

By Faith
February 12, 2017
Hebrews 11:1-38

As we read this passage, try to put yourself in each person's shoes in these situations.

Every person on earth lives by a **faith** system; every person. Each recognizes either a Creator or random chance; both are faith systems.

We carry out faith every day in the things we do.

But what is faith? We see from verse 1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

"Substance is a word that means to stand under so it means foundations. The word for evidence here means conviction. So this is a foundational belief that God will do what He says. A person who has faith stands on the foundation of what God says and lives with convictions based on what he says. True biblical faith is confident obedience to God's word in spite of circumstance and consequences". ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

God speaks and we hear His Word. We **trust** His Word and act on it no matter what the circumstances are or what the consequences may be.

Faith is only as good as its **object**.

"Faith is to a Christian what a foundation is to a house; it gives confidence and assurance that he will stand". ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

Hebrews 11 is called the "Hall of Faith."

In this world we have the "options" to put our faith in ourselves, our circumstances, others or Jesus.

This morning we will look at Abraham's journey and learn from His faith. As we go walk this process this morning ask, "Where and how in my journey do I need to put my faith in God?"

1) By faith, we obey when we don't know where we are going (vs. 8-10).

Abraham and his family lived in tents. Those in the Hall of Faith trusted more in their God than in their position/where they were.

Patient faith.

Following God usually seems totally illogical to the world and even to other Christians at times, but we do it anyways.

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts.

1 Peter 2:11a

2) By faith, we obey God when we do not know how God's Will is to be accomplished (vs. 11-12).

Unbelief says, "How can this be?" Faith asks, "How shall this be?"

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

~ **Martin Luther King Jr.**

This is not a blind faith, but a faith that is real, tested, **tried** and true.

3) By faith, we obey when we don't know when God will fulfill His promises (vs. 13-16).

"The important thing is not what we live in, but what we look for." ~ **David Morrison.**

God always fulfills His promises to His believing people, either immediately or ultimately.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9

God calls us to trust Him at **ALL** times!

4) When he did not know why, God was still working (vs. 17-19).

Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac.

"The tests of faith become more difficult as we walk with God, yet the rewards are more wonderful." ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

One focus sticks out in the account of Abraham and in all of Chapter 11, all of these people not only "had faith", but also their faith was exhibited; it was real.

We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith never remains alone. ~ **Martin Luther**

Genuine faith moves us, direct us, guides us and leads us.

If I have "trusted Jesus" but there is no active faith and following Jesus, let this be a warning sign.

In order to have such faith as described above, I must:

- 1) Be a Christ **follower**.
- 2) Read His **Word** /pray.
- 3) Be in tune with the **Holy Spirit**.

Remember in this order: **FACT**, **FAITH**, then **FEELING**

Prayer Focus:

I would obey when I don't know where the next step leads.

I would obey when I am not sure how God's plan will be accomplished.

I would obey when I don't know when God will fulfill His plan.

I would obey when I don't know why God is working.