

Superior: Hebrews Faith

Ice Breaker: Describe the faith of a person who has influenced your life in a positive way.

You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions...But we are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. (Heb. 10:34, 39)

The answer to a “shrinking spirit” is to walk by faith...

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. (Heb. 11:1-2)

The people listed in the Hebrews Hall of Faith were commended for their faith. If God was writing about your faith would there be a specific time or incident that you think He would write about?

Faith is...

- **Assurance for the future: the fulfillment of God’s promises** – “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for...” (v. 1a)

Has God given you a promise from the Bible that is meaningful to you? If so, share it with the group.

- **Certainty in the present: the reality of God’s presence** – “...and certain of what we do not see.” (v. 1b)

Describe a time when you have felt the presence of God.

Building faith...

- **The witness of creation** – “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Heb. 11:3)
- **The word of God** – “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:17)

How do you see God’s hand in creation and how does it strengthen your faith?

How often are you reading the word of God? Is it enough to help you grow in your faith?

- **The road to righteousness** – “By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings.” (Heb. 11:4a)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

If faith is a gift, why do you think so many people think they have to earn it?

Pleasing to the heart of God – “By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.” (Heb. 11:5)

What aspect of your life today brings pleasure to God? This is a personal question so share only if you feel comfortable doing so.

Pleasing faith...

- ***Certain of what we do not see (God exists)*** – “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists...” (Heb. 11:6a)
- ***Assured of things hoped for (God rewards)*** – “...and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6b)

Take some time now to pray for God to strengthen your faith so that it will be pleasing to Him.