



August 5, 2020

## **Entrusted with Power to Act and Create**

*(1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. (3) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” (Heb. 11:1-3)*

God, being invisible, is the source of all that is visible, and we use our understanding of creation to see what cannot be seen with our eyes. The author of Hebrews wrote, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). Faith, born out of experience, is the means by which the mind contacts reality. So, for example, if I hope to have light in a dark room, my faith in the light switch leads me over to the light switch, which I then flip up, and I have what I hoped for: light fills the room. Since God is ultimate reality, we make contact with Him through faith in this way.

We also see, “the worlds were framed by the word of God” (Heb 11:3). As we considered in previous devotionals, you and I are also able to do a little bit of this creative work, but not much. You’re able to make a very nice cake from your thoughts, but you also need to have a few other things from the grocery store. Nonetheless, it is your thoughts that go into that cake. If that sounds strange, try making a cake without the thoughts. And they are your thoughts. We could say that “by faith we understand that the cake was made from the word of [insert your name here].”

You have enough energy to “create” matter, but only in the sense of putting it in a different form. You do it all the time. That’s why God put you here on earth. If you read the Genesis creation story, you will see that you were put here to have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26–27). God gave you a body to supply you with an extra amount of power in addition to the power in your mind. Your body is your own personal power pack that allows you to exercise your willed actions. It is God’s desire that each of us would use our own limited power in our bodies and our minds to rule the earth, together with one another, in love. When God created us in his image, he created us with the power to act and to create. That is the image of God in man and woman. One significant way we see that power is the ability to make other persons. That’s what having children is all about, we are making persons.

***Practice:*** *Now, making persons is one of humankind’s greatest creative acts. Reflect upon the idea that we are creating a person when we have a baby and raise a child. In your own life consider how your childhood shaped you into becoming the person you are today. If you have kids of your own, what kind of person is being formed through the ways you parent your own child or children? Are they becoming the kind of person, who, under God can govern for good, together with others, in love?*