



Faith is...
CRAIG REES

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about 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.

Hebrews 11:1-3

Substance

Faith is confidence in what we hope for.

Confidence speaks of having an underlying basis for faith or being provided with the foundation of faith. The underlying basis for faith is God's character. The foundation of faith is God's trustworthiness.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.” And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

Hebrews 10:35-39

Conviction

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

Conviction implies action. A person who receives God's word lives a life of faith that goes beyond inclination to definitive action.

Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.

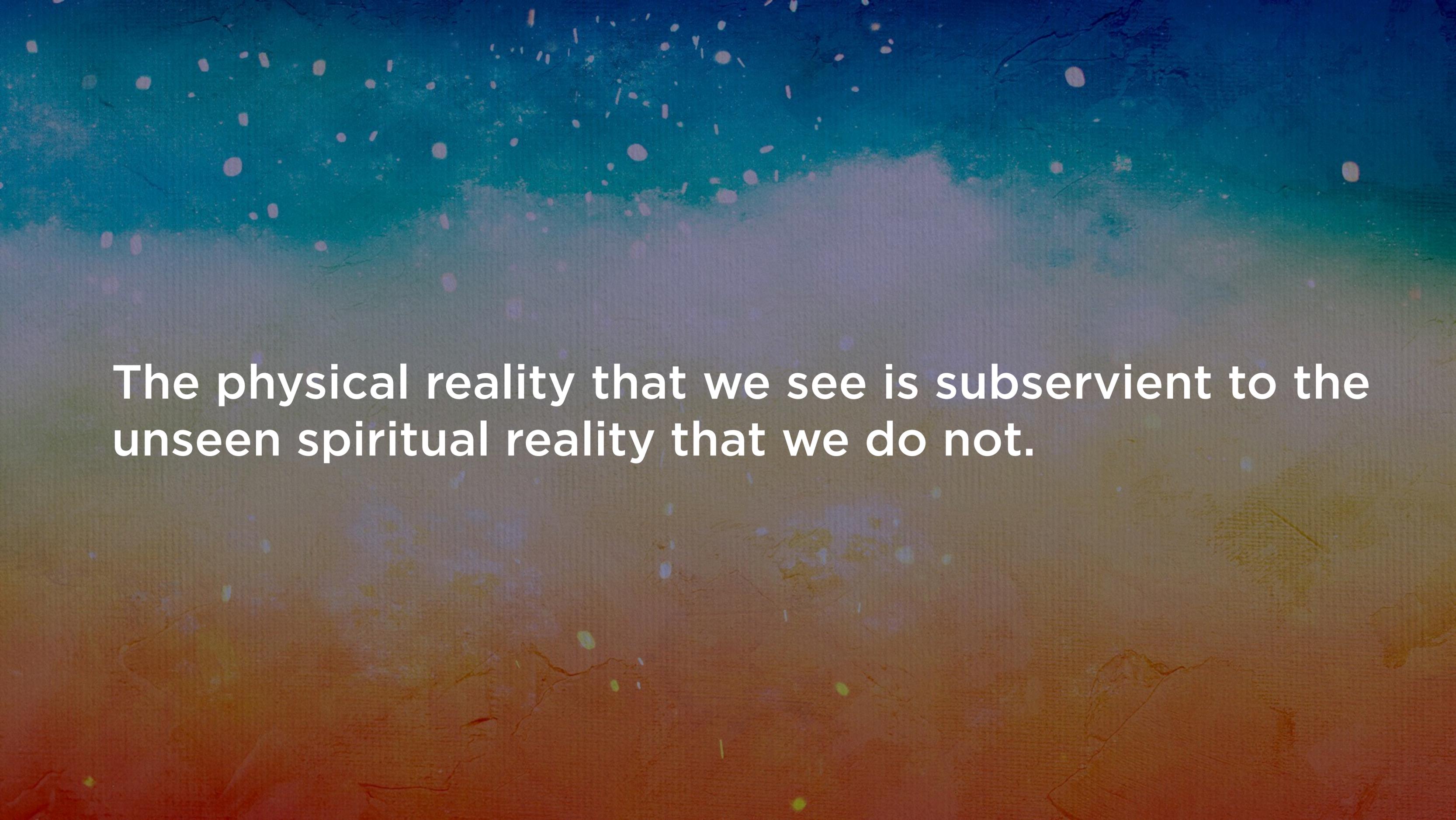
Proverbs 1:23

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence...

Hebrews 10:32-35a

Unseen

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.



The physical reality that we see is subservient to the unseen spiritual reality that we do not.

Living by faith does not mean that we will always live successfully. It means that we can always live victoriously!

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

Hebrews 11:39

In sport we are victorious when we finish. The heroes of Hebrews 11 were victorious because they began!

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.

Hebrews 11:6