

A circular graphic composed of several concentric lines. The outermost line is a solid teal color. Inside it is a dashed orange line. Further in are two more solid teal lines. At the center is a solid orange circle. Various icons are placed around the circle, each within a teal circular background. Starting from the top and moving clockwise, the icons are: a laptop, a television, a smartphone displaying a map, a tablet, a newspaper, and a surgical mask. At the bottom left, a larger teal circle contains an image of the United States Capitol building.

# UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

life above the chaos

# 01

Christians often describe themselves as “people of faith” or “believers.” But, simply having faith is not unique. Everyone in the world has faith: everyone wants to be sure, is motivated by hope, and holds to a set of convictions. The question of real importance is, “What have you put your faith in?”

The way you answer that question will shape the way you view the world and live in it. Faith is central to everyone, and the object of your faith is what defines your life.

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.**

Hebrews 11:1-3 (ESV)

**“Christians are not different because they live by faith, Christians are different because of the object of their faith.”**





5. We all hold convictions, strong beliefs in what people “should do.” Do you believe there is a way people should live? What do you do when they don’t? Be specific.

**“If you can understand faith, you can understand the life God has called you to.”**

## **Street-Level Truth**

One of the most important things we should talk about is what we have placed our faith in. It will affect your entire life and the life hereafter.

## **Prayer**

Lord, we pray as we work through Hebrews 11 we would come to understand what it really means to live by faith. We pray you would reveal to us what true faith and truly faithful living look like in our everyday lives. Amen.

## **Memory verse**

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

–Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)

# 02

We saw last session what you put your faith in is dramatically important. It affects everything you do. It is equally important to define that faith. In this session, you will see faith is significantly more than an intellectual theology. In fact, you will see very few statements about people's formal theology in Hebrews 11. What you see is changed hearts and radically changed lives. That kind of faith, true faith, will show you who God is and how to please Him.

**By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.**

**Hebrews 11:4-7 (ESV)**

**“Any theology that does not redefine the way you live is bad theology.”**

## Questions

1. If you believe in God, you must believe He is the creator. This belief shows us God is the origin, owner, and center of all things. However, you frequently live as if you are the one on the throne of creation. What are the specific areas of your life you struggle to give to God?

**“God rules his world in such a way that he is touchable by any one of us at any moment.”**

2. If you believe in God, you must believe He is sovereign. Read Acts 17:26-28. What stands out to you about this passage? How does that affect your everyday life?





6. True faith endures and will allow you to endure the circumstances of your life because it gives you trust in the one who controls those circumstances. What areas of life are difficult for you right now? How does faith help you see beyond your circumstances to God's greater reward?

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## Street-Level Truth

True faith will turn your life inside out and upside down. If it doesn't, you aren't really believing in the one true God.

## Prayer

Lord, we confess we are far too willing to put ourselves at the center of creation, setting ourselves up in your place. In your grace, you have made yourself knowable and rescued us from slavery to sin. Change our hearts, Lord, and give us a faith that worships you rightly, willingly obeys your call, and endures every circumstance. Amen.

## Memory verse

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

—Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

# 03

The greatest threat to true faith in the church is inauthentic, insincere faith rooted in false beliefs about God. This section of Hebrews 11 goes into great detail describing what true faith looks like because God wants us to know who He truly is and how that redefines our faith in revolutionary ways.

**By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.**

**Hebrews 11:8-12 (ESV)**

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# Questions

1. True faith always rests on the Word of God. We live in the boundaries of what God has spoken so we could live according to it. Do you ever live according to your own wisdom and feelings instead of God's Word? What areas of life do you need to reorder according to the Word of God?
  
2. True faith is focused on your heart, the causal core of your personhood. Whatever controls your heart controls your actions and desires. Examine your life: where you spend your money, what you long for and daydream about, and what you are passionate about. What is laying claim to and ruling your heart? Be honest.

**“If faith is not first a matter of your heart, it will not be visible in your words, actions and decisions.”**

3. Could it be that some of your desires are motivated by sin? Are there desires in your life that should be refused? What are they? Be specific.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. True faith results in radical living. Is there anything you would hesitate to surrender to God? Is there anyone you would hesitate to love? Why?

**“What rules your heart will exercise  
inescapable influence on your words  
and behavior.”**

5. True faith is future focused, but we are constantly assaulted by urgent pressing matters. How does looking ahead to eternity with God change your present priorities and actions?

**“Worship is not first your activity,  
it is first your identity. You are a  
worshipper.”**

## **Street Level Truth**

Faith is not natural for us, we have no ability to muster up faith. True faith is a gift. All God asks of us is to cry out and own our weakness. Without the grace of God, we would have no ability to live by faith.

## **Prayer**

God, there are still weaknesses and inconsistencies in my fickle heart. Rescue us from our sinfulness so your grace may rule our hearts. Direct our steps and desires according to your Word. Amen.

## **Memory verse**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

–Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

# 04

We are all value-oriented beings. We point ourselves towards whatever we love most. That thing, person, or circumstance will control your heart and, in turn, dictate your words and actions. Jesus calls that thing our treasure.

This isn't a treasure you have to go out and find; you already have one. Even now, something that dominates your thoughts, emotions, and actions. Do you know what it is? Whatever it is, there your heart will be also.

**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.**

**Hebrews 11:23-28 (ESV)**



**“When are we most afraid? When the thing you have placed your trust, hope, and faith in is failing you. When the thing we have place our trust, hope, and faith in is failing us.”**

3. Read Matthew 6:24. In question 2, you examined what your treasure might be. Is it God or something else? Why does Jesus say you cannot live for that thing and God simultaneously?

**“Faith means that no matter what happens around me, I have reason to continue.”**

4. Sin doesn't always seem sinful. It may seem easily justifiable in the moment. Do you ever try to justify placing your faith and hope in something other than God? What is that thing? Why is it so tempting? Be specific.



5. Does the loss of valuable things weaken your faith? Do circumstances weaken your faith? How would true faith in the unchanging God change the way you feel and act?

**“Where you are most afraid will expose what you most trust, where you are most afraid will expose what you most value.”**

## **Street-Level Truth**

We are all value-driven beings. What you value most will control your heart. Whatever controls your heart will control your words and actions.

## **Prayer**

Lord, may we be willing to stand before the mirror of the verses we have just examined. May we be honest about what we value and where we have placed our trust apart from you. May we confess the reality of our faith, turn from those things, and run to you, the only place where grace is found. Amen.

## **Memory verse**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

-Matthew 6:21 (ESV)