

Heb. 11 - Sold On and Sold Out

Hebrews 11 is commonly known as the Faith Hall of Fame because it lists many of the great acts of faith by believers in the Old Testament, but this is not a list of superhumans whose faith was so great that they could do extraordinary acts for God. This passage is an invitation to join in the unshakable faith which characterizes God's people.

The last chapter ended with the statement "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls" (Heb 10:39). Paul makes the incredible claim that we, Christians who have trusted in Christ for their salvation, have an unshakable faith that will endure to the end. The focus of this chapter is not the incredible people found in the Old Testament stories, but the incredible faith God has granted to his people. We have the same faith, the same assurance of things hoped for, which led Abraham out of the wilderness, through which Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, and which will one day lead us into the new city where God will dwell with us.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How does the author define "faith" (see verse 1). How does the author show this in the examples he gives in the rest of the chapter? How should this definition change the way we live?
- 2. Are you so sold on Christ (do you trust that he is who he says he is) that you are selling out for him? If you're not really sold on him yet, why not? If you're not selling out for him, are you really sold on him?
- 3. What does it mean for someone to be strangers and exiles (vv. 13-16) because of the faith? What is this better country and new city that Good has prepared for his people?
- 4. How can we help each other be sold on and sold out for Christ?