

The New Covenant Part 6

Live What You Believe

Hebrews 11

Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:1

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle) We are no longer under the Old Covenant. We are under the New Covenant. This Covenant was promised to us in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** and **Hebrews 8:6-13**. This covenant is sealed through the blood of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. And we must understand this... the Old Covenant failed because it demanded an impossible outcome; our perfection. We will never be good enough to measure up to the Law. We can't measure up to the standard of the law. But we can trust in the standard of Christ's sacrifice. The New Covenant isn't a list of rules to maintain... rather it is a promise from God to us that he will change our hearts from the inside out. With this new promise comes an actual desire and motivation to live for God with our whole hearts. As Gary said last week. We don't adorn ourselves as the Bride of Christ because it makes us Holy. We come to Christ as a Bride enraptured with love for her groom. We look upon his love, forgiveness, compassion, grace, mercy, friendship, fellowship, and benevolence and stand in awe, wondering, how could he love me so much and care for me so greatly? We are so undeserving and so our whole lives should address His unmerited goodness towards us. We dance like David before the Ark because we are in relationship with a Holy and Glorious God. We return to Christ like the grateful leper who was healed.

And it is in that spirit that today we continue in Hebrews Chapter 11. Today we are going to see that when we embrace the New Covenant, it should change our faith! Let's read **Chapter 11** together.

There's something I want us to understand here from the start. This isn't just the Hall of Faith as some have called it. The author is trying to show you something completely new according to the New Covenant. The Old Covenant taught people to do good works in order to be commended by God. The New Covenant shows us that we have always been commended by God, not because of our works but by our faith which is revealed by our works. There is a huge difference. Works without faith means nothing. Just as faith without works means nothing. But when you have real faith in a real God... you will have real works... and that means something!

This is where we get the English word Believe. It comes from two words. Be and Live. The true meaning of the word Believe is to Be Living! Its not just what you think... its also how you react to what you

think. Belief is in the mind and the actions. You can't say you believe something and **not act** upon it. You must **Be Living** what you say you believe!

Let me ask you a question; how many of you have flown on an airplane? When's the last time you saw the pilot of your flight? Probably never. You walked down the bridge, boarded the plane, put your carry on in the bins above you, took your seat and then buckled up. You didn't do a background check on the pilots or the staff. You didn't get out and inspect the wings or read the maintenance log. You simply believed that your plane was fine and they people piloting were fine and that everything was going to work out. You put that faith in to practice by simply boarding and enjoying your flight. You trusted the system and you went 35K feet into the sky without much of a thought.

That's what **Hebrews 11** is trying to show you. These people mentioned here simply trusted God and they put that belief into action through their works. Works we say are incredible, but were as simple as trusting the pilot. This isn't about blind faith; its about bold trust. A conviction so real that it shows up in the way we live. The New Covenant doesn't just give us access to God by faith. It calls us to live in radical trust, in daily obedience, as we walk toward a future we can't fully see, because we have total confidence in our savior. This morning, let us walk through three marks of New Covenant faith that shows we are living what we believe. And what we will see is this... **The New Covenant doesn't just show us how to have faith, but how to faithfully live.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first mark of New Covenant Faith that we need to talk about is... **Faith Walks Forward Towards An Uncertain Future**. Look again at **Hebrews 11:1**. The writer of Hebrews is laying it down; faith is the conviction of things not seen. Faith is confidence in what you can not see. And there aren't a lot of things more uncertain than the future. How can we have faith in something when the future is so unknown. Well It's not about emotion. It's not about wishful thinking or hoping upon a star. It is full assurance rooted in something bigger than ourselves. And what is that thing that our faith must be rooted in? Nothing other than the character and promises of God revealed to us in his word and in Christ. There is nothing more reliable than that! We trust the pilot and the plane, why? Because plane crashes are extremely rare, 1 in a million or more. We trust God why? Because he's never failed, he's never steered us wrong.

Just look at our examples in **Hebrews 1:7-8**. Because of his confidence in God, Noah trusted him and built an Ark. It had never rained, and yet Noah built a giant ship. Because of his confidence in God, Abraham left everything he had ever known and became a nomad across the wilderness. No map, no directions, just obedience to God's command.

Wouldn't it be great if the future came with a road map. You could navigate what's to come just by following the path laid out? But it's not that simple, is it? Here's something I want you to get. New Covenant faith doesn't require a map, it simply requires courage to go. Get this; **faith isn't about knowing the route, it's about trusting the guide.**

Me and my family just took a small weekend vacation last week to Durham. We didn't know where anything was, and I'm not even sure you can buy actual paper maps anymore.. so what did we do. We looked it up on Waze. Waze is my favorite navigation App. Lisa prefers the generic Apple Maps navigation. But regardless of which one we use it still gets us to our destination. But there's no GPS navigation app for the future. And that's okay. All we really need is the one who has already been there and can lead the way. For example, have any of you ever had to drive through very heavy fog? All you have is your GPS to go on. The voice on the GPS says go left and you trust it, or go right and you're like.. sure thing! I trust your mysterious British voice lady with my whole heart! You can't see in front of you but you know the lady on the GPS is reliable so you trust her. That's faith! You trust, so you obey it! Noah and Abraham had a faith in God and they simply obeyed his voice. It's not about having perfect clarity or having all the answers. It's simply trusting God when the path is foggy! The Old Covenant said do this and you might live. The New Covenant says, trust him and you will make it! And so we faithfully go into the fog! **The New Covenant doesn't just show us how to have faith, but how to faithfully live.**

The second mark of New Covenant Faith we need to talk about is... **Faith Values The Eternal More Than The Earthly**. Look again at **Hebrews 11:13-16**. Faith doesn't just trust God with the future, but it values his future over the present world. Abraham didn't just leave his homeland because God told him to, but he left his homeland because he believed wholeheartedly that if God told him to leave his home, that he would indeed give him a better one. This applied to Abraham, in the short term context, was the land of Canaan, the promised land of Bethel and Hebron. But as the writer applies it to the greater context, we must sacrifice the pleasures of this world for the world to come, Heaven! This of course is a great challenge to us. We cannot see heaven, we cannot yet see our eternal reward. Yet, we daily contend with either trusting in our own understanding and fighting for what we have now, or trusting in God and fighting for what he will give us in the next life. The way we live shows which one we trust. If I'm living to preserve the world here, my cars, my house, my bank account, my stuff... then I'm most likely trusting my self to protect it. If I'm living for the world to come, then I'm clearly trusting in the Lord who is preparing it for me. And I will live accordingly. I will live according to **Matthew 6:19-21**. It's as simple as it

gets. My faith is revealed by the way I live!

Look again at **11:24-27**. Moses had every luxury in Pharaoh's palace but he chose mistreatment with the Hebrews. Why? Because he was living for something bigger than what this world has to offer. Faith makes you choose less now for more later. Faith helps you refuse an earthly king now for an invisible king forever. Those who live for sin now and pleasure now show that their faith is not in an eternal reward and holy God. Their faith is in themselves and the things of this world. **Faith trades comfort now for a crown later**. Moses and Abraham weren't looking for their best lives now! They were looking for an eternal reward later. We trust now, we reap the reward later!

I'm always fascinated by professional athletes. They aren't the best simply because they have talent or were afforded opportunities that others weren't. Yes, that helps, but that's not the whole thing. They are the world's best athletes because they train their butts off! They train for years and years and years. They don't take a lot of days off. Even in the offseason they still train 4 to 6 hours everyday. They eat very strict diets, endure brutal workouts, and often have to rehab ridiculous injury after injury! All for the glory of winning an event or game. They endure it all for the rewards. **They are willing to suffer now because they are motivated by something greater.** This is what people of faith understand. This is what the New Covenant awakens us to, we work now for a reward to come. We live now for him and his home! Faith changes the way we live! This is what Jesus invites you into. Not a faith of survival but a faith of surrender. **The New Covenant doesn't just show us how to have faith, but how to faithfully live.**

The last mark of New Covenant faith we need to look at today is... **Faith Acts Like God Keeps His Word**. Go back to **vs.4**. Abel offered up his offering... not because he knew the outcome, but because he knew the promise of a good God. If he knew the outcome (his death) he wouldn't have done it... but that wasn't even in his mind. He kept his eyes on God because He knew the truth of his voice! Look again at **Hebrews 11:17-19**. Abraham offered up Isaac. He didn't know what the outcome would be, but he did know that God had promised that Isaac would be the father of nations and a blessing to all people. He did what he did because he saw past the situation to the promise of God! A God who always keeps his word!

Look at **29-31**. By faith the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. When they entered in they didn't know if the waters would stay apart or drown them. But they did know that God had led them this far. They trusted in the character of God. By faith Joshua had the people walk around Jericho for 7 days playing music. It was insane and completely ridiculous, but they trusted the word of God. By faith Rahab, a foreigner, trusted what God had told the spies. It was possible that the walls would not fall. It was possible that she would be caught and die. But she trusted the

promise of God instead of the possible outcome!

This is the point. Faith doesn't wait to see the outcome. It obeys because the promise is enough. Abraham raised the knife. Israel stepped into the sea. Rahab welcomed the spies. They risked it all because the promises of God are worth the risks. **Faith doesn't need the outcome to obey, just the promise.** Here's the question. Are you living like He'll do what he said he'll do? Or are you hedging your bets, holding onto control, waiting for proof before you obey? What are you risking according to the promises and character of God. **The New Covenant doesn't just show us how to have faith, but how to faithfully live.**

Application

We are called to live by faith! To live according to the confidence we have in Christ and not what we can prove to be the actual outcome. The way we live shows what we actually believe. If we truly believe in Christ we will walk into the fog because we know the Shepherd. We will give up our comfort because we long for his kingdom. And we will obey him now because we trust his word.

Conclusion

Have you ever looked at an architectural blueprint? Lines, measurements, symbols all over the place? To most of us it doesn't look mean much, but to a skilled builder it's a promise of what's to come. Hebrews 11 is a blueprint. It's a sketch of how God calls us to live, not by sight, not by safety, but by faith! You don't have to be able to read the blueprint, you just have to trust the architect!

The New Covenant makes that possible. Christ has come. The Spirit is within us. The veil is torn. The promises are real. And now we must live like it! **The New Covenant doesn't just show us how to have faith, but how to faithfully live.** Let's stop playing it safe. Let's not settle for religion. Let's step forward, like Abraham. Let's value the eternal like Moses. Let's trust and obey like Rahab. Not perfect people, just faithful ones. That's what God is looking for.

Maybe you've been living your life based on what you can see. What makes sense. What's comfortable. What's secure. But Jesus is calling you to something deeper. To trust Him in the fog. To long for what lasts. To act on what He's said — even when the world calls you crazy. Let's be a church marked by *faith*. Let's live like what God has promised is already true — because in Jesus, it *is*.