

Heroes of Faith

Hebrews Chapter 11

Lk 18:8 When Son of Man comes will he find faith on Earth?

- I. Hebrews 11:1-6 Biblical heroes of Faith.
Who were your heroes growing up?
Dwight Eisenhower, Mickey Mantle. Inspired to play baseball.

- II. Heb. 11:1 God's definition of faith.
Now faith is! This is the Bible definition of Faith.
Assurance: Positive declaration, a confidence
Conviction: Firmly held belief or firm opinion.

Stricter the definition of a word: greater its clarity & power.
1990s Political correctness: concerned words might be harsh.
Some words "taboo". Blind became visually impaired.

If we think the definition of faith is harsh and redefine it, we
remove the clarity and power that the definition conveys.
Mk 7:13 tradition of men makes Word of no effect.

Hope is not faith. Feeling of expectation, desire for something.

I collect art: Filet mignon taste, on vegan budget. Buy-sell.
Faith to find art or photo & make \$500 profit/mo. (assured)
But to make \$5000 profit/mo. I have hope that I can, not faith.

Faith is the force that brings what we hope for together with
the unseen object of our hope and desires. Oreo cookie.

III. Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing & hearing by Word of God

There are two levels of hearing.

The first hearing is hearing the words spoken or written.

2nd hearing: hearing the message of the Word.

Married people: Spouse hears words but doesn't get message.

Hearing message is where assurance and conviction are built.

Jn 6:63 Spirit and Life (extract life from Word to our life)

Ps 1: meditate Word "day and night". Regular diet of the Word.

Meditation is daily consuming the Word in our thought life.

Assurance & conviction are born in our biblical thought life.

Assurance & conviction not built on casual Bible interaction.

Memorizing: I don't memorize, I meditate.

Memorizing- remember words: Meditate remember message.

IV. Faith doesn't make us immune from life's difficulties.

People sometimes assume that if I have faith, no problems.

I Tim.6:12 Fight good fight of faith. There will be battles.

Heb 11: 4 ... through his faith, though he died.

Abel's faith speaks to us though he died.

Faith is remembered not the setbacks.

A setback doesn't mean that you don't have faith.

Heb.11:13 These died in faith, not received all things promised.

Faith not a stop gap measure until we can manage life without God's help. Look to use faith daily.

- V. Stay focused on promise, not the delayed answer.
Lk 18:1 “He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”
Our mind is the battlefield where fight of faith takes place.
Controlling our mind in the battle is where the war is won.

Exploring reasons why we haven't received erodes assurance.
Even after a face to face with God, Job doesn't learn “why”.

Every Christian should study to understand and have an answer for difficult Bible topics such as:

God's will, God's timing, human suffering, sovereignty of God, why does God allow bad things to happen, and many more.

WHEN WE ARE LOCKED IN A BATTLE OF FAITH, THOSE
QUESTIONS MUST BE PUT ASIDE.
WE MUST CONTROL THE BATTLEFIELD OF OUR MIND!

Questioning takes us away from the assurance that is fundamental to the Bible definition of faith.

- VI. Keep your faith separate from time expectations.
We often think promise should be fulfilled in a set time.
God's promises don't always include a delivery date.

May be some time before the promise is fulfilled. Dan 10:12-14

Gen 3 God promised redeemer, but he didn't come in chap. 4.
Constant thread in the prophets that the redeemer is coming.

Gal 4:4 In the fulness of time, God sent his Son.

VII. Heb 11:17-19 Abraham offers Isaac.

Only time in canon of scripture where this request is made.

God entered into a covenant with Abraham.

Covenant partners required to give anything, up to and including their life, to fulfill a partner's need.

Abraham had need of a redeemer.

What did God need? God needed a man who would trust him by faith & keep the covenant, no matter what was asked.

God asks for Abraham's only son as a sacrifice, Abraham responds in faith, and in response to his covenant partner, God sends his only Son to be a sacrifice for our sin and raises him from the dead, satisfying Abraham's and mankind's need for a redeemer.

Abraham saw his son resurrected by faith in God's promise. Abraham was assured and had conviction in God's promise.

Refuse to give up your faith in God's promises.

See it done, even if it means dying in faith on the way to receive it.

Abraham believed God, and it was counted as righteousness.

Our faith in Jesus is counted to us as righteousness.

Galatians 3:29 If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, and heirs according to the promise of the covenant.

When the Son of man comes, will he find faith on the Earth?