

Hebrews 11:1-22 – 9 June 2024

“Faith In Action Part 1 of 2”

Introduction

*Chap 1-6 showed in many ways our superior God descending to do for us what we couldn't do

*Chap 7-10 showed the need to transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant in Christ

*Not the earthly but the heavenly temple, Priest Jesus, & sacrifice of Himself in heaven was the reality of what we needed – the earthly was just a picture

*Chap 11-13 finishes the book of Hebrews with our response to receiving the New Covenant in Jesus

*Chap 11 is the famous Hall of Faith chapter & it really begins in Chap 10 vs 38 (Read Vs 38-39)

*What is true Biblical faith? If we have true Biblical faith what is the result of that in our daily lives?

Today, we'll see 1st half of 6 attributes of true Biblical faith in the lives of believers in Jesus Christ

#1: The faithful will seek to worship God His way (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. “Substance of things hoped for”
 - a. Faith lives in the reality today of the things we’re expecting to come tomorrow
2. “Evidence of things unseen”
 - a. This isn’t blind faith, but a reasonable faith
 - b. We have excellent reasons to believe Jesus
3. The reaction that God is looking for from us is one of belief and trust, it’s faith
4. Read John 6:28-29 – Accepting Jesus is who He’s declared Himself to be, is the “ask” of God
5. Just as our eyes give us the ‘sense’ of how to physically live in this world; our faith gives us the ‘sense’ of how to spiritually live in the real world

Read Vs 2

1. This is how the patriarchs of Israel obtained a good testimony or became good witnesses
 - a. Martyr, witness, testimony...same word

2. We're called to be witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8)
 - a. How? By believing & acting upon all that Jesus has said
 - b. We're more than a Bible teaching church, we're a Bible-believing church!
3. Lifestyle of Jesus worship speaks to the world

Read Vs 3

1. The Creation itself is a testimony that we must receive who God is, we can't make up who God is
2. We weren't at Creation to know what God did
 - a. We must receive this understanding by faith
 - b. Yet not blind faith, we examine evidence
3. Psm 19 says, the heavens declare the glory of God & the skies proclaim the work of His hand
 - a. The faithful are drawn to worship God

Read Vs 4

1. Both Cain & Abel believed God was real & both offered a sacrifice
 - a. Difference; Abel came on God's terms
2. The faithful worship God on God's terms

3. Abel's life of worship is still impacting lives

Read Vs 5

1. Result of Enoch's faith was so strong, God raptured him straight into His presence
2. What did Enoch do by faith? He 'pleased God'
 - a. How? Read Gen 5:24 – He walked w/ God
3. God was the initiator & Enoch responded
 - a. God didn't please him, he pleased God
 - b. God didn't walk w/ him, he walked w/ God

Read Vs 6

1. No faith? Can't please God
 - a. Rituals w/o faith is rotten
 - b. Deeds w/o faith is dead
 - c. Cain performed deeds, but not deeds that proved he believed in God and His Word
2. It's not just believing that God is real, it's believing God's way is worth following
 - a. Satan believes God's real but there's no trust
 - b. Mentally agreeing God is real isn't enough to plz God, you must trust Him like a parachute

#2: The faithful will go anywhere God leads (Vs 7-16)

Read Vs 7

1. What did Noah do by faith? Built an ark
 - a. This would change everything in life
 - b. He's willing to go in new direction w/ God
2. Why did he do it? B/c he feared God
 - a. His faith shown w/ deep respect for God
 - b. The actions Noah did started on the inside even before he built the ark
3. What were the results of his faith?
 - a. He saved his house
 - b. He proved the world was in sin
 - c. He inherited righteousness from God
4. God has also 'warned us of things to come', do we react in faith believing?

Read Vs 8-10

1. What did Abraham do by faith?
 - a. Changed everything in his life
 - b. Accepted an unknown new life
 - c. Accepted a delayed reward
 - d. Gave up the comforts of this life

2. How could he do this? B/c he believed in eternal reward that's worth a little discomfort now (vs 10)
3. Hold loosely to the things of this world, in order to be ready to live for eternal things

Read Vs 11-12

1. What did Sarah do by faith? Believed promise
 - a. Believed she'd have baby against logic
 - b. Believed she'd have baby against her fears
2. What were the results of her faith?
 - a. God strengthened her body for delivery
 - b. God strengthened her mind from fears
3. Walk of faith can challenge you in body & mind, but God is faithful to provide for all needs

Read Vs 13

1. What does it take to have the faith to go wherever God leads you in life?
 - a. 'Seen them'- hear God's promises in His Word
 - b. 'Persuaded'- analyze & believe His promises
 - c. 'Embrace'- Hold to them even in tough times

Read Vs 14-16

1. Are you looking ahead or behind?
 - a. Read Luke 9:57-62 – Me first or God first
 - b. Remember Lot's wife
2. How can we look ahead?
 - a. Just like vs 16 – know & believe a better country is coming!
 - b. God can lead us anywhere, b/c better is one day in His courts than 1,000s elsewhere (Psm 84:10)

#3: The faithful will make God their priority & legacy (Vs 17-22)

Read Vs 17-19

1. What did Abe do by faith here?
 - a. He willingly offered his most precious thing
 - b. He gave from the spirit & not from intellect
 - c. He trusted God w/ his future & legacy
2. What were the results of his faith?
 - a. He was able to role model heavenly things!
 - b. He experienced life from the dead (figure)

3. When we allow God to become our all in all, He takes us into places in the spiritual realm that earthly man can't rejoice in

Read Vs 20-21

1. What did Isaac & Jacob do by faith?
 - a. Taught their kids to trust God in life & death
 - b. They commanded their kids at death to pass on the legacy of following YHWH
2. Jacob leaning on the staff was a daily reminder of his time wrestling with the Angel of the Lord
 - a. They hadn't forgotten all the lessons God brought them thru and wanted to pass it on

Read Vs 22

1. What did Joe do by faith?
 - a. He believed God's promise about returning to the Promised Land
 - b. Simply put he believed prophesy

Conclusion

What's God calling you deeper into?

1. **Is He calling you deeper to seek Him & worship Him in His prescribed manner?**
 - a. Be on the lookout for situations that are a choice between right & almost right
 - b. Develop a consistence walk w/ God
2. **Is He calling you to go?**
 - a. Hold loosely to the things of this world so you're ready to just when God says jump
 - b. Never tap out your budget or time so there's always room for God to unexpectedly jump in
3. **Is He calling you to make Him your priority & legacy?**
 - a. Let's stop fiddling around with the unsatisfying games of life & maximize our time with the Lord
 - b. When we are a dying, we want our kids to be thinking of nothing but "wow did they love Jesus"