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Definition/Description of "faith"

- Definition: root = "to be persuaded" : believe / trust
 - verb: John 6:29
- to be so sure, that you know

:1a Substance of things hoped for

- "Substance" can be misleading.
 - After you know, OK. Before you know, clear as mud.
 - "substance" = made of (pulpit made of substance - wood)
 - but ≠ what faith is made of
- Substance - assurance (NASB/ESV), confident assurance (NLT), being sure (NIV)
 - in building trade = foundation / basis
 - in business = title deed / proof of ownership
 - theologically - sense (e.g. eyes perceive physical, faith perceives spiritual)
- Faith is the difference between hoping & knowing
 - re. "You Will Go To The Moon"
 - wished I could go - but didn't expect to
 - re. Hit song, tour the world, make records
 - definitely possible, hoped to, knew I could & believed I would - but never became reality
 - re. Receiving the benefits of God's grace
 - forgiveness, not just for the bad choices I've made, but for the inherent propensity to trust myself more than God, that ever led to those bad choices in the first place.
 - By faith we KNOW our sin is forgiven, that our eternal destination is settled & that our lives here & now, have significance & meaning, whether in suffering or success.

:1b Evidence of things not seen

- Evidence: conviction (NASB), being certain (NIV)
 - Conviction = that which convinces/persuades = proof
 - Faith = proof that what God has promised is going to happen even before we see it.
- Romans 1:16-20

TWO EXAMPLES

:2 Things hoped for: good testimony

- :2, 4, 5, 39

:3 Things not seen: creation

- Genesis 1:1 created = "bara" = something from nothing
- Isn't it interesting that faith is tied directly to creation
 - Creation is the starting point for faith.
 - If we don't believe that God created everything from nothing -
 - How can we believe that predictive prophecy is more than a coincidence;
 - How can we believe in a virgin birth / substitutionary death / resurrection;
 - How can we believe in justification, sanctification, redemption or promise of eternity?