



Title - By Faith

Main Point - As followers of Jesus we have a long spiritual heritage of faith - men and women who have gone before us as examples to propel us forward in endurance and assurance of the salvation we hope for in Christ.

Hebrews Recap

Jesus the Better Substitute for humanity
enters the Better Sanctuary of heaven
to administer the Better Service of His priesthood
through the Better Sacrifice of Himself
to secure the Better Salvation of our redemption.

JESUS IS BETTER!

Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 - Faith IN WHAT?

2 - Based ON WHAT?

Everyone has faith in something. Every worldview is a conviction of something unseen.

Hebrews 11:2

For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Hebrews 11:3

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.

*Biblical Faith begins with God as Creator and is grounded on the unseen Word of God

Is Christian faith a blind leap in the dark?

No! It's warranted, rational belief with layer after layer of convincing evidence (apologetics) undergirding it.

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

*Biblical Faith involves humbly recognizing your brokenness & need for a sacrifice to repair your relationship with God

Hebrews 11:5-6

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And 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.

*Biblical Faith involves believing in the existence of God... and the saving goodness of God

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

*Biblical Faith involves reverent fear for God's warnings of judgment that move us to take refuge in His salvation.

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

*Biblical Faith involves surrender & active movement *before* knowing every detail of the end objective or outcome.

Hebrews 11:9-10

By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

*Biblical Faith is looking back on the character of God to look forward towards the goodness of God.

Hebrews 11:11-12

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

*Biblical Faith is believing God is who He says He is and He'll do what He said He'll do.

Genesis 21:1-2

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

Hebrews 11:13-16

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. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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.

*Biblical Faith involves earnest hope in God's future promises as better than life in this present world.

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

*Biblical Faith involves radical trust in God's faithful character to fulfill His Word.

Hebrews 11:20-21

By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

*Biblical Faith involves remembering & speaking God's Word into your present situations.

Hebrews 11:22

By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

*Biblical Faith involves seeing & anticipating God's big picture beyond the immediate here and now.

Hebrews 11:23

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

*Biblical Faith is fearless of man's threats, doing what's right regardless of the ramifications.

Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God

than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

*Biblical Faith denies worldly comforts in the face of suffering for the superior treasure of Jesus.

Hebrews 11:27

By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

*Biblical Faith willingly endures hardship by fixing your eyes on the One who's unseen.

Hebrews 11:28

By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

*Biblical Faith involves trusting in God's provision of a sacrifice to rescue us from death.

Hebrews 11:29-31

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

*Biblical Faith steps out in risky, costly, and at times illogical obedience.

Hebrews 11:32-38

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— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 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. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 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— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

*Biblical Faith points to God in successes and clings to God in suffering

Hebrews 11:39-40

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

*Biblical Faith has Jesus as its central object.

Jesus is the hero of Hebrews 11!

Hebrews 11:6

And 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.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

You can do the right things in wrong ways if they're done without faith.

Encouragement #1 - Failures don't define you - The focus isn't on your failure, but on your faith!

Encouragement #2 - In our suffering and struggle to cling to Jesus in faith, we're not alone! We have a spiritual heritage - we're surrounded by a 'cloud of witnesses' who have gone before us to spur us on to endure.

Encouragement #3 - Your faith can grow - God wants to strengthen your faith today! You're not stuck where you're at, but have help in your weak and waffling faith.

**How is God strengthening your biblical faith today? Where does it need to grow?
Where is it lacking trust? Where is it lacking action?**