

Your Faith Has a Formula

Bernhard Suppan · September 27, 2026

Hebrews 11:1

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Pastor Bernhard opened this week's message with a picture every family knows: grandma in the kitchen, no written recipe, just "a little of this, a pinch of that," and somehow the roast came out perfect every Sunday. It wasn't magic. Same ingredients, same sequence, same result, every time.

Faith works the same way. Hebrews 11:1 calls faith "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It isn't a vapor wish. It's the concrete foundation God pours under a promise. And He gave us the formula: lock your eyes on the outcome, move your feet into the storm, adjust the method when you need to, but never touch the promise.

Most of us do religion backward. We want the cake before we crack an egg. We wait for goosebumps before we obey. But hope without action is just a wish, and a wish sits in the recliner while real faith gets up and walks. This week, take one step. Faith isn't a feeling you wait for. Faith is a foot you put forward.

IN THE PASTOR'S WORDS

- | *"Hope without an action is just a wish!"*
- | *"The greatest enemy of your faith isn't doubt. The greatest enemy of your faith is vagueness!"*
- | *"The road called Someday leads straight to the town of Nowhere."*
- | *"Faith isn't a feeling you wait for. Faith is a foot you put forward!"*
- | *"A recipe without the Father is just an exhausting religious performance."*

KEY POINTS

1. **Order matters.** The same ingredients in the same sequence bring the same result. Leave out repentance or add self-pity and you get a mess. (Joshua 6, 2 Kings 5, 1 Kings 17, Leviticus 10)
2. **Groceries are not supper.** A full pantry never fed anyone. The Word and the Spirit are flour and fire, obedience is the salt, worship is the sugar. You have to cook.
3. **Know your outcome.** "Substance" means that which stands underneath: a foundation. The greatest enemy of your faith is not doubt. It is vagueness. Write the vision down. (Hebrews 11:1, Habakkuk 2:2)
4. **Move your feet.** Abraham obeyed and went out, not knowing where he was going. Faith without works is dead. The road called Someday leads to the town of Nowhere. (Hebrews 11:8, James 2:17)
5. **Change the method, never the promise.** Gideon used pitchers, Samson a jawbone, David five stones. Quit the broken method, not the mission. (Hebrews 11:32-35, Philippians 3:13-14)

6. **Power, not willpower.** The world can teach self-help. Only God gives power. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

TAKE IT HOME THIS WEEK

- **Know your outcome.** Write in one sentence what God has put in your heart. Pray it by name every morning this week.
- **Move your feet.** Do the one thing you keep calling “someday”: the call, the text to make peace, the application. Do it by Wednesday.
- **Change the method.** Name one thing that is not working. Change how you do it (your schedule, your approach, add a fast). Keep the promise.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What was a family recipe in your home, and why did it turn out the same every time?
2. Which story speaks to you most this week: Jericho, Naaman, the widow, or Nadab and Abihu? Why?
3. Where have you wanted the cake before cracking an egg, the result before the obedience?
4. What promise are you sitting on, and what is the next step?
5. What method do you need to change without letting go of the promise?
6. How is the power of the Holy Ghost different from willpower?

READ ALONG THIS WEEK

Mon Hebrews 11:1-6

Tue Joshua 6:1-20

Wed 2 Kings 5:1-14

Thu 1 Kings 17:8-16

Fri Hebrews 11:8-16; Habakkuk 2:1-4

Sat Hebrews 11:32-40; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38

PRAYER

Lord, I bring You my ingredients. Show me the ground You want me to take. Give me courage to move my feet, wisdom to change my method, and faith to never let go of Your promise. Fill me with Your power. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE FULL MESSAGE

Pastor Bernhard opened this week's message in grandma's kitchen. You remember the taste, that Sunday roast, that cake, and if you ever asked how she did it, she wiped her apron and said, "Oh honey, just a little of this, and a pinch of that." No written recipe. And yet every time she opened the oven door, it was perfection. How? Because the same ingredients in the same sequence produce the same result every single time. It isn't magic. It isn't luck. It's a formula.

The world pays motivational speakers millions to say "success leaves clues." But God was writing recipes thousands of years before the coaching industry printed its first workbook. Jericho fell because Israel marched the exact sequence God commanded. Naaman's leprosy cleared because he finally swallowed his pride and dipped seven times in the Jordan. The widow of Zarephath never ran out of meal because she baked Elijah's little cake first. And Nadab and Abihu were struck dead because they threw an unauthorized ingredient on God's altar. Order matters. Follow the recipe and you get life. Mess with the measurements and you have a mess on your hands.

The anchor verse is Hebrews 11:1 (KJV): "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Substance, that Greek word means "that which stands underneath." A concrete slab. Bedrock. Faith isn't a vapor wish; it is the structural foundation of your life. And "hoped for" isn't a shrug, it's rock-solid, confident expectation. It's the fighter jet locked on the target.

The pastor laid out the sequence God gives us. First, know your outcome. Abraham didn't leave Ur with itchy feet, God burned a destination into his soul. Stop praying timid, vague prayers like "Lord, bless me and my four and no more." Write the vision down. Habakkuk 2:2 says make it plain. The greatest enemy of your faith is not doubt, it is vagueness.

Second, take massive action. Hebrews 11:8 says Abraham obeyed and went out, not knowing where he was going. He didn't wait until the road was paved and the streetlights were installed. He laced his boots and stepped. James 2:17 strips away every polite religious excuse: faith without works is dead. Are you sitting on a promise while comfortable routine chokes out your calling? The road called Someday leads straight to the town of Nowhere.

Third, change the method, but never touch the promise. Gideon used clay pitchers. Samson used a jawbone. David used five smooth stones. Faith is not cookie-cutter; faith is flexible. If the front door shuts, look for an open window. If your strength runs out, call a fast. If your marriage is suffocating, learn to listen. Don't quit the mission, quit the broken method. But don't ever look at an empty bank account and negotiate with the devil. Don't look at an unbroken sickness and decide God doesn't heal anymore.

The pastor closed at the altar with the reminder that the world can teach you self-help and time management, but only God gives power. Acts 1:8 doesn't say "ye shall receive self-discipline." It says, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." A recipe without the Father is just an exhausting religious performance.

So bring your ingredients this week. Lay them at His feet. Strike the match of repentance and let the fire of the Holy Ghost fall. Faith isn't a feeling you wait for. Faith is a foot you put forward.