

Hebrews Bible Study

A Better Hope

Hebrews 11

Faith
4/27/2025

Supplemental Verses

- John 1-14
- John 14:25-31
- Habakkuk 2:3-4
- Hebrews 8:10
- Romans 1:16-17
- Genesis 5:22-24
- Genesis 27:30-37
- Genesis 50:24-26
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- John 19:25-27
- Exodus 20:12

What is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

- ▶ ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. KJV, or***
- ▶ ***Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. NIV***
- ▶ The most often usage was ***Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for, and the conviction of things not seen.***
- ▶ It requires:
 - ❑ **Believing God's character** – He is who He says He is. **John 1:1-14**
 - ❑ **Trusting in His promises** – He will do what He promises. **John 14:25-31**
- ▶ Biblical faith is not a vague hope grounded on imaginary, wishful thinking. It instead is settled confidence that God's promises will come to pass.

Why Is Faith Vital?

- ▶ Faith is how we react to the spiritual word. **Habakkuk 2:3-4**. This OT scripture has been quoted in the NT to reinforce this lifestyle.
- ▶ To obtain at **good report**, being recognized and praised in the eyes of God. Think His Hall of Faith! **Hebrews 8:10**
- ▶ To understand that God created the world from things not visible.
- ▶ vs 6 – ***But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. NKV***
- ▶ Faith should bear fruit, an inward transformation giving birth to an outward declaration of who you are in Him. **Romans 1:16-17**
- ▶ This chapter identifies who the person is, and what they did. It doesn't dwell on the weaknesses of the person, instead showing what God can do.

Hall of Faith

- ▶ **Abel** – Gave what God required (his best) vs a mindless offering.
- ▶ **Enoch** – Was so pleasing to God, he just took him up! **Gen. 5:22-24**
- ▶ **Noah** – Did as told, though he never knew of rain. Re-populates earth
- ▶ **Abraham** – Told to go to a land he would be told of. **Just do it!**
- ▶ **Sarah** – Believed God's promise of a child given her age. **Isaac means "Laughter"**.
- ▶ **Abraham** – Told to sacrifice his son Isaac, and he would have.
- ▶ **Moses** – Chose his people over the trappings of Egypt. Led them out of bondage.
- ▶ **Isaac** – Blessed Jacob though tricked, as was God's will. **Gen 27:30-37**
- ▶ **Jacob** – Wrestled with an angel. Name changed to **Israel - one who struggles with God!** Later, on that bad hip blessed the sons of Joseph.
- ▶ **Joseph** – Gave instruction on his bones. This is not my home! Take me to Canaan! **Gen. 50:24-26**

A Better Homeland vs 13-16

- ▶ Much like the author did earlier in Hebrews, he pauses to add another layer of explanation on why faith is so important, taking a break from the role call if you will.
- ▶ Look at **verse 13**. These in the Hall of Faith:
 - Died in faith not receiving the promises but having seen them far off.
 - Were persuaded and embraced those promises.
 - Confessed that they were foreigners in a strange land.
- ▶ This acceptance in faith, showed what they were really about. They had “fork in the road moments” for sure (give up, let the world tell them what they should do, backslide), but didn’t. Their “nevertheless” mentally through faith spurred them on to better versions of themselves.
- ▶ But in staying faithful, they pressed toward a heavenly country.
- ▶ We all know that *we should not be afraid of the gospel of Jesus Christ*, but look what is being said in vs 16, **God is not ashamed to be called their God**. That’s the good report I want!

More in The Hall of Faith

- ▶ **Rahab** – Harlot (traitor) shelters Israeli spies, chose God over country, saved in the collapse of Jericho and became part of Jesus' lineage. **Wow!**
- ▶ **Gideon** – Led his army to a defeat of Midian **Judges 6 and 7**
- ▶ **Barak** – Believed Deborah's (Judge) prophesy and led his army in victory to God's glory, though he leaned on her (Deborah's) presence **Judges 4**
- ▶ **Samson** – God uses flawed people for His purposes. **Judges 13-16**
- ▶ **Jephthah** – Made a rash vow to God regarding winning the battle against the Ammonites. Winds up sacrificing his only daughter, some arguing she was sacrificed (burnt offering), or perpetual virginity (no blood line).
Judges 11
- ▶ **David** – God uses David to illustrate the consequences of obedience and disobedience to God's commands. David becomes the lineage of Jesus.
1 and 2 Samuel.
- ▶ **Samuel** – Last judge, first prophet, considered a great intercessor in Israel's history.

Examples of The Cost of Faith

- ▶ In verses 33-38 these individuals though not directly named showed the fruit of faith, as well as characteristics to summon through God.
- ▶ We have examples from past witnesses in the Hall of Faith remember he is speaking to the Jews, as well as those of the NT.
- ▶ Something to think about. If they could do it in their circumstances without the finished work of the cross, **We Can Do It Also in Jesus Christ!**
- ▶ These in the hall of faith received a good report and represent a great "cloud of witnesses", but didn't receive their final reward (made complete) as Christ had not yet come back again. vs 40
- ▶ We will one day get to meet them all. In Latin, the word **resurgam**, means "I will rise again." It is a term you can find on old cemetery headstones. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- ▶ As an aside, What became of those closest to Jesus, the disciples?

What Became of The Disciples?

- ▶ **Peter** - Martyred in Rome during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Peter was crucified upside down.
- ▶ **Andrew** – Spread the word into what is now Russia. Crucified
- ▶ **Thomas** – Active east of Syria and India. Murdered by spear.
- ▶ **Phillip** – Converted the wife of a Roman Consul. Cruelly put to death
- ▶ **Matthew** – Ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Stabbed to death in Ethiopia
- ▶ **Bartholomew** – Ministered with Thomas in India and Armenia. Martyred
- ▶ **James** – Ministered in Syria. Stoned and clubbed to death
- ▶ **Simon the Zealot** – Ministered in Persia. Killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun
- ▶ **Matthias** – Replaced Judas. Ministered in Syria. Death by burning
- ▶ **John** – Church leader in Ephesus. Took care of Mary (Jesus mother). Exiled to island of Patmos. Died of natural causes (old age). **John 19: 25-27, Exodus 20:12**
- ▶ **Apostle Paul** - Paul was beheaded also during Nero's reign.

Final Thought

Man of Your Word

- ▶ In closing, I want to highlight a song titled **"Man of Your Word"** by **Maverick City Music**, which I will play at the end. It details certain things to testify about God, which I feel wraps this up nicely.

*All things are possible, when we believe
Old chains are breakable, when we receive Yahweh.*

If You said it, we believe it, You're a man of Your word.

*We have this confidence, You'll finish what You started
God, You have never failed, You won't start with me.*

I am who You say I am, cause the Great I Am, speaks over me.

**Simply put, faith comes down to "if you said it, we believe it",
because of who God is.**

Next Week: Chapter 12: Warning Against Defying