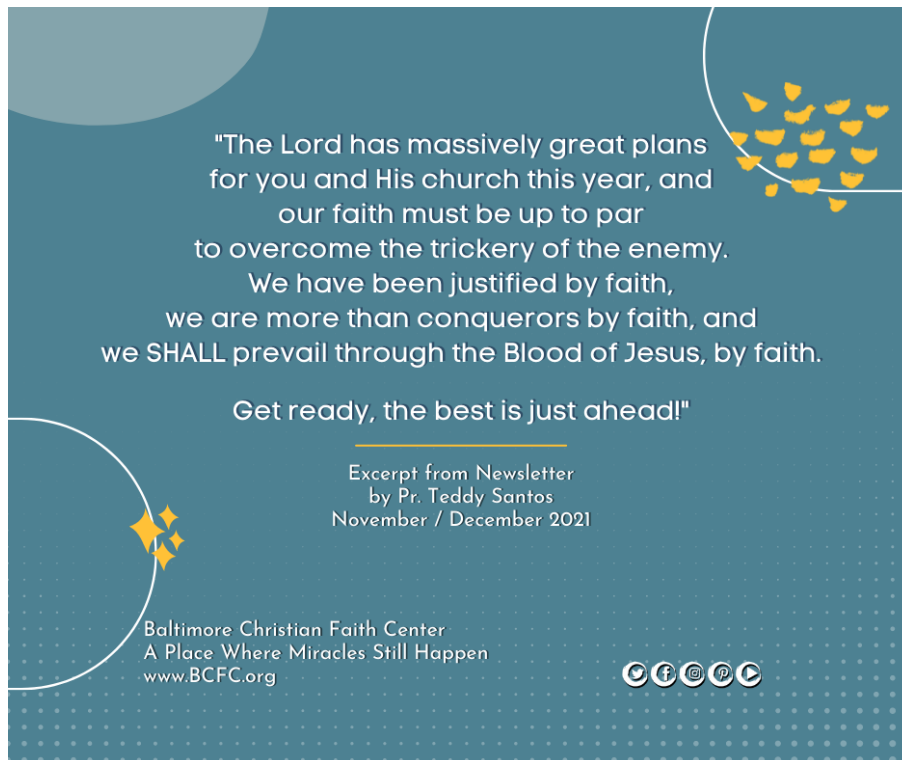


The Underlying Truth

Newsletter - November / December 2021



Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Can you tell if you are currently exercising the right kind of faith in your life? While the prevalent practice is to make New Year resolutions during this time of year, I believe it is essential for us all to take a moment to analyze our spiritual condition and consider certain things that might need to be addressed. A familiar verse that is Hebrews 11:1 defines the topic of our conversation: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hupostasis, the translated word for "substance," represents "that which underlies the obvious; that which is the basis of something, thus, assurance, guarantee, and confidence."

In English, "substance" is built from a prefix and a root; when combined, it means "that which stands under." Webster defines it as "the real or essential part or element of anything; essence, reality, or basic matter." It is no coincidence that it is very similar in meaning to *hupostasis*.

The Apostle Paul states that, for the born-again Christian, faith underlies what is witnessed externally in the manners of their lives. Underlying a structure is its foundation, and in most configurations, the foundation is seldom seen. Only a tiny portion is seeable if it is seen at all, but nonetheless, it is still there. If there is no foundation, the structure soon becomes warped and crooked. The building will likely collapse and be completely unusable.

Since the Apostle mentions that, "**We walk by faith, not by sight,**" (2Cor 5:7) we comprehend that underlying the behavior of a Christian's life is not only accepting that God exists, but a continuous, persistent, and abiding trust in The Lord! Since God cannot lie, we trust that what He has recorded for you and me to live by is indisputable, conclusive, and 100% absolute. Furthermore, it must be obeyed, and that it will work in our lives regardless of what may be evident to our personal feelings.

How much of what we accomplish is genuinely motivated by an implicit trust in the Word of God? To answer the question at the beginning of this newsletter - this is how we can tell whether we are living by faith. In our evaluation, however, we must be sincere. It is effortless for us to dim the truth via self-deception. We justify disobedience by rationalizing around The Lord's clear commands and even examples, saying that our circumstances are exceptional because . . . (fill in the blank).

The Lord has massively great plans for you and His church this year, and our faith must be up to par to overcome the trickery of the enemy. We have been justified by faith, we are more than conquerors by faith, and we SHALL prevail through the Blood of Jesus, by faith. Get ready, the best is just ahead!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos