

FAITH IS ... Evidence of the Unseen

(Faith is ... the PROOF that spiritual things exist)

(Part 3)

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Archived in Dawn Fields' Website

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/yourlifepurpose/read/message.html?mid=812593294&sort=d&start=308>

From Dawn Fields:

*Greetings!!!*

*Winter is finally trying to come here in New Jersey. I t's suppose to get in the teens today. I'm not ready for it. It has been a really nice winter so far--not too cold, no snow, great--for me at least. My kids have been begging for some snow but to be honest with you, I could do without it. I think the weather has been going a bit crazy lately--snowing where it shouldn't, being hot where it's usually cold--but it's all good with me.*

*Well, for this week, let's not even concentrate on the cold. Let's continue on with this awesome teaching from Rev. Edward Slusser on FAITH. This is the third part to his amazing serie on How to Develop Faith.*

*If you missed any of the other parts, feel free to go to the newsletter archives and read them. You won't want to miss any of this. I will be sharing this information with you over the next few months.*

*Here's the link to the archives: <http://lists.topica.com/lists/yourlifepurpose/read>*

*This one is pretty long, but definitely worth the read. And trust me, once you start reading it, you won't want to stop until you have finished. POWERFUL!!! Thank God for Rev. Slusser.*

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*Adapted by Paul Quek,
in "paul's e-scrapbook",
dimensionally and cyberspatially part of "Paul Quek's Website"*

FAITH IS ... Evidence of the Unseen (Part 3)

By Edward Slusser

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

"Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for ..."

Hope has no substance to it. Hope is a dream. Hope is just an idle thought. It has no tangibility. Substance means that which has materiality. Hope has none. "I hope some day to be rich." That has no tangibility. It's just a dream. Just a figment of my mind. What faith does is give hope substance. Faith gives hope materiality. Faith gives hope tangibility. Faith gives hope substance.

For instance, I'm sick. The doctor says it is a congenital disease. A chronic thing. I'll have it all my life. There's nothing else I can do. I'm born with it. I have to live with it. I can hope to be well. I can see myself running and playing. Walking on my own two feet with no assistance. I can hope for that. But it doesn't have any substance. There is no reality to that hope. I can take faith, however, and give my hope substance with the Word of God!

"Now faith is the substance of THINGS hoped for" Things. T-h-i-n-g-s. Things. Not ideas. Faith is the substance of things hoped for.

"Now faith is ... the evidence of things not seen." Faith has only to do with what I "see." I mean to perceive through your five senses, absolutely no faith is involved. Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is the evidence of things not seen.

Let's say I'm standing before a group of people, and you are one of those people. I hold up my watch in plain view of all and ask, "How many of you can see this watch in my hand?"

How much faith is needed to see the watch?

None.

Why?

Because it can be seen.

But if I should hold both hands behind my back and say, "I have a watch in my right hand," now it can't be seen.

You have nothing to go on but my word. You can either believe my word or disbelieve my word. Now faith has to be the evidence of the thing you don't see. And your faith has to be in my word. It's all you have to go on.

You could say, "I don't believe Ed is telling the truth. I think he's lying. He doesn't have a watch." And you could go on your way.

Or, you could say, "I believe it."

Someone walks up to you and says, "Hey, what do you think about that Ed saying he has a watch behind his back. Do you believe that?"

"Yes sir," you say, "I believe it. He gave me his word on it. I'm acting like it's so."

You can't see the watch now, so you have to use faith. And your faith has to be in my word. For it is impossible for you to use faith until you have some knowledge. And you can't have knowledge until somebody gives it to you. They have to give it to you by word of mouth, by the printed page, etc. In some way you must receive knowledge that the watch is there. Only then can you believe or disbelieve.

"Now faith is ... the EVIDENCE of things not seen." What a marvelous statement! Faith is the evidence! Faith is the evidence of things! Of things not seen! Not seen! Faith is the EVIDENCE of things not seen!

Do you know what the word "evidence" means? Evidence is that which supports the existence of something. Or, that which supports the fact a thing exists. If I have evidence of something, that means I don't have the thing. But, I have some substantial substance which shows that thing exists. Evidence proves the existence of something else. Right?

Notice it says that faith is the evidence of things *not seen*. You would have a tendency, in the natural, to think that because you can't see a thing it doesn't exist. But this verse says that faith is the evidence of the thing you *don't see*.

If faith is the evidence, then the thing, though not seen, must be real. If it were not real, faith couldn't be the evidence. Faith can't be the evidence of something which doesn't exist. Even though I don't see it, it must still exist. Because if it didn't exist in reality, faith could not be the evidence for it. You can't have evidence for something which doesn't exist, can you? Faith is the evidence of things not seen.

II Corinthians 4:18

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

"While we look not at the things which are seen ..." Which are *seen* ...

"But at the things ..." Things. T-h-i-n-g-s.

"... which are not seen..." Not seen.

"... for the things which are seen are temporal; ..." Or, temporary.

"... But the things which are not seen are eternal."

That sounds almost ridiculous. How in the world can you look at something that's not seen?

Only with the eye of faith!

Paul wrote here, "While we..." The "we" refers to those of us in the Body of Christ.

He said, " While we look not..." In other words, we don't look at the things which are seen. We don't make our value judgments based on what we see.

I don't say I'm sick because I feel sick. I don't say my needs are not met because I don't see the money. If I'm walking in line with God's Word, I find the Word of God which promises me my well-being, my healing, or my needs, etc. Then I say, "According to the Word of God..." And the Word of God becomes my evidence. I believe that and act on it. Then faith becomes my evidence of the thing not seen. Faith is what causes the unseen thing to come into visibility.

II Corinthians 5:7

... for we walk by faith, not by sight.

What's he talking about, **"We walk by faith, not by sight"**?

That means that the man of God, the Christian, walks by faith. He doesn't walk by what he sees. He doesn't make judgments nor base his actions on what he sees. He bases his actions on what?; **"thus saith the Lord"**.

Therefore you can see how important it is to know what **"thus saith the Lord"**. If you don't know what the Word of God says on the issue you need help on, you won't be able to exercise any faith. It is absolutely impossible to do it.

If you don't know the Word of God promises you healing, there's no way in the world you can believe for healing. Not by faith. Now if God desires to do it by the sovereign grace work of the Holy Spirit, such as in the Kathryn Kuhlman type meetings, you might get healed. The only sad thing about that is, you can't be guaranteed you will be the one healed. And if the doctor has given you only 6 months to live, buddy, you don't have time to play Russian roulette. You'd better know that you have something that's going to work.

Paul said, **"We walk by faith ..."** That means we walk by the Word of God.

Then what does the Word of God have to say about my physical well-being? What does God's Word have to say about my prayer life? What does God's Word say about my needs being met? I have to find the Word of God on these things, and then act on that Word instead of on what I see.

God's Word says, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:..." We don't look at the things which are seen.

I don't look at the cancer. I don't look at the tumor. I don't look at anything in the natural. All that is in the natural. It's not in the Word of God.

If I expect to receive what the Word of God says about it, I can't look at the natural and make my value judgment on that saying, "I'm sick." Because when I say that, I've signed for the package. I have taken authority for it, and it belongs to me legally. Satan can enforce it upon my body. And he will kill me with it. In fact, if you let him, he'll kill you with a broken toenail. He wants you dead. And he'll kill you with a split hair if you let him.

"We walk by faith, not by sight." That means I walk by what the Word of God says. So I must know what it says before I can walk by it. That's where many get bogged down. They go to meetings and sit there with their arms folded. They don't have a Bible. They just sit there listening, but hearing nothing. *In* one ear and *out* the other. And they're the ones repeatedly coming up in need of prayer, the ones continually sending in prayer request.

The key is God's Word. But I have to know what the keys fit. When I find out what the keys fit and start applying those keys, I'll start walking in the fullness of God. I'll start walking in the fullness of what's been provided for me through Christ in His redemptive work at Calvary. I have to know how to use my faith. And I have to know what faith is.

The Unseen

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things NOT SEEN."

Did you know unseen things are more real, or actually spiritual things are more real, than physical things?

Do you know why? Spiritual things existed before any material thing ever existed.

Jesus said, in talking to the woman at the well in Samaria, "God is a Spirit." (John

4:24)

He didn't say God is spirit. He didn't say God is mind. He didn't say God is a mind. He said God is a Spirit, a spirit, separate and distinct from other spirit beings.

Do you know why? Because angels are spirits. Satan is a spirit. Demons are spirits. And you are a spirit.

You don't have one. You are one. You are a spirit, you have a soul, and you live in a body. You don't have a spirit, you are a spirit. The real you is a spirit man.

That's what the Bible means when it says we are made in the image of God. God is a Spirit. Man is made like God. Man is a spirit. Animals were not made spiritual beings. They have only flesh and souls. They don't have spirits.

Jesus said that God is a Spirit. And the Bible says in the **Book of Genesis** that God created the heaven and the earth. Right? The heavens and the earth are physical, tangible things. God had to exist before He could create the heavens and the earth. So if God, who is a Spirit, existed before the heavens and the earth were created, that means spiritual things are more real than physical things. It took spiritual things to create physical things. God existed first. Then He, by His existence, brought the material things into manifestation. So actually, spiritual things are more real than physical things.

EPHESIANS 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath... "Hath" is an Old English word for our present day word "has", which you realize is a past tense term. It indicates the time of the action has already taken place. So what it's saying here is, God has already done this that Paul is talking about. It's already an accomplished fact as far as God is concerned.

Listen to what it says, **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, WHO HATH..."** It didn't say, who's going to bless. It didn't say, He's thinking about blessing. It didn't say, He's taking it under consideration. It says,

"... who hath blessed us ..." Who HAS blessed us! I'm already blessed!

What has He blessed me with?

"... with all ..." With ALL! Not with some. But with ALL!

All what?

"... ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES ..."

Somebody says, "Yes Brother Ed, but that's just it. I need a new car, that's not spiritual. I need a new job, that's not spiritual. I need some more clothes, that's not spiritual."

Wait a minute. You're missing it. All things are first of all spiritual, and then they become physical. Even a car, a house, a dress, first of all existed in the mind of the designer before ever being produced.

Consider a skyscraper, for instance. Workers don't just come out to the site with a bunch of dump trucks and rocks and say, "Let's put up a building," then start dumping stuff out on the ground. No. Some men come and measure the land. Blueprints and drawings are made. They make an artist's conception of what it will look like when it's finished. All this takes place before they ever start working on it, before they ever break ground. The idea for the building was in the mind of a man before it ever became a building.

Everything is first of all in the mind of God, before it becomes a physical manifestation. So when it says, "... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings ..." that means everything you need, including things tangible and material, to make your life a success is already in the Bank of Heaven. It's already in God. He has already blessed you with it. He put it on your account. What you have to do is start writing checks on it. Then it becomes yours experientially.

You could have a million dollars deposited in the bank in your account. You could be given the passbook and the checkbook. But if you don't write some checks, you'll never get the benefit of the money.

It's all in the Bank of Heaven. Faith is the way you write checks to draw it out.

Legally, it belongs to you. His Word says He has already blessed you with it. If He didn't want you to have it, why did He bless you with it?

It's already there. "...who hath..." Hath. Has. Not, He's going to. Not, He's thinking about it. But, Who HAS BLESSED US with all spiritual blessings.

That covers every need you can think of, plus your desires. When you're walking in line with the perfect will of God, meaning when your heart's desire is to do the will of the Lord, you can have the very desires of your heart. (See **Psalm 37:4**) Because when you're walking in line with the Word of God, wanting and desiring to do the perfect will of God, you won't ask for any dumb, stupid thing that would take you away from God.

So get off that kick about, "Well, the Lord knows if you get this new Cadillac, you would probably turn away from the church, so He doesn't let you have it,"

That's garbage. It's an excuse Satan has used to keep the church poor. Having things is not what keeps you away from God, IT'S THINGS HAVING YOU.

The Bible says, "**For the love of money is the root of all evil ...**"

People misquote it and say, "You know, honey, the Bible says that money is the root of all evil."

It doesn't say that at all. It says, "... the love of money ..." Having the money is not the point. It's the loving of it. You can love it and not have a dime. That's why people rob banks, they don't have any money and they love it, and they're trying to get it for nothing.

The Lord has never been opposed to your having things. He's always been opposed to things having you. That was the rich young ruler's problem. Some people have taken that account and use it as a reason for Christians being poor.

The Bible says of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus that he had great possessions. Jesus said, "... **sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me**" (**Luke 18:22**).

He didn't do it. Why? Because he loved those possessions.

He wanted eternal life. Jesus didn't go to him. He came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (**Luke 18:18**).

Jesus said, "Keep the commandments."

He said, "I've done those."

Jesus said, "One thing thou lackest. Sell everything. Give it to the poor. And follow me."

But the Bible says he went away sorrowful. Why? Because he had great possessions. Actually it should have been written, great possessions had him.

Jesus wasn't opposed to money. It takes money to build churches. It takes money to print books. It takes money to send missionaries around the world. To establish churches. God couldn't possibly be opposed to money.

You couldn't get the gospel preached if it weren't for money. You can't get radio time without money. You can't get on television without money.

It's not the money. It's not the thing. It's when the thing has you, when it becomes your God. That's why Jesus told him to give it away. The things had him. To show you how much those possessions did have him, he couldn't get rid of them. He couldn't give them up.

I'm thoroughly convinced in my own heart that if the man had been willing to give it all away, the Lord would have said, "Keep it." Because can you imagine what God could do if Howard Hughes would be converted? Four billion dollar hotels, his assets, his oil wells. That's just his mad money. Four billion dollars! Oh how that could help the cause of Christ. Think how much prime time we could buy with four billion dollars to preach the gospel on TV.

Instead, much of the church is going around begging, selling barbecue dinners on Saturday afternoons because we're so poor. We've had this poverty syndrome drilled into us all our lives. Raffles and bazaars. Chicken dinners and pie sales. To

raise money for the Kingdom of God! The Creator of the universe! And the best He can do is get some chicken dinners to help Him out. It's pitiful. A disgrace before God.

What God could do with some sanctified millions!

He's not opposed to your having things. He doesn't care if you have a Cadillac to drive on Monday, a Rolls Royce for Tuesday, a Mercedes Benz on Wednesday, a Jaguar on Thursday, a Thunderbird on Friday and an El Dorado on Saturday. It doesn't make Him any difference. He doesn't have to ride in it. He doesn't have to put gas in it, keep the windshields wiped, the tires up, and the thing washed. That's your problem, not His. It doesn't matter to Him what you have. But when things start getting hold of you, that's what's dangerous. And you can let stuff get hold of you when you don't have a crying dime.

It's not the things. After all, who made the gold? Wasn't it God? Do you mean to tell me He made it for Satan and his children? Who made the oil? Did He make it for Satan and his kids? They seem to have most of it. The church sure doesn't have any. Do you know any churches that have oil wells? Maybe you do. I'd like to meet the members.

Most Christians I know don't have very much. They're on the bread line, on the county, looking for a handout from the city, or something like that. Too many of them at least.

Begging and whining, "I don't know if we're gonna be able to stay on the air," talking about a faith ministry. "We're just about at the point in the summertime when everybody goes on vacation, and our offerings are coming in very slowly. If you want this broadcast to stay on the air, send your offerings in immediately. We really need your help."

Isn't that pitiful?

We've been on two radio stations, thirty minutes a day, for four years. And we've paid our radio time in advance the entire four years. I've never asked for one dime, or nickel, or penny on that broadcast. God meets all the needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We don't ask for a penny. We don't have to.

I don't have to get on in the summer talking about, "Things are getting bad now. You'd better send us some money."

The Word of God says, **"But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19)**. It doesn't say He will supply according to YOUR POVERTY, but according to HIS RICHES! Praise God! He's rich!

"... Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings ..." Remember that everything physical first of all was spiritual. God, who is a Spirit, created all physical things. And according to **Hebrews 11:1**, faith is the evidence of those things we don't see.

The Things

Now what are the things?

The things are recorded in the New Covenant. I have to get into the New Covenant and find out what the New Covenant says about it.

I wouldn't argue with a person five minutes about whether or not it's God's will for every Christian to be well. Yet you hear people with all kinds of con stories talking about, "Well, you know the Lord, it's His will for you to be sick. He's making a better person out of you," and all that kind of garbage. It turns my stomach when I hear it. It's ignorance. Ignorance of God's Word.

Go to the Bible. Yes, open it up. What does God say about it?

The Word of God says, **"... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17)**. Why did He take them and bear them if He wants me to take them and bear them? It's stupid for both of us to carry them.

And then **I Peter 2:24** says, **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed"**. YE WERE HEALED! Not, You're going to be ... But You were healed ...

"How come I'm sick?" you might ask.

Because you're saying that you're sick. The Word of God says that you're well. But as long as you take sides against the Word of God, the Word of God can't work on your behalf.

When you start to get in line with the Word and say "Praise God, according to the Word of God, with His stripes I was healed," sickness and disease will flee your home, your premises, and your body. It will not be able to stay there.

"Then how come so many Christians are sick, Brother Ed? How come so many good Christians die with sickness and disease?"

It's because they didn't know their rights in Christ, And Satan, the con man, will rob you just like a con man in the natural will take you for your money if you don't know your rights. Satan has robbed us. It doesn't mean they weren't Christians. It doesn't mean they didn't love the Lord. It doesn't mean their names weren't written in the Lamb's Book of Life. It doesn't mean they didn't go to heaven when they died. What it means is they were robbed and cheated out of many fruitful years they could have had in this life.

And then how pitiful to use that old stuff about, "It was the Lord's will to take so-and-so from the earthly realm up to His heavenly garden. He took him up there to that heavenly place to be with Him in His heavenly home."

Why? What for? He has 50 billion angels up there to do His bidding. He doesn't need to take you up there to do something for Him. He can't count on you anyhow. But the angels will do whatever He wants quicker than you can snap your finger.

What would He need you there for? There aren't any sinners up there who need to hear the Word to get saved. There are no sick people to lay hands on. No demons to cast out. What would He need you there for? The battle is down here. The people in bondage are down here. Nobody's in bondage in heaven. There's no sickness and disease up in heaven. No fear. The battle is down here. The captives are down here. And they need to be set free!

No! It's to God's advantage for you to live 500 years if you can!

And don't give me that junk about, "Well, when so-and-so died her husband who

would never go to church finally got saved. And his brother got saved. And someone else got saved. In all, three people got saved as a result."

Praise the Lord they got saved. But she didn't have to die for them to get saved. Jesus died 1900 years ago. That's all they needed to get saved. They were probably just too hardheaded and ornery to accept it before that. But don't credit it to the fact that she died.

Just think about it. If she died at 30 and 3 people got saved as a result of her dying at 30, suppose she'd lived out the full life we've been promised, which is at least 70 years. That would have meant 40 more years. If she did no more than convince or influence one person a year for the next 40 years, that would have been 37 more people than the 3 who were saved when she died.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Things exist in two forms, first in their spiritual form, then in their material form. Faith is simply bringing what is invisible into visibility. Why? Because faith is the evidence of things not seen. If the things were not real and did not exist somewhere, faith couldn't be their evidence. You can't have evidence for things which do not exist.

An exciting revelation from the Old Testament brings out in bold relief the fact of things existing in two forms. In **II Kings, Chapter 6**, the king of Syria warred against the nation of Israel.

Every time the children of Israel went out to do battle, the Syrians would plan an ambush to waylay them. But every time they planned an ambush, the king of Israel would know about it, because there was a prophet in Samaria named Elisha.

Elisha was anointed by the Spirit of God to stand in the office of prophet. Therefore, he had the word of knowledge at work in his ministry. (**I Corinthians 12:8**)

By the word of knowledge Elisha would always know about the ambush plans of the Syrians. He would tell the king of Israel. Then, the king of Israel would ambush the ambush. And Israel would always come out on top.

Finally the king of Syria said, "Man, we must have a fink in the ranks. Somebody is snitching on us. They're telling all our plans. We must have a traitor in our midst."

One of his men said, "Oh no, King, there is a prophet over in Samaria who knows everything."

(In reality Elisha didn't know everything just because he was a prophet. He would only know what God revealed to him.)

"Where is he?" the king of Syria asked.

"He's over in the city of Dothan."

"All right," the King said, "get the regiments together. We're going over there and we're going to kill him."

The Syrians came to Dothan and surrounded the city.

Elisha had a servant, named Gehazi. Gehazi went out early one morning to draw some water. He decided to walk around the wall. And when he looked over into the valley he saw all the Syrians. It scared him! It blew his mind!

He ran back to Elisha crying, "My master, my master, how shall we do? How shall we do? The army of the Syrians! The army of the Syrians!"

The prophet, just waking up and stretching, said "What's on your mind, brother?"

"Sir, the army of the Syrians has the city surrounded. They're going to do us in."

The prophet dressed and said, "Show me what you're talking about."

They went out to the wall and looked over.

"See! See!" Gehazi said. "The whole valley is full of the army of the Syrians."

And here is what Elisha said:

II KINGS 6:16

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

Picture it now. Here is the young man, Gehazi. He has just looked over the wall. He's seen all the soldiers, thousands of them. The whole valley is full of them. And he hears the prophet say, "There are more with us than be with them."

Gehazi starts counting. Looking into the valley he counts, "Five thousand, ten thousand, fifteen thousand, twenty thousand" Then he looks at Elisha and himself, " One, two."

He couldn't get hold of it. He couldn't put a handle on it. "This guy has flipped out," he thought. It must be too early in the morning for him."

II KINGS 6:17

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see...

Wait a minute. That sounds like a contradictory statement. The young man already has his eyes open. He was looking over the wall. That's what scared him, what he saw. So he must have had his eyes open. He saw the army of the Syrians, that's what blew his mind. He was frightened because of what he saw. And here the prophet's praying, "Lord, open his eyes." His eyes are already open.

Ah! ... But Elisha was talking about something else. He was talking about the eyes of the man who lives on the inside, the real man, the real you. He was talking about the eyes of the spirit, your spiritual eyes.

Here's the rest of verse 17

II KINGS 6:17b

... And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Now here is the revelation. Don't you realize that before that young man's eyes could be opened to see the chariots and the horses, the chariots and the horses had to have already existed?

They were already there before his eyes were opened. Just because he couldn't

physically see them didn't mean they weren't there. They were there all the time. Elisha saw it and knew it. And when Gehazi's eyes were opened, he saw the horses and chariots of fire. But the horses and chariots already existed. If they didn't already exist, when his eyes were opened he would not have seen them.

This scripture shows us that things exist in that spirit world. It is faith which brings them into this physical world.

"Now faith is ... the evidence of things not seen."

Faith is the evidence of things not seen.

Faith, in other words, *proves that the things exist.*