Faith
Heb. 11:1,6

Introduction:
A. Faith is important. (v.6).
B. Faith is described. (v.7).
   1. Not formal definition - Like "God is love".
   2. But describes faith's nature.
      a. Evidence of unseen realities: Beings, events, etc.
      b. Substance (essence) unrealized hope: Real as though already here.
C. "Faith" has two basic connotations in the New Testament:

Discussion:
II. Objectively: The New Testament Testimony and Teaching Concerning Jesus Christ. (Jude 3).
A. “The faith”, “The truth”, and “the gospel” are the same. (Col 1:23; Eph. 1:13; 2 Tim. 3:8; cf. Eph. 4:5)
   1. The Inspired testimony supporting His deity - with all that goes with it.
   2. The Inspired testimony of his teachings and expectations. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8)
B. “The faith” (in Christ as object of Abrahamic promise) as opposed to the law of Moses. (Gal. 3).

III. Subjectively: The Response of Individuals To “The Faith.”
A. The acceptance of the evidence - belief. (Rom. 10:6-8,17).
C. One may we weak or strong in his faith - degree of trust.
   1. "Little faith" (Matt. 6:30).
   3. "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).
D. One may be weak or strong in "the faith" - degree of understanding of “the faith”. (Rom. 14:1, 15:1).
   1. The weak strongly believe what they believe - understanding weak.
   2. Parallel to those in 1 Cor. 8:1-13).
E. One often as his faith tested - both the degree and understanding. (Jas. 1:2,3) - power of temptation lies in appeal to immediate and visible.
   1. By troubles in general.
   2. By temptation in general.
   3. By exposure to human wisdom.
   4. By the delay of results.
   5. By the requirements of faith.

Conclusion:
A. We need to honestly consider the evidence.
B. We need believe the evidence and ground ourselves in it.
C. We need continually refresh our minds, lest the appeal to here and now weaken our faith.