

**Better
Hebrews 11:1-10
Gotta Have Faith**

Intro

Transition

Sticky Statement: Forgiveness is found through faith in Christ.

How would you define faith?

Andy Stanley once defined faith as believing that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.

Passage

1 Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. 2 For by this our ancestors were approved. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

It is our faith that allows us to trust what we are unable to visualize.

Our culture, including the church, has become hung up on believing what we are able to see.

“Show me then I’ll believe you.”

Faith says I understand that I truly can never completely without a doubt PROVE the existence of God but because of what I have experienced and seen, I know.

It is by faith that we can know God works for the good of His children, even when we cannot see it.

It is by faith that we know God spun this universe into being out of nothing.

Faith is not something we develop on our own it is given by Christ to whom He wills.

Paul writes about this in Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—9 not from works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith is not something we develop or just suddenly figure out the key to it.

Faith is completely a gift from God to those He is drawing to Himself. Our faith begins to grow from here.

Now this brings us to another question. Without the physical body of Christ did those in the Old Testament make it to heaven? How?

Lets see what the author of Hebrews has to say about this, verse 4:

4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith. 5 By faith Enoch was taken away, and so he did not experience death. He was not to be found because God took him away. For before he was taken away, he was approved as one who pleased God. 6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. 7 By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:4-10

We have spent the last few months looking at Hebrews where the author basically has said that the sacrificial system was not intended to be the permanent solution.

If we are not careful we can easily make the OT a great moral guide.

Abel, a son of Adam and Eve, was the first murder to take place. He was killed by his brother because Abel's sacrifice was pleasing to God and Cain's was not.

This comes down to the faith with which it was offered not the works associated with it.

Abel offered a sacrifice in faith that God would forgive.

Verse 5 gets to a guy we know very little about, Enoch.

We know that Methuselah was Enoch's son. Methuselah is the oldest recorded person in the Bible.

We know that Enoch did something no one had done since the garden, he walked with God.

Enoch walked so closely in faith that God just took him.

It was faith in God that drove Noah to proclaim to the world that rain was coming.

Something that had never happened before.

It was knowing that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do that drove Noah to build a boat.

The same faith caused Abraham to uproot everything and move without knowing where He was going.

Faith caused Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to live in a strange land because they had been promised by God it would one day be their nation that ruled the land.

Look back to verse 6:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

So many spend their lives working to please God, but here we read without faith that is not possible.

The people mentioned in this passage did not see actions as way to please God.

They are not listed here because they never missed a daily devotion or because they followed all the right rules.

What are these men listed here?

Verse 10 tells us why they are listed here:

10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:10

They were looking forward to what God was building.

They lived with the hope that a redeemer was coming.

They looked forward to the day that God's plan was fully revealed.

They trusted that God was working.

Final Thoughts

As we look at these people listed here we must remember that they were still broken and sinful.

They however did not let that stop their faith from guiding them.

It did not darken their view that God will one day restore His perfect Kingdom.

The men listed in these verses are remembered for their faith.

Many people are concerned with their legacy, what they will leave behind.

I am not a wealthy man, so my children will not inherit money, I don't have many fancy things, but what I do have is Jesus.

My prayer is that my kids, grandkids, and those that I influenced in some way will remember the faith I held in my Savior.

Challenge

Do you have faith in Christ?

What will be said of you when you are gone?