

By Faith Alone

An Introduction to Hebrews 11

Sola Fide: Definitions and Controversy

- Biblical faith = Intellectual assent and trust
- Sinners are declared not guilty by the free gift of God, received by faith alone

Tracing Faith

- True faith is responsive
- True faith is the opposite of unbelief
- True faith perseveres
- True faith draws near with assurance, knowing we're saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone

The Testimony of Faith

- True faith displays itself in action
- Demonstrating faith in a perfect God

Application

- We must fight against the grace-killing virus of human pride
- We can be set free from the slavery of works and ushered into true freedom in Christ

For Life Group Discussion

An Introduction to Hebrews 11

1. How did you celebrate the 4th of July? How do you plan to use your freedoms and opportunities as an American for the good of the Gospel?
2. If someone asks you, "How can guilty sinners be made right before a Holy God?" what would you say? Use scripture to support your answer.
3. When did you first grab hold of the truth that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone? Describe your experience.
4. Read Rom 1:16-17, Gal 3:10-14, and Heb 10:37-39. Despite this clear teaching, we are all tempted towards a righteousness that is by works, not faith. Why?
5. Read Heb 11:1. This verse reminds us that faith treats God's promises as more trustworthy than our current circumstances. How should this be displayed in our lives, practically?
6. Regarding our two points of application:
 - Do you agree that, like the Reformers, we need to fight to preserve the doctrine of Sola Fide? Why or why not? What are the risks and dangers?
 - Are you resting in and trusting in all that God has for you in Christ? What temptations draw you away from "faith alone"?