



Message Series Guide

Nothing Greater

Part 10 – Impossible Without Faith

Hebrews 11:17-40

Just as there is a Hall of Fame for outstanding athletes who distinguished themselves in various sports, the Bible contains what we might call a "hall of faith." In Hebrews 11, there is a fascinating record of names and events in which each individual modeled unshakeable faith. Each of these biblical heroes serve as a wonderful example for us today of what it means to live with steadfast and godly faith. Faith is something so intangible that it is sometimes very difficult for us to understand. Faith is not just believing in God. Faith is knowing that God will be faithful to every single promise He made in His Word. Biblical faith requires assurance in God's promises and conviction in His Word. Faith is not stagnated; it requires action. Faith also requires a confidence in a God that we cannot always see and a hope that we cannot always express.

READ:

Hebrews 11:1 & 6 | Hebrews 11:1-40 | Romans 10:17 | James 2:17

- Read the writer's definition of faith again in Hebrews 11:1. What is faith? According to the writer, what are the things we to hope for? What are the kinds of things we are to be assured of? According to Hebrews 11:6, why do you think it's impossible to please God without faith?
- As you read about the seven examples of faith cited in between Hebrews 11:17-31 (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the people of Israel, and Rahab), how do each of these people encourage you to (1) have faith in God to do great and mighty things; and (2) endure by faith suffering, sacrifice, and persecution – "the reproach of Christ –" for Christ's sake?
- Discuss all the things "the people of old" were empowered to do through the Holy Spirit by faith (Hebrews 11:32-38). Is there any biblical reason why we shouldn't be witnessing God do similar things today in the lives of people who are living by faith?
- Why does faith require action? What happens to our faith if there is no obedience or action?

DISCUSS:

- After reading the Hall of Faith, what does it say about the kind of life a believer might experience on earth? Does faith in Christ mean our lives will always be pleasant? Why or why not? Discuss a time in your life when your faith was stretched or challenged?
- Of all these heroes of faith, who most encourages you? Why? Is there anyone included on the list that surprises you? What does that tell you about faith?
- During a difficult trail in life, how do we exchange the visible for the invisible?
- What happens to our faith if our beliefs don't match our actions? How does our faith impact others?
- What are some areas of weakness or difficulty for your faith? What can you do today to strengthen your faith?

PRAY:

Pray this week that God will grow your faith and your dependence on Him.

RESPOND:

As you think and pray through what is written in Hebrews 11:17-40, how do you think the Holy Spirit is prompting you to strengthen your faith through hope, assurance and action?