

Hebrews 11:1-3

The Just Shall Live By Faith

I. Introduction: The author of Hebrews explains that true faith is the only thing that will commend us to God and then demonstrates it in the lives of Israel's greatest heroes.

II. The Just Shall Live By Faith (Heb 11:1-3).

A. The Nature of Faith (v. 1).

1. The author of Hebrews declared that faith is the confidence in that which is unseen and the certainty of living one's life based upon belief in their convictions.

B. The Witnesses of Faith (v. 2).

1. The writer explained that those Old Testament saints who had lived for God in the past gained God's approval by acting upon their beliefs.

C. The Content of Faith (v. 3).

1. The writer called his audience to place their faith in God's creative power, knowing that it was by His word that the universe and everything in it came into being.

III. Conclusion: The author encouraged his Jewish audience to place their faith in God's work of creation so that they would also accept God's work of redemption through faith.

Study Questions: The Just Shall Live By Faith

1. What does it mean to live by faith? How are sinners justified by God? Who can we point to as an example of true faith in the Old Testament? How can any sinner please God? (**Heb 11:6**)
2. Why did the author of Hebrews place this chapter after his severe warning? (**Heb 11:1-3**) How did he warn his audience about “shrinking back” from faith in Jesus? (**Heb 10:38-39**)
3. What does it mean that faith is the “assurance of things hoped for”? (**Heb 11:1**) How does faith contradict our senses? (**2 Cor 5:7**) How does faith trust in what hasn’t occurred? (**Heb 11:13**)
4. How is faith a “conviction of things not seen”? (**Heb 11:1**) How did Noah respond to God in faith? (**Heb 11:7**) What did God ask Noah to do in response to His warning about the flood?
5. How did men in the Old Testament gain approval from God? (**Heb 11:2**) What did the author of Hebrews try to emphasize about faith? (**Heb 11:6**) How do we gain God’s approval?
6. Who are the people the author names in this chapter of faith? (**Heb 11:4-40**) Who are those whom he has left out of the chapter? What are some surprise inclusions? (**Heb 11:11, 31**)
7. Into what did the author first want his audience to place their faith? (**Heb 11:3**) Why is faith in creation a primary concern for Christians? (**Heb 11:6**) How is this under attack? (**Rom 1:20-21**)
8. How did God create the universe? (**Heb 11:3**) Why is it important to point this out? What supernatural creative act does God perform for the sinner? (**John 3:1-10; 2 Cor 5:17**)

Prayer

1. Ask God to help you to place your faith solely in Jesus’ finished work on the cross.
2. Pray that God would give you the confidence to believe in the creation story as God wrote it.