

Faith, Belief, Trust

How was “faith” used in Hebrews before chapter 10, leading into chapter 11?
(translations from Mounce;¹ usage count from NIV²).

πίστις (pistis, noun)

NT usage: “faith” (~220x), “belief” (~8x), “trust” (~1x)

Hebrews 4:2 For we also had good news proclaimed to us just as they did; but the word they heard did not benefit those who were not united with those who listened in faith (πίστει | dat sg fem)

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave standing the elementary teaching about Christ and let us move on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith (πίστεως | gen sg fem) in God,

Hebrews 6:12 so that you will not be lazy, but imitators of those who by faith (πίστεως | gen sg fem) and perseverance inherit the promises.

πιστεύω (pisteuō, verb)

NT usage: “believe” (~209x), “trust” (~15x), “faith” (~8x)

Hebrews 4:3 For we who have believed (πιστεύσαντες | aor act ptcp nom pl masc) do enter that rest, just as God has said, “As I swore in my anger, ‘They shall certainly not enter my rest,’” and yet his work has been completed since the foundation of the world

πιστός (pistos, adjective)

NT usage: “faithful” (~37x), “trustworthy” (~15x), “believe” (~13x)

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he was obligated to become like his brothers in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful (πιστός | nom sg masc) high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 3:2 was faithful (πιστόν | acc sg masc) to the one who appointed him in all his house, as Moses also was.

Hebrews 3:5 Now Moses was faithful (πιστός | nom sg masc) in all God’s household as a servant, bearing witness to those things that would be spoken later,

7x in the first 9 chapters; 32x in the final four chapters of Hebrews

¹ <https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/pistis>.

² John R. Kohlenberger III, Edward W. Goodrick, James A Swanson, *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament With The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997).