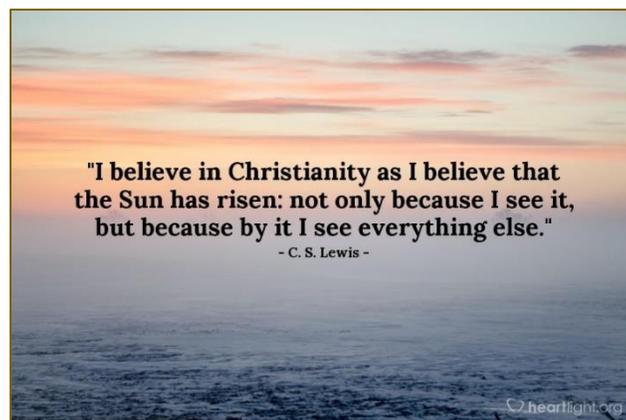


# The Hupostasis of Faith

How is faith created? We use the term “believe in.” It can be “in something” or “in someone.” We also say that “you made a believer out of me.” How do we go from disbelief or skepticism or doubt to faith? Heb.11:1 uses the word “assurance” of things hoped for. The word is *hupostasis* which is a very interesting term. It is what is set under or what supports something else. It is the essence of a thing, the foundation, or the ground of assurance. It is what really exists under any appearance, reality, or essential nature. It is what my faith rests on that is solid and cannot be shaken. It seems to me that this must be more than just a principle or idea that I think is true. It must be more than a law that makes sense to me. It is more than a creed or maxim for life, and it has to be more than a mere experience which I interpret to be real and worthy of basing my life on. Since everything in this world is temporary and passing away, since every person in this world is unstable at times--(even the best of us)--and since any experience has a wearing-off effect, then where do I find the ground of my faith? I challenge you to do a process of elimination. Nominate candidates for *hupostasis*. Make a list and one by one ask yourself, “Is this what I fundamentally believe in and will this sustain me totally, continually, and completely?” When I work through my list, I come down to one thing that I cannot get over and which makes ALL the difference in my life. People have given their lives for this one thing. People have sacrificed everything for this one thing. People have escaped a thousand demons for this one thing. I know no other, deeper, more solid, or basic reality than this: **Jesus is Lord**. When a person draws this conclusion based on all the evidence that leads us there, then sight becomes faith and faith controls every decision, every desire, every goal, every need, every step, every thought, and every deed. There is only one “because” in our life: **Jesus is Lord**. If that is not *hupostasis*, then nothing is real or worth believing in. It will be the one single solitary phrase uttered by every tongue that has ever resided in billions of mouths, whether believers or nonbelievers. (Phil.2:5-11)



## Reflection and Discussion



Hebrews 11:1 speaks of “the evidence of things not seen.” How might we find evidence in this world of things we cannot physically see?

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Discuss the idea of *hupostasis*. Why does there need to be a ground zero of faith?

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What kinds of things do we make our foundation?

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What are you willing to die for? Is “Jesus is Lord” on the list?

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Memory Verse: Heb.11:1

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”