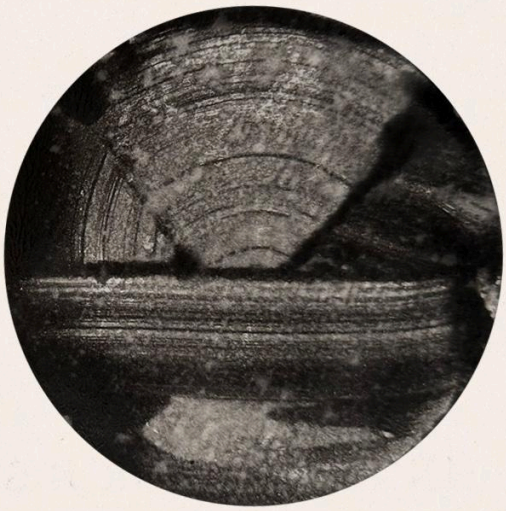

FAITH AS MYSTERY

The Rational & The Holy
11.01.2026
Dave Lomas
Hebrews 11:1-3, 7-16

Hebrews 11:1-3, 7-16.
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.
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 is in keeping with 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. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was

enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them

Hebrews 11:1, 2
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see…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.

God is Spirit

God is Reason, Purpose, Goodwill, Supreme Power, Unity, & Selfhood

Hebrews 11:1, 2
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see…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 truth that human reason is naturally endowed to know cannot be opposed to the truth of the Christian faith."

- Thomas Aquinas

The error we must guard against is the wrong idea that the essence of God can be completely and exhaustively grasped or understood through rationality.

"All language, in so far as it consists of words, purports to convey ideas or concepts; –that is what language means; –and the more clearly and unequivocally it

does so, the better the language. And hence expositions of religious truth in language inevitably tend to stress the 'rational' attributes of God."

- Rudolf Otto, The Idea of the Holy

"The goal was to draw closer to what might be called God—to the intelligence that may presumably have designed everything around us."

- Sebastian Mallaby, The Infinity Machine: Demis Hassabis, DeepMind, and the Quest for Superintelligence

Hebrews 11:1, 2
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see…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 Holy

Hebrews 11:1, 2
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see…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 11:13
All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.