

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

FAITH

The Expectant Reliance on God

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 175 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

A. Important Study Section

1. The Meaning of Faith

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 11:1, NASB95 - ¹ Now faith [the Greek word used here is the definition of "faith;" GK: πίστις (PIS-tis) "an expectant reliance upon God" (Dr. Rick Renner)—this word is uniquely religious in nature] is the assurance [GK: ὑπόστασις (hu-PO-sta-sis) lit., "the foundation we stand on" (Renner); "Our faith in God is the foundation upon which the things we hope to get—by faith—are built" (Piper); this word is used in this form 7x in the NT] of things hoped for [GK: ἐπιχομένων (el-PIS-zo-men-on) is hope dependent on a singular Source], the conviction [GK: ἔλεγχος (el-ANG-chos) is also used only here in the NT, it is translated outside the NT as *proof*, *argument*, or *evidence*; it means "an argument based on evidence and/or proof" (Renner); the KJV translates this word as "evidence"] of things not seen [lit., of things not YET seen].

The very nature of the Greek word πίστις (PIS-tis), translated *faith*, denotes an expectant reliance upon God. This *total reliance* must be forward directed and aggressive—never passive, doubtful, or backward-reaching. This response must be characterized by immediate obedience to God alone.

- Dr. Rick Renner (Ph.D. in KOINÉ GREEK)

Biblical faith is expectant reliance on God alone that is accompanied by immediate obedience. - Pastor Joe

Our prayers are often depressing because we expect nothing to happen. Jesus said to two blind men, "*Be it done to you according to your faith*" (Matthew 9:29). Because they had eye-opening faith, their eyes were opened. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. - Alexander MacLaren

2. The Merit of Faith

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 11:2, NASB95 - ² For by it the men [men or women] of old gained approval [GK: μαρτυρέω (mar-tu-REE-ō) lit., a *martyr's legacy*].

17 "Men of old"—all from the OT—are mentioned specifically and countlessly referred to without names in Hebrews 11. Present Age (v. 3) • Primeval Age (vv. 4-7) • Patriarchal Age (vv. 8-22) • Patriotic Age (vv. 23-31) • General mentions by roles/stories (vv. 32-38) • Faith Degreed (vv. 39-40)

3. The Measure of Faith

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 11:3, NASB95 - ³ By faith [faith defined: "Biblical faith is expectant reliance on God that is accompanied by immediate obedience" - JKT] we understand [faith evidenced] that the worlds were prepared by the word [lit., the verbal command] of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

4. The Mandate of Faith

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 11:6, NASB95 - ⁶ And without faith ["Biblical faith is expectant reliance on God that is accompanied by immediate obedience"] it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe [GK: πιστεύω (pis-TEE-ō) meaning *applied ongoing faith*] that He is and *that* He is a rewarder [God alone gives us what we hope for] of those who [earnestly] seek Him.

B. Application

1. By faith, we must come to God expectantly.
2. By faith, we must obey God continually.
3. By faith, we must trust God explicitly.