

Living by Faith

(Not of those who shrink back....But those who have faith!)

Text: Hebrews 11:1-6

Main Idea: Living by Faith is what the saints of old did in order to please God and must be how we live if we intend to receive the promises of God!

1. The _____ of Faith: Hope in what is not yet seen! (v. 1)

- Genuine faith has an absolute _____ of things hope for – namely the promises of God.
- Genuine faith has a conviction of things _____.

2. The _____ of Faith: Faith has always been God's way of approval. (v. 2, Romans 4)

3. An _____ of Faith: By faith we believe that the world was created by the Word of God! (v. 3)

4. _____ of Faith: Abel & Enoch! (v. 4-5, 7)

- Abel in contrast to Cain offered the required _____ sacrifice to God in faith acknowledging His need for forgiveness!
- Enoch _____ with God in faith. (Gen 5:21-24)

5. The _____ of Faith: Without faith it is impossible to please God! (v. 6)

- Draw near to God believing that He _____.
- Draw near to God believing that He _____ those who seek Him.

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Application Questions:

1. What is the connection between chapter 11 and the previous chapters? Is the author continuing his thought from chapter 10 or is chapter 11 a whole new thought? (See 10:37-39) What is the main argument of chapter 11?
2. What is the author's intention in chapter 11? Notice the phrase "by faith" is listed 16 times in chapter 11.
3. How does the author describe faith in verse 1? How does the author illustrate this in chapter 11, especially in 11:13? How could you help someone see the delusional nature of the following statement: "I can't take anything on faith. I have to see and have evidence?"
4. In v. 2, the author states that the saints of the OT were "commended" by their faith (note that 10:39 says some will be condemned because of their lack of faith). Is faith what God is most concerned about? Or is God concerned with works? Some falsely think that God approves people because of their works. Read Romans 4, especially v. 1-12 & v. 23-25. If God is not "pleased" by our works then how do our works fit into the Christian life? (See Jams 2:14-26)
5. Basic to faith (in v. 3) is believing that the world was created by the Word of God. How does this affirm Genesis 1-2 & oppose sympathy with Christians who want to affirm the "Big Bang Theory" and the theory of evolution?
6. Why was Abel's act in Genesis 4:3-5 an act of faith, while Cain's was an act of rebellion? Is it possible that Cain could be the earliest example of "empty religion?" Look at Jude 11. What does it mean to "go the way of Cain?" What was "Cain's way?" (See also 1 John 3:12)
7. We don't know much about Enoch, except that He "walked with God." What does Jude tell us in Jude 14-15, that might shed light on how Enoch "walked?" How might this encourage you to walk with God in such a godless society?

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