
Words of Truth

Hebrews 11:3

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“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). Through faith, Peter and John were able to heal a lame man (Acts 3:1-16). Through faith, there is power in the blood of Christ (Romans 3:25). Through faith, Gentiles and Jews were and are justified (Romans 3:30-31 and Galatians 3:8). Through faith, the grace of God works in His plan of redemption (Ephesians 2:1-10). Through faith, the Scriptures work to make one wise unto salvation (II Timothy 3:15). Through faith, saints are able to inherit the promises God has made (Hebrews 6:12). Through faith, many wonders and mighty acts have happened throughout the Scriptures (Hebrews 11:11, Hebrews 11:28, and Hebrews 11:33). Through faith, the incorruptible inheritance is kept by the power of God (I Peter 1:3-5). Therefore, this study starting off with the statement “through faith” signifies that we are talking about how powerful faith is.

From this passage we also see that faith relates to understanding. The Greek word [νοέω] that is translated “understanding” means: “To exercise the mind (observe), i.e. (figuratively) to comprehend, heed: — consider, perceive, think, understand...” (Strong’s # 3539). You can see this directly when the Lord chastised His disciples when they did not understand the warning about the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Notice: *“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed. And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not*

beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (Matthew 16:1-12). With that understanding, let’s consider the “worlds” framed by the word of God.

The term translated “worlds” is broad. It can mean a period of time such as “for ever” (Matthew 21:19), “evermore” (Revelation 1:18), or “ages” (Colossians 1:26). It can mean “world” (Matthew 24:3 and Titus 2:12). The only other time we see the translation of “worlds” is in Hebrews 1:2. Part of the definition of the Greek term “αἰών” includes “universe” (Strong’s # 165). Therefore, through faith, we understand that time and the universe were framed by the word of God. In other words, we understand these things were spoken into existence (Genesis 1:1-31, Psalms 33:6-9, and Psalms 148:1-5). Not only was the word of God the source of creation, but the word of God is also the power that sustains the continuation of the existence of what was created (II Peter 3:1-7). We also understand through faith, the inference concerning Christ being the Word through faith and thus His role in the creation of all things (John 1:1-14; cf. Colossians 1:12-20).

The power of God’s word is amazing (Hebrews 4:12). Not only was the universe completed through the spoken word of God, but through the spoken word of God miracles were performed (John 4:46-54 and John 11:38-44). Furthermore, and of most significance for mankind now, through the spoken word of God lost souls are saved (Acts 11:1-14, Romans 1:14-16, Romans 10:14-17, James 1:21, and I Peter 1:22-25). We are told to live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4).

Now, let’s consider how that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. This just furthers the point that the word of God was the source of Creation. When men build something, they need materials to use in construction (i.e. I Kings 6:14-38). God is declaring here that there were no materials or tools used in the Creation of the universe and life therein. What we see in the Creation account is “God said” (Genesis 1:3, Genesis 1:6, Genesis 1:9, etc.).

In Elihu’s words of correction to Job, he told Job to stand still and consider the wondrous works of God (Job 37:14). Paul taught the idolatrous Athenians that God gave life and breath to all (Acts 17:16-28). When we look up into the sky and see stars, the moon, the sun, other planets, etc.; we are seeing what God created (Psalms 8:1-9, Psalms 19:1, and Isaiah 40:22-26). A Psalmist said: *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well”* (Psalms 139:14). Creation is a testimony to the power of God (Jeremiah 27:5). We can marvel that God set the bounds of the sea (Jeremiah 5:22). Ask someone in New Orleans, LA, USA how effective man is in setting up barriers between bodies of water and the dry ground (in reference to Hurricane Katrina). Through faith, we see Creation and know that God’s word is powerful. Through that same faith, we see and do the will of God to be saved (Hebrews 10:39).