

"Faith" And Confidence In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Eikadistes" of August 27, 2025 at 1:15 PM

Just an etymological note, the word used throughout the New Testament for "faith" (πίστις or *pístis*) is also used by Epíkouros throughout his *Epistles*, and once in the *Key Doctrines*:

1. *Epistle to Herodotos* 63:

"Then it is necessary that those [who are] comprehending [all of this] are [always] referring to the sensations and [the faculty of] feeling — for the firmest **faith** will thus be established — seeing that the soul exists through a finely-grained body [that is] spreading [throughout] an amalgamation [of flesh]."

2. *Epistle to Pythokles* 85:

"So then, the first goal of knowledge about the meteoric, either [to] speak in conjunction [with facts] or to independently practice [science], is nothing else than tranquility and firm **faith**, just as in the case of the rest [of our investigations]."

3. *Key Doctrine* 40:

"Those who keep the means to be prepared enjoy the most confidence out of coexisting with other people, in this way also those who live pleasantly among one another keep steadfast **faith**, and engender the fullest intimacy so as not to mourn lamentably for those who died before their time had come." (10.154)