

## Lesson 13 - Hebrews 11

The author of Hebrews has laid a theological foundation for the superiority of Christ and for salvation by faith in the gospel.

The fact that Christ is a superior Person (He. 1-6) and that He exercises a superior Priesthood (**Heb. 7-10**) ought to encourage us to put our trust in Him. This chapter introduces the final section of the epistle (**Heb. 11-13**), which could be titled “A Superior Principle: Faith.”

Now in **chapter 11**, the writer uses witness of the saints throughout the Bible—men and women who have exercised faith—as an example to exhort all of us to press on. Christians are called to live by faith. How will you respond?

The writer discusses two important topics concerning faith:

**Hebrews 11: 1-3.** A description of faith.

**Hebrews 11: 4-40.** A demonstration of faith.

1. This week’s homework is up to you as to how you will break it up for study. Just remember to pray each time you sit down to study.
2. Read the whole chapter and mark the key words you have been marking. Also, mark “witness/testimony”.
3. Read **Hebrews 11: 1-3**. These verses are more of a description of faith, than a definition of faith.
4. Look up the following words and take the meanings back to **verse 1** (for more understanding):

V1 substance

V1 evidence

Also note in **verse 2**... Testimony... can be translated “witness”. (KJV “witness - “obtained a good report”)

Same word used twice in **verse 4**... once in **verse 5**... and once in **verse 39**. Then the summary in **chapter 12: 1** says what?

They are witnesses to us because God witnessed to them. In each example cited, God gave witness to that person’s faith. This witness was His divine approval on

their lives and ministries.

5. Considering the words *substance, evidence* and *testimony/witness*... summarize in your own words what true Bible faith is according to **Hebrews 11: 1-3**.

6. The remainder of this chapter is devoted to a summary of the lives and labors of great men and women of faith found in the Old Testament. In each instance, you will find the same elements of faith:

- 1 God spoke to them through His Word.
- 2 Their inner selves were stirred in different ways.
- 3 They obeyed God.
- 4 He bore witness about them.

Thus, we see the demonstration of faith in many different ways, in many different people. When you study the book of James, we glean that true saving faith is active faith. We are to be doers of the word. (**James 1: 22 & 3:17**)

So, as you read **Hebrews 11: 4-31**, I have a challenge for you. Can you see the faith demonstration or action in each witness/testimony? I'll give you the first 3... they all start with a "w".

7. Abel: faith worshiping. Verse 4

- a. **Genesis 4: 1-10** is the background story.
- b. What do you learn about Abel from **Matt. 23: 35**?
- c. God had revealed to Adam and his descendants the true way of worship, and Abel obeyed God by faith.
- d. What do you learn about Cain in **1 John 3: 12**?
- e. What happened to Abel as a result of his faith.

8. Enoch: faith walking. Verses 5-6.

- a. Our faith grows as we walk with God.
- b. According to **verse 6**, we must have both the \_\_\_\_\_ to please Him and the \_\_\_\_\_ to seek Him.
- c. Write out **Genesis 5: 24**.

d. Many see the translation of Enoch (God took him)... getting taken out before the wicked world is judged by the flood... as a picture of what? (**1 Thess. 4: 13-15**)

9. Noah: faith working. Verse 7.

a. Noah's faith influenced his whole family and they were saved. It also condemned the whole world because his faith revealed what?

b. What do you learn from the following scriptures?

Matt. 24: 36-42

2 Peter 2: 5

10. The patriarchs: faith \_\_\_\_\_. Verses 8-22.

a. The emphasis in this section is on the promise of God and His plans for the nation of Israel. (**See Heb. 11: 9, 11, 13, 17**).

b. *Waiting* is one of the most difficult disciplines of life. Yet true faith is able to wait for the fulfillment of God's purposes in God's time. But while we are waiting we must also be obeying. List what you learn about Abraham's faith in **Hebrews 11: 8-10, 13-16, 17-19**.

c. What do you learn about faith that all the Patriarchs had in common?

11. Read **Hebrews 11: 23-29**. In Moses' life we can definitely see "faith warring". In other words, a faith necessary in conflict and conflict caused when you walk by faith. How so?

12. Read **verses 30-31**. In both Joshua and Rahab we see “faith \_\_\_\_\_”. (Hint: Result is victory!) How so?

13. Read **Hebrews 11: 32-40**. Faith can operate in the life of any person who will dare to listen to God’s Word and surrender to God’s will. What a variety of personalities we have in these verses. Unless God had witnessed to their faith in these verses, would you have considered all of them men or women of faith.

a. Who surprises you?

b. The transition in **Hebrews 11: 35** is important: not all men and women of faith experienced what?

14. We today should give thanks for these saints of old, for they were faithful during difficult times, and yet we are the ones who have received the “**better blessing**”.

This is what the writer hoped those to whom he was writing would comprehend. This great cloud of witnesses (**Hebrews 12: 1**) saw some of these blessings afar off (see **John 8: 56**), but we New Testament saints enjoy them today through whom?

15. So, faith is possible to all kinds of believers in all kinds of situations. It is not a luxury for a few “elite saints”. What do we know for sure!

Heb. 11: 6

Rom. 10: 17

**Faith is a necessity for all of God’s people. Lord, increase our faith!!**

Extra credit:

If you have time... consider the witness or testimony of New Testament saints whose faith and life have ministered to you! How so?

Write out a simple one sentence definition of faith!