hearing** by the **word of God**.

Romans 10:16 But they have not all **obeyed** the gospel. For Esaias saith, **Lord**, who hath **believed** our report?

So, man hears the word of God and responds either negatively or positively. In verse 16, man responded negatively. It says; “But they have not all obeyed the gospel”, they have not all “listened under” the gospel, for Isaiah says: “Lord, who hath believed our report?”; or who has heard the message?

Romans 10:14 - How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?  
15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?  
17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.



## The Good News and The Bad News

In verse 17 is one who has heard the message and by faith, and by rest and trust, believed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is, **rest** or **personal faith** in the facts, that Jesus Christ came, the eternal Son of God, came to this earth as a man, died on the cross, for your sins, for my sins, for the sins of the entire world. And, **that’s the good news**.

**And the bad news is this;** Every single person born into this world, is born in Adam, for by one man, that is, Adam, sin entered into the world, that is, the sin nature entered into the world, and death by sin.

And death there goes back to Genesis 2:17, and it’s talking about both spiritual death and physical death. Because God said to Adam, in the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the tree that I told you that you can’t partake, “dying you shall surely die”. Dying (spiritually) the moment you eat of it, you shall surely die, yet future, physically die. 930 years later Adam died.

Then, in Romans 5:12 it says; For by one man, the sin (nature) entered into the world and the death (spiritual death, physical death) by the sin. And So, death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.

Because we’re born in Adam, there’s death. We’re born spiritually dead. When you were born, you were born spiritually dead. Death means nothing more that separation from God. You were born spiritually dead, separated from God spiritually. And because you were, you were united to that sin nature, and God condemns the sin nature, He has judged it, and because of the sin nature there’s eternal condemnation. So we’re eternally condemned.

I was explaining this to a couple, this young lady said; That isn’t good! I said, yeah, you’re right, that isn’t good.

**But there is good news.** And the good news is that God loves us. And He loves us so much that He sent His Son. And I explained the gospel to them both. And I said, now you have a consideration, either to believe it or not. Either to enter in to those wonderful truths, that God has paid for every one of your sins. That He has paid the penalty, but you’re still united to that sin nature which is condemned. And you’re going to be condemned to go to hell, unless you believe.

**If you believe, the scripture tells us  
there is now therefore no condemnation  
to those who are in Christ Jesus.**

Amen? Amen

Genesis 2:17 - But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Romans 5:12 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so **death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

Romans 8:3 – God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned the sin in the flesh:

John 3:16  
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in Him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 8:1  
There is now therefore **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus.