

Christ Above all else

Hebrews 11:1-7

- This chapter begins the final section of the letter to the Hebrews as the writer will conclude that in order for any of us to continue in the path of glorifying and representing God we must live by faith, in fact he ended chapter ten with the exhortation “**the just shall live by faith V38**” as an example of true believers not wavering and going back to their old lifestyles but persevering in their salvation.

V1-7

- Here we are going to see two things concerning faith > **1. The description of faith V1-3, 2. The demonstration of faith V4-40. V1-3** this is not a total definition of faith, but it is a detailed description of what faith does and how it works. In these verses we see true Bible believing faith is not some blind optimism, or a manufactured I hope so feeling, neither is it something derived from intellectual doctrine.
- True Bible faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances, and consequences, it operates simply > God speaks and we listen then apply His truth. In Amos we just read in **8:11**, where Israel went through a famine not of physical food or water, but from spiritual deafness as they refused to listen to God’s word.
- So what happened? A **Restlessness** happened to the people as they wandered about looking for answers but since they didn’t want to hear the truth all they could find was lies. Then a **Hopelessness**, as the ones most affected by this spiritual famine was the youth, as they looked for something to satisfy their spiritual thirst but could only find was the cheap substitute that the adults was leaning on and it wasn’t enough, so they grew weary and passed out for lack of spiritual nourishment.
- Finally it says Godlessness was the reason for the spiritual famine in the land as the people had built false idols from the north to the south, and because they had filled their ears with falsehood, it hardened their hearts to truth, causing them to no longer have an appetite for The Word of God, and we see this today don’t we.
- In these three verses we are told that we trust His Word and act on it no matter what the circumstances are, or what the consequences may be. As the circumstances may be impossible, and the consequences absolutely frightening, but we obey God’s Word just the same, and believe Him to do what is right, and what is best.

- Because of this **V2** says those who walked by faith and not by sight received a Divine approval, and we are going to see some of their names being spoken of throughout this chapter. **V3** faith provides us with the only factual account of creation, this is why our higher education institutions reject this truth because God is The Only One Who was there, and He tells us how it happened using people who believe Him.
- **Ps 33:6, 9**- it says by The Word of The Lord the heavens was made, for He spoke and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast, it held in place. The stars, the moon, the sun, the planets, everything around us works perfectly because God commanded it too, if we remove Him it will all fall apart and we are witnessing it.
- **V4** by faith Abel properly **worshipped God**, the difference between Abel and Cain sacrifice wasn't whether God preferred animal over vegetable, the difference was Abel offered his sacrifice by faith in obedience to what God commanded, and even though he was killed by Cain we still speak of his obedience all these centuries later because God testified of his obedience.
- **V5** Abel's faith demonstrated **worship**, now Enoch's faith demonstrates **walking**, as he fellowshiped with God. **Gen 5:21-24** says Enoch walked with God for three hundred yrs, our faith in God grows more and more as we fellowship with God. I love how it says after he had his son is when he walked with God, I don't know if it was literal or a side note, but kids have a way of drawing you closer to The Lord amen!
- Also Enoch was the first person that we read about who after the fall and sin entered into the world didn't have a natural death as he was taken up as a sign for us in the New Testament who will experience the rapture. As you read this Abel worshipped God and yet suffered a violent death, Enoch walked with God and was taken up by God, each one lived for God but God had a different plan for those who trusts Him.
- **V6** tells us that no amount of good works can compensate for a lack of faith, as faith is us believing God, taking Him at His Word, believing He is Who He says He is > **Jam 1:5-7**- the person who doesn't believe can expect nothing from The Lord. **1Sam 14:1, 6** Jonathan and his armor bearer faced great odds against the philistines, his father Saul and his troops were hiding from them as they focused on the numbers, Jonathan was looking to be used by God and his eyes were on Him not the enemy.

- **V7** Abel faith **demonstrated worship**, Enoch's **walking**, now Noah's faith **demonstrates working**. Noah was told that a flood was coming, up to this point the earth had never seen rain before, but Noah believed God's Word and began to build the Ark, a task that took one hundred and twenty years, and while he was building scripture says he also was preaching > **2 Pet 2:5**.
- What's amazing about all this is Noah built rooms for his sons and daughters twenty years before his first child was born, talk about faith. Also in the one hundred and twenty years he preached the only converts he had was his three sons and daughter in laws, and the animals, and in the end **Gen 7:16** says The Lord shut the door.
- When you are at work for The Lord it is The Lord Who determines the results we just are called to be obedient to the call. So thus far we've seen **worship**, **walking**, and **working**, next week we'll see **waiting**, as The Lord want us to know what faith does and how faith works, because we see the word used regularly but not properly.