



Armor of God Week 5: The Shield of Faith Homework

1. Turn to Hebrews 11:1 and copy this biblical definition of faith word-for-word below.

The word *evidence* or *conviction* in Hebrews 11:1 is translated from the Greek word *elanchos* (pronounced “e’-len-khos”), meaning *proof*. Faith is “Proof of that which is not seen.” Consider what it means to have “proof” of something. How does this understanding help us see faith as a tangible thing rather than an invisible virtue?

BY DEFINITION

Simply put, faith is acting like God is telling the truth. The key thought here is action. By definition, faith is not talking about or thinking about or even celebrating God’s truth. It is the process of adapting your behavior, your decisions, and ultimately, your whole lifestyle so that it accords with what God has asked you to do – without needing to see the evidence that it will all work out in the end. In fact, the thing that makes faith, well, faith, is when – like Daniel, Rahab, and the children of Israel – you choose to act in accordance with truth despite the fact that you can’t see what the outcome will be. The act of faith is what becomes a shield of protection to guard against the enemy’s attacks. Faith is acting like it is so, even when it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so.

2. Underline the key words and phrases in the paragraph above.
3. End today by making a list of any areas where you sense God asking you to take a step of faith right now – either because it’s a clear directive from His Word (to forgive, to tithe, etc.), or because you feel the leading of God’s Spirit. We’ll refer back to this list again.

If you’ve hesitated to move forward in obedience – why? Try to narrow down and document your reasons here.

If this matter is something directly addressed in God’s Word, write some of the Bible references below.

If the directive you’ve listed is not directly addressed in the Bible, have you...

- prayed fervently about it?
- made certain it aligns with the overarching themes and direction revealed in Scripture and will in no way manipulate or go against it?
- asked for wise counsel from someone in spiritual authority in your life?