

“The Great Hall of Faith”

Hebrews 10:39 (NLT) - But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

Hebrews 10:32 (ESV) - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings.

Perseverance is the demonstration of faith.

Hebrews 11:1-2 (ESV) - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) - 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.

Abel's Faith: Hebrews 11:4

"And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks."

Enoch's Faith: Hebrews 11:5-6

Genesis 5:21-24 (ESV) - ²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²²Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrew 11:5b – "Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God."

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) - ⁶And 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.

Romans 8:38-39 (ESV) - ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Noah's Faith: Hebrews 11:7

Abraham's Faith: Hebrews 11:8-10

Sarah's Faith: Hebrews 11:11-12

Hebrews 11:13 (ESV) - These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Hebrews 11:14-15 (ESV) - ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

1 Peter 1:1 (NLT) - I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners.

Philippians 3:20 (NLT) - But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Verse 16 - "... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one."

Everything is better in Christ.

The obsession for everything "better" in this world is the result of a lack of focus on what is coming to us from Christ.

Hebrews 11:16b - God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Abraham's Faith with his son Isaac: Hebrews 11:17-19

Isaac, Jacob and Joseph's Faith: Hebrews 11:20-22

Moses's Faith: Hebrews 11:23-27

People Crossing the Red Sea Faith: Hebrews 11:29

Walls of Jericho Faith: Hebrews 11:30

Rahab's (the prostitute) Faith: Hebrews 11:31

Hebrews 11:32-38 (ESV) - ³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV) - ³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

(NLT) - ³⁹ All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. ⁴⁰ For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

“God had provided something better for us.”

Are you feeling too much at home in this world?

How do you remember the promises of God and allow them to affect your life?

Discipline your life in the Word and prayer.