

Sabbath School Panel — Second Quarter 2026

Lesson 8 (Sunday)

Just Give Me a Sign

Memory Text

Hebrews 11:1

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

Setting the Context: Faith Before the Definition

Before we arrive at Hebrews 11:1, the writer has already been building a sustained argument about faith.

In **Hebrews 10**, we read:

- **Verse 35** — “Cast not away therefore your confidence”
- **Verse 36** — We have *need of patience* so that after doing the will of God, we may receive the promise
- **Verse 37** — “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry”
- **Verse 38** — “Now the just shall live by faith” — a direct quotation from **Habakkuk 2:4**

Hebrews 11 does not introduce a new topic. It **continues** and **supports** what has already been said.

What Faith Is—and Is Not

In **Hebrews 11:1**, faith is described using the Greek word **hypostasis**.

Faith is:

- the **substance**

- the **underlying reality**
- the **guarantee**
- even the *title deed* or proof of ownership

Faith is also the **evidence**—the inner conviction—of things not seen.

Importantly, “*things not seen*” does **not** mean imagined or unreal. It refers to realities that are:

- presently beyond our reach
- temporarily inaccessible

Faith is not blind delusion.

Faith is trusting the omnipotence of God **before** circumstances align with our pragmatic thinking.

Faith and the Mustard Seed

Matthew 17:20

Jesus says that faith as small as a **grain of mustard seed** can move mountains.

This raises a question:

- Does the mustard seed have *great* faith?
- Or is Jesus saying we only need *a little* faith? (But it will grow)

The answer is **both**.

The mustard seed has no self-reliance—it depends entirely on its Creator. Likewise, when we reach out with even a small measure of faith, we discover that **God is already reaching back**.

The Desire for a Sign

Many of us can relate to this thought:

“I would like more faith.”

“I wouldn’t mind a sign from the Lord.”

Scripture acknowledges that desire—but also warns us.

When Seeking a Sign Becomes Dangerous

Matthew 12:38–39

Jesus says:

“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign.”

That is a sobering statement.

Yet Scripture also records **many moments when God gives signs**.

God-Given Signs in Scripture

- **Genesis 9:13** — God places the rainbow as a covenant sign
- **Judges 6** — Gideon asks for a sign, and Scripture says, *“And it was so”*
- **Luke 1** — Mary is given a sign through Elizabeth
- **Luke 2:12** — The shepherds are told, *“This shall be a sign unto you”*

Clearly, asking for a sign is not automatically sinful.

So What’s the Difference?

The key difference lies in **motive**.

Signs Do Not Convert

Jesus teaches that signs do not create faith.

Elsewhere He says that some would not believe **even if the dead were raised**.

A sign can **strengthen** faith—but it does not **create** it.

The Temptation of Christ

Matthew 4

In the wilderness, Satan challenges Jesus:

“If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”

This was a demand for a sign—not to trust God, but to **prove identity and authority**.

If Jesus had turned stones into bread:

- Satan would not have been converted
- Satan would not have repented

The request was rooted in **doubt**, not trust.

The Proper Place of Signs

There is a difference between:

- asking God to **confirm His word** when seeking His will
- demanding proof as a condition for belief

Signs requested from humility can encourage.

Signs demanded from unbelief harden the heart.

Final Conclusion

Faith does not rest on signs.

Faith rests on **God's character**.

Signs may strengthen faith—but they do not establish it.

We trust God first.

Then, if He chooses, the sign follows.