

## EVIDENCE

This week we had Rick Heeren with us and something he mentioned resonated in my spirit. He said, "Memory is a great hindrance to your faith." The way Rick justified this profound statement was by referring to the second part of Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is ..... the evidence of things not seen," and then asking the question, "What is the evidence of things we see?" The answer is, memory! Our memory provides us with the evidence that we have in actual fact seen certain things. For that reason, thoughts of the past are based on what we've seen and not on what we haven't seen. Therefore, past memories are a hindrance to our faith because Hebrews 11:1 clearly states, ***"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things NOT SEEN."***

I know so many people who are trapped in their past - in a perpetual spiral of negative thoughts. Consequently, they see little or no evidence of God doing anything in their lives. Maybe this is simply because they are not "in faith," and without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith always looks at what is not seen; it gazes into the unseen realm of the spirit where eternal truth is already established. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, ***"For we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*** Our negative thoughts are providing evidence or proof to what is temporary (without form or structure), and this is pointless. It is like trying to hold onto vapor, it has no composition. On the other hand, faith is the substance of things hoped for. The Greek word translated "substance" signifies that which becomes a foundation for another thing to stand on. Faith is the foundation on which every promise of God stands.

Notice how Hebrews 11:1 deals with that which is tangible first (the building blocks) before dealing with the intangible (that which is not visible). Therefore, where true faith is concerned both should be present. Faith adds substance to our confident expectations concerning the promises of God, but it also provides us with the evidence we need to trust Him completely for those things we cannot yet see (that have not materialised). Evidence means conclusive proof; it is something which convinces another and goes on to demonstrate the thing under consideration. The idea of a "convincing argument" is expressed in the use of this word. Note, faith is itself a convincing argument to the mind of the real existence of those things which are not seen. Faith provides more conclusive evidence than our own reasoning, therefore, we should be totally convinced of the outcome.

If you have been trapped by your own memories, make up your mind right now to turn away from the past and face the future. No matter what the circumstances, keep looking at that which is not seen, in the knowledge that there is conclusive proof that everything is going to be alright.