

5-28-2023, COTR Texarkana

Series Title: Faith Endures; Faith Receives

Series purpose: Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will so we can obediently endure difficulty and receive what He promises in His timing.

Truth for Today: Truth for Today: Faith in God is how we endure difficulty and receive His promises.

Text: Hebrews 11:6

Topic: Faith, Believe, Trust, Endurance, Miracles, Transgenderism

Faith Endures; Faith Receives

I. Introduction

- A. New Series: Faith Endures; Faith Receives... a verse-by-verse study of Hebrews 11.
- B. But 1st, there is something going on in culture that troubles me. It's the push toward grooming children toward sexual immorality, falsely teaching boys that they can be girls and girls can be boys, i.e., transgenderism. It used to be called gender confusion and we tried to help people accept who God created them to be. Now culture ignores the Bible and science and pushes it on innocent, impressionable kids.
- C. E.g., Pic Dodgers, The sisters of perpetual indulgence. Motto "Go forth and sin more". Invite-cancel-re-invite Pic Bud Light Dylan Mulvaney, Anheuser-Busch lost \$15.7 billion¹⁰, Pic Target in Texarkana. Good news: In Texas, SB 14 would prohibit *children* under the age of 18 from accessing transition-related medical treatments including puberty blockers, hormone therapies and surgeries. Gov. Greg Abbott said he will sign Senate Bill 14 into law.⁶
- D. What does the Bible say? (1) [Ge.1:27 (NCV) So God created human beings in his image... **He created them male and female.**] Sex and gender are the same. (2) Jesus marriage, [Mark 10:7 (NCV) 'So **a man** will leave his **father and mother** and be united with his **wife**] (3) Jesus gave a warning about pulling immature believers, including children, away from God's ways,⁸ [Mark 9:42 (NCV) "If one of these **little children** believes in me, and **someone causes that child to sin**, it would be better for that person to have a large stone tied around his neck and be drowned in the sea.] I believe this is a warning to those involved in sexual grooming, a process that predators use to make a child an easier victim for future sexual abuse⁹ or sexual sin. (4) The people pushing this are knowingly or

unknowingly being influenced by demons, [Eph. 6:12 (NCV) Our fight is not against **people** on earth but against...**the spiritual powers of evil...**]

E. How should Christians respond? (1) If you are struggling with your gender identity, we will love and accept you at COTR and help you become the person God created you to be. (2) God has given adults to choose their path of sexuality but there are consequences. However, we should protect children from this demonic assault. We must teach them Biblical truth about human sexuality and educate them about what the world is trying to do to them. (3) If you work for the Dodgers, Target or any company pushing gender confusion on kids, I realize this is a corporate decision. I support you; I like our Target and the people are great. Let your light shine in a dark world. (4) ***Action step: Resist/ push back by the products you purchase, where you buy them and which organizations you support with your money, e.g., I'd quit going to Dodgers games; If I drank beer, I'd drink Miller light instead of Bud light. (I don't and I'm not promoting it) and I'm not shopping at Target for a while. ***Contact the company and tell them why.

II. New Series: Faith Endures; Faith Receives...a verse-by-verse study of Heb. 11.

A. Series text: [Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) And **it is impossible to please God without faith**. Anyone who wants to come to him must **believe that God exists** (*NCV He is real*) and that **he rewards those who sincerely seek him** (*NCV truly want to find him.*)

B. Series Purpose: Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will so we can obediently endure difficulty and receive what He promises in His timing.

1. Provoke people to have faith in God...We have faith in a lot of things: elevator won't crash, FDA to keep food supply safe, medicine to cure disease, etc. For the believer our faith is 1st in God, then the elevator engineer, the FDA, and doctors.

2. Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will...we can have faith and ask God to do something, and He may not answer because He has a better plan. [1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)...if we ask anything **according to his will** he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us...we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.]

3. Provoke people to have faith in God that...obediently endures difficulty... [Hebrews 10: 36 (NLT) **Patient endurance** is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. **Then** you will receive all that he has promised.]
4. Provoke people to have faith in God that...receives what He promises...[Heb 11: 11 (NLT) It was by faith that even **Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old.** She believed that God would keep his promise.]
5. Provoke people to have faith in God that...receives what He promises in His timing...Joseph had a dream he'd be a world ruler but had to wait 13 years for God to fulfill His promise.

C. Today I'll give you a brief overview of what Biblical faith is.

III. What is faith?

- A. Gk. *Pistis*: trust, confidence in God¹; To believe God and His Word are true²; Confidence that what we hope and pray for will happen. Faith/ believe means we obey God and act on what He says.³ // Niagara Falls [Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction (*NKJV evidence, NIV assurance*) of things not seen. (NCV) Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.] E.g., buy Gander. The word faith occurs 243 times in the NT making it a central theological concept and is one of the most important words in the Bible and Christianity.²
- B. Faith is believing the good news about Jesus Christ and becoming His follower,⁷ i.e. saving faith. The Good News is Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, He was buried and rose from the dead. [Eph. 2:8–9 (ESV) For by grace you have been **saved through faith**...it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.] Forgiveness from sin and eternal life are the result of having faith in Jesus.
- C. Faith not only starts our walk with God but living daily by Faith is the way we walk with God daily. [Heb. 11:8 (NLT) It was **by faith that Abraham obeyed** when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.] God spoke; Abraham believed and obeyed, and his act of faith effected the world.
 1. Every day we're guided by faith in God that causes us to obey His Word and The Holy Spirit. We wake up in the morning and by faith expect the

Lord to use us, to guide us, provide and protect us. We pray and have faith God will answer.

D. Faith is a spiritual force opens the door to miracles and unlimited possibilities, [Hebrews 11:30 (NLT) It was **by faith** that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the **walls came crashing down.**] ¹¹ Christian answers.net

1. Faith opens the door for God to do miraculous things in our life. Faith allowed David to kill Goliath, faith caused Noah to build an ark and save His family, faith caused Peter to walk on water, faith healed Jairus' daughter. Faith helps us break free from reason and experience and believe the impossible can happen, e.g., disciples couldn't cast out a demon and Jesus said, [Matthew 17:20 (NLT) "**You don't have enough faith,**" Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. **Nothing would be impossible.**"]

E. Faith in God is how we endure difficulty. Faith in God is a conviction worth sacrificing, suffering, or even dying for. [Hebrews 11:33–37 (NLT) By faith these people...received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword...35...But others were **tortured**, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36 Some were **jeered at**, and their **backs were cut open with whips**. Others were **chained in prisons**. 37 Some **died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword.**]

1. They suffered because the world hated them because they believed in the God of the Bible. How did they such endure suffering? Their faith in God gave them strength to endure and hope for a better life after the resurrection. Today almost 300 million Christians around the world suffer for their faith in Christ.

IV. Conclusion...this has been a warmup/ preamble for our summer series

A. Faith Endures; Faith Receives...a verse-by-verse study of Hebrews 11. I want to provoke us to have faith in God that is aligned with His will so we can obediently endure difficulty and receive what He promises in His timing.

V. Response

A. Prayer: I'm in a tough spot now. My faith is being tested. I need God to help me. I have faith and believe He can.

B. Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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VII. Supplemental Material

- A. God is the object of faith in Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6; Jas 2:23: τῷ θεῷ, “Abraham *believed* God” (citing Gen 15:6)²
- B. The Faith. Paul can call the message itself *pístis*. Faith, then, is trust in God’s eschatological act in Christ and hope for the consummation of the work that God has thus begun. *pístis* as Acceptance of the Message. Especially when used with *eis*, *pístis* is saving acceptance of Christ’s work as proclaimed in the gospel. This includes believing, obeying, trusting, hoping, and being faithful, but it is primarily faith in Christ.⁵
- C. *pisteúō* as “to obey.” Heb. 11 stresses that to believe is to obey, as in the OT. Paul in Rom. 1:8. 1 Th. 1:8 (cf. Rom. 15:18. 16:19) shows, too, that believing means obeying. He speaks about the obedience of faith in Rom. 1:5, and cf. 10:3; 2 Cor. 9:13³ *Trust* which one puts into practice, *faith*²
- D. [Acts 6:7 (ESV)...the number of the disciples multiplied greatly...and a great many of the priests became **obedient to the faith**.] In the broadest sense, the Christian faith is a belief in the person, work, and teaching of Jesus Christ.

VIII. Series Purpose: Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will and obediently endures difficulty and receives what He promises in His timing.

A. Provoke people to have faith in God...

1. [Romans 4:3 (NLT) For the Scriptures tell us, “**Abraham believed God**, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”]
2. We have faith in a lot of things: elevator won’t crash, FDA to keep food supply safe, medicine to cure disease, etc. For the believer our faith is 1st in God, then the elevator engineer, the FDA and doctors.

B. Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will...

1. [1 John 5:14–15 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.]
2. One reason desires/ prayers may not be answered is if it isn’t God’s will. 1st petition in Lord’s prayer, [Matthew 6:9–10 (NLT) Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. **May your will be done** on earth, as it is in heaven.
3. James 4:3 (NCV) — 3 Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures.

C. Provoke people to have faith in God that...obediently endures difficulty...

1. Hebrews 10:32–36 (NLT) — 32 Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. 33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. 34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. 35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

D. Provoke people to have faith in God that...receives what He promises...

1. Hebrews 11:11 (NLT) — 11 It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise.
2. Hebrews 11:30–35 (NLT) — 30 It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down. 31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32 How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. 35 Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.

E. Provoke people to have faith in God that...receives what He promises in His timing.

1. Psalm 105:16–19 (NLT) — 16 He called for a famine on the land of Canaan, cutting off its food supply. 17 Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them— Joseph, who was sold as a slave. 18 They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. 19 Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph’s character.