

## HM 4.1 – Puritan Perspectives on Ministry

### Thomas Manton on Hebrews 11.1 - Sermons I and II

Faith is the substance of things hoped for (itself the first of two parts on this verse)

Explain the words: faith, substance

Objection – this confuses faith and hope

Solution – no, let me explain

Doctrine: “That a lively faith doth give such a reality, certainty, and present being to things hoped for and yet to come, as if they were already actually enjoyed.”

1. How faith does this ? Faith takes possession in four ways

(1) *Spe* – by hope

(2) *Promissis* – in the promises

[1] what are the promises ?

(1) the eruptions and overflows of God’s grace and love

(2) the rule and warrant of our certainty

(3) the pawn of the thing promised

[2] whose promises are they ? - God’s

(3) *in capite* – in our head, the Lord Jesus Christ

(4) *in primitiis* – in the first-fruits

[1] union with Christ

[2] the joys of the Holy Ghost

[3] grace as the earnest of glory

2. The benefit and advantage of this property of faith

1. such a faith acts as a check on sensuality

2. and gives strength and support to all the graces of the spiritual life

Q – does mortifying lusts or renouncing interests show most love to God ?

Sol – holiness and suffering go together. We need both to

[1] suffer for God

[2] do for God

(1) the destructive part – mortification

(2) diligence and seriousness in a holy life

(3) contentment

(1<sup>st</sup>) under difficulties and inconveniences of the present

(2<sup>nd</sup>) under the want and distance of our future comforts

Use 1. To examine whether you have this kind of faith, consider

1. what influence do your hopes have upon you ?

2. how do you react in trial and temptation ?

3. do you entertain the promises with much respect and delight ?

4. does your mind often run upon your hopes ?

5. are you weaned from the world ?

6. are expectations stable and established ?

Use 2. Work up faith

1. in a way of meditation

2. in a way of argumentation

3. in a way of expectation

4. in a way of supplication

5. in a way of solemn and close application

6. in your conversations by constant spiritual diligence

Use 3. Press you to get this faith

1. seriously God’s truth as backed by his absolute power

2. relieve faith by experiences

[1] experiences of what is past - history

[2] what God has done for you

[3] compare your hopes to carnal hopes

[4] labour for confirmation and assurance