

Live by Faith

HVFC

October 26, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 11:1

(Thanks on behalf of the pastors here for your love and support and kind words of encouragement.)

Hunting season is here... by far the best season Montana has to offer. In my humble opinion. And with opening weekend upon us, every hunter is full of faith that this will be the year they get that wall hanging royal bull or massive deer to complete the collection.

We often associate the word "faith" with religious practices, and many who oppose Christianity scoff at the idea of needing "faith" to inherit eternal life.

They proclaim that they need proof and evidence, scientific evidence to be exact. See, taste, touch, feel, hear... We even use the saying, seeing is believing in the real world. I will believe it when I see it.

Every moment of our life we are utilizing some sort of faith. Even now, you have put faith in the chair you are sitting in. Did you inspect it and make sure it was safe?

Probably not. Back to those who scoff at faith.

These same people will put their faith in a Big Bang Theory or that we came from nothing that magically mixed itself together and by happen-chance chaos became order, and the perfect alignment and reactions happened to form a simple life, that then was smart enough to evolve.

To me it takes more faith to believe that lie than it does to have faith in a creator.

The truth is that people are willing to put faith anywhere but God because we don't want to be accountable for our actions and lifestyle.

As we get started this morning. I want to remind us that when the writer was writing this letter, he did not use chapter and verse, that was added much later.

Chapter 11:1 is not a new thought or separated from the context we just finished in chapter 10.

To give the flow I am going to start reading in 10:38 this morning into chapter 11.

Hebrews 10:38-11:2

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

NKJV

Let's Pray.

Faith.

In many ways a simple concept.

Yet with unsearchable depth.

My goal with these next sermons is to help us define faith and understand how we live by faith.

Faith is not superstition. It is not a feeling or emotion.

Superstition is defined as beliefs that are not based on science or reason, but personal beliefs based on karma, luck, or some other omen of fate.

Yet many people use faith in Jesus as a talisman or charm against evil. They add it to the many other charms or superstitions or patterns they have adopted to be as good as they can, to check all the boxes and cover all their bases.

Just in case, ya know.

And I believe that is based on a misinterpretation of this passage in Hebrews 11:1.

Please answer out loud if you want but understand this may be a trick question.

What is the definition of faith? Most would say, without hesitation verse one.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

In America, most people would say they are Christian, they are hoping, (I think many get stuck on this word) they get to heaven, for an easy existence in the next life. And they will say, yea I believe Jesus was the son of God, and other Christianese jargon.

However, they may say with their lips they serve God, but if you examine their life, their actions, their reactions, their choices, their fruit... it becomes evident their faith is not real. I mean with over 60% of Americans proclaiming Christianity, you would think America would be nicer.

The question now is, what is verse one talking about?

Remember he is continuing his thoughts from the previous verses.

The substance and evidence of things not seen he speaks of, is found in verses 36 and 37.

Hebrews 10:36-37

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: (Substance)

37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
(Evidence not seen)

NKJV

Listen to this verse in a different translation.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see.

God's Word Translation

What is the promise?

Salvation from God's wrath and to be being made holy.

Hebrews 10:14&16

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds, I will write them,"

NKJV

The evidence unseen is the returning King Jesus that is coming soon.

Hebrews 11:1 gives a description and definition based on the context.

Biblical faith is neither naïve optimism nor simply wishing things will turn out well.

Nor is it simply agreeing with a set of doctrines intellectually. It is most definitely not believing something contrary to evidence—that would be superstition. Like breaking

a mirror, walking under a ladder, seeing a black cat cross your path, or God is good and will save everyone.

Now think before you answer.

Is faith just belief?

My purpose today is to make us think.

I want to start with Thomas, another disciple that we have a lot in common with.

Thomas voiced what many of us deal with internally.

I am not believing until I have some proof. Seeing is believing. Actually seeing isn't enough I wanna touch the scars.

We have all had moments where this was our plea.

One of my favorite passages and prayers is I believe but help my unbelief. Mark 9. And at times that unbelief is daunting.

Unlike Thomas, we have a problem. We can't put our fingers in the nail holes and our hands in his side.

How do we solve this problem?

Here is what John tells us.

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

NKJV

The secret to faith is written in the Word of God.

Want to know the secret?

The secret is:

True biblical Faith is confident obedience to God's Word regardless of circumstances and consequences. (read that again)

The word of God is the foundation upon which our faith is built and strengthened.

As you know my time is short, we leave for London in just over two hours.

I want to make two quick points about the foundation upon which we live by faith.

First.

Paul lays this out for us in Romans.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

NKJV

I can not stress this enough, your bible is your lifeline of faith.

Faith comes by hearing the word of God.

And I already hear the grumblings...

No it's not, it is the Holy Spirit living inside me. The bible is ok, but I want to hear what the spirit is saying.

If you ever hear the spirit saying something that you can't make line up with Scripture... It isn't the Holy Spirit talking.

If something sounds good, like "cleanliness is next to Godliness". First of all they ain't ever had kids living with them, or they occupy a different financial category status than I do.

Often people will say things that are cute and rhyme but have no scriptural context. You might ask, well how will I know?

You must be a student of the Word of God. Paul told Timothy, study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the word of God.

Your faith must have a foundation in the word of God or it will die.

Faith comes by hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing the Word of God.

Listen to what the word of God does for your faith.

Your faith grows.

Provides a defense.

Equips you for the work of the ministry.

Comforts, strengthens, brings peace, teaches us grace, and how to grow into men and women of faith.

I have shared how I think in pictures. And the picture I am trying to describe is this.

Everything we need to live a life pleasing to God, understanding his will, and maturing as a Christian grows from the foundation of the Bible.

The picture was an open bible with every good thing sprouting from the pages of the bible.

(use picture)

Your Bible is where you will gain everything you need to have your Faith grow strong.

Faith comes by hearing and reading and studying the Word of God, it is the foundational building block of our faith.

The second thing I want to share is this.

If we are not intentionally feeding our faith with the word of God it will be choked out by the cares of this world.

In the explanation of the parable of the Sower who sowed the seed of the Word of God on the different grounds, listen to the explanation of the one the thorns choked.

Matthew 13:22

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

NKJV

Notice first.

He hears the word, so faith has begun.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

There is some growth in his life.

But then the cares of this world and its deceitfulness begin to choke the WORD.

Notice it doesn't attack the faith, no it begins to choke the word.

Remember as a kid if you were put in a choke hold and you tried screaming or shouting, you couldn't.

The word can't be heard while it is being choked out by the cares of this life.

This is where we start walking away from time in the bible. The busyness of life keeps us from reading the Word and our faith beings die.

Jesus told us that we do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God.

If you are not consistently in your bible, your faith is struggling and is malnourished.

To begin this study in faith, I wanted us to understand that if we are going to live by faith, we must keep our faith alive.

The reason is faith is not just belief.

Faith is belief with obedience to God's word.

James gives us this lesson several times in his opening two chapters.

He says to be doers of the word, not just hearers.

This implies hearing and obeying the word of God. Hearing is how we gain faith, doing the word of God is how we obey.

James 2:14

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have Obedience (works)? Can faith save him?

NKJV

James 2:17

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have obedience (works), is dead.

NKJV

James 2:18

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your obedience (works), and I will show you my faith by my obedience (works).

NKJV

In closing.

As we begin this amazing journey of what it means to live by Faith. I hope you are reading chapters 11 and 12 several times in the next couple of weeks.

My plan is to take it step by step, working with Thanksgiving and Christmas to lay out what the writer is teaching us what living by faith looks like.

This morning we covered two things.

Faith is rooted in the Word of God and comes by hearing the word of God.

And the cares of this life will always seek to choke the word of God so that we are not reading or hearing it.

When that happens our faith begins to die, it gets weaker and weaker until it disappears.

This morning, remember this.

Faith comes by hearing the word of God. And the cares of this world will seek to choke the word of God out of our lives.

Fight and prioritize time hearing and reading your Bible, your Faith depends on it.

Let's pray.