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Where do you anchor your hopes & dreams?

(Answering the 2 question that make all the difference)

(SERIES: **Making This Year My Best Year Yet: 02 of 07**)
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"Now **FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.** This is what the ancients were commended for. **By faith** we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. **By faith** Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. **By faith** he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And **by faith** he still speaks, even though he is dead. **By faith** Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. **And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**" (Heb 11:1-6 NIV)

The 2 core questions:

Who do you trust?

Where do you place your faith?

"This Good News tells us that God makes us ready for heaven--makes us right in God's sight--when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says it, **'The man who finds life will find it through trusting God.'**" Rom 1:17 TLB)

A revealed faith rests on . . .

The foundation of God's word.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."
(Luke 21:33)

The foundation of God's will.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed . . . Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives" (2 Pet 3:9-11)

The foundation of God's work.

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a **foundation** as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this **foundation** using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will **test the quality of each man's work.**" (1 Cor 3:10-13)

The foundation of God's way.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7 KJV)

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Heb 11:6)

Believing is seeing.

"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, **even though we cannot see it up ahead.**" (Heb 11:1)

Willing Is winning.

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." (Heb 11:7-8)

Giving Is getting.

"It was by faith that Abel obeyed God and brought an offering that pleased God more than Cain's offering did. God accepted Abel and proved it by accepting his gift; and though Abel is long dead, we can still learn lessons from him about trusting God." (Heb 11:4)

Now Is then.

"It was faith that brought the walls of Jericho tumbling down after the people of Israel had walked around them seven days as God had commanded them." (Heb 11:30)

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24 NIV)