

# Hebrews 11 - Faith

**v1 Faith underlies all of our decisions in life.**

**Substance** means a foundation. Foundations of a house holds up the structure. This is what gives us confidence in our future hope.

**Evidence:** A convincing argument. Our faith is based on very strong evidence. We cannot see the Kingdom, except by the eye of faith.

**v3** Worlds = Gk. "ages". Diaglott translation: "The ages have been so thoroughly adjusted by God's command." Events in the world and in our own personal lives are adjusted to bring about God's purpose. Remember that God is always in control!

**Believers are Justified by Faith:** Being *justified* means that God looks on us **as if we are** righteous, even though we are not.

Without faith, our hope of the Kingdom would have no foundation. We then become **personally involved** when our faith becomes our hope. Biblical faith is to **believe** in what we cannot see, based on provable evidence.

**Show me your Faith! Key verses:**

**Gen 15:6** Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. He was justified by faith. Quoted in **Rom 4:3**.

**Rom 3:24,28** Justified by faith, not works of law. **Also Gal 2:16**.

**Rom 5:1** Being justified by faith we have peace with God

**Rom 4:1-8** Forgiveness of sins because of our faith.

**Rom 4:23-25** If we have faith in God's saving work through Christ then we can be forgiven and counted righteous

**Gal 3:11,24** The just shall live by faith. The law taught that they were sinners in need of a savior, and it brought them to Christ.

**James 2:24** "By works a man is justified and not by faith only" - Our faith is demonstrated by the way we live our lives.

**Hab 2:14** The just shall live by faith. Quoted in **Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38**.

**Heb 11:1** NIV "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

## CHAPTER II.

<sup>1</sup> What faith is. <sup>2</sup> The worthy fruits thereof in the fathers of old time.

**NOW** faith is the <sup>5</sup> substance of things hoped for, the evidence of <sup>6</sup> things not seen.

<sup>2</sup> For by it the elders <sup>4</sup> obtained a good report.

<sup>3</sup> Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by <sup>7</sup> the word of God, so that things which are seen <sup>8</sup> were not made of things which do appear.

<sup>4</sup> By faith <sup>b</sup> Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead <sup>2</sup> yet speaketh.

<sup>5</sup> By faith <sup>c</sup> Enoch was translated that he should not see death; <sup>7</sup> and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh <sup>1</sup> to God must believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that <sup>h</sup> diligently seek him.*

**v4** Abel's faith produced **action**. He understood the principle of forgiveness in Christ - that a lamb would be provided.

**v5** Enoch was moved to another place. The Jerusalem ecclesia would also be moved to another place when they fled to the mountains in AD70: **Matt 24:16**.

**v6** The 2 vital aspects of faith:

1. Personal belief in God: **Jn 17:3**

2. Believe that God can save us if we respond to Him: **Heb 12:2**.

Most examples in **Heb 11** are **before** the law of Moses.

In **Hebrews 11** we read that faith produces **ACTION**. Believers are motivated by what they believe. Faith often leads us to make **radical decisions** that go against our natural feelings.

**Action Words:** **v7** Noah: prepared; **v8-10** Abraham: went out, sojourned, looked for; **v11** Sarah: judged; **v17** Abraham: offered up; **v20-21** Isaac & Jacob: blessed; **v24** Moses: refused.

**Simple Steps to salvation:**

**Rom 10:17** Faith comes by hearing the Word of God

**Isa 55:6-7** Earnest desire to respond and repentance of sins

**Acts 2:37-38; 22:16** Baptism for forgiveness of sins

**Rom 6:4** Buried with Jesus in baptism, raised to new life

**Heb 11:13** Faith radically changes our lives and gives us hope

**1 Jn 2:1** Jesus "speaks to the Father in our defence" NIV

**1 Jn 1:9** If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive

**Rev 22:12** Christ rewards those who live the gospel in their lives

**Colour code:** Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/ judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & Return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).

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**Ephesians 2v8-10** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

**v13** Their hope is future!

Four action words emphasised. To "embrace" is to passionately grasp hold of with emotion

The outworking of their faith was seen in their way of life.

**v15** They could have gone back to Ur at any time. So forget those things that are behind and press forward to the prize: **Phil 3:13**.

**v16** This is **Heavenly Jerusalem**: symbolic of Christ and the Saints: **Heb 12:22; Rev 3:12; 21:1-7**.

**v36-38** They could only endure suffering if their faith was strong. Faith tried in the fire becomes as pure gold: **1 Pet 1:7**. Our faith is strengthened and our character developed through trials: **Rom 8:30-39**.

**v39-40** For believers to receive the promises requires resurrection, judgment and the granting of immortality in God's Kingdom. We can be a part of this wonderful hope also.

**Hebrews 12:1-2** "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..."

<sup>13</sup> These all died <sup>2</sup> in faith, not having received the promises, but <sup>b</sup> having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and <sup>c</sup> confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

<sup>14</sup> For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

<sup>15</sup> And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore <sup>k</sup> God is not ashamed <sup>l</sup> to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them <sup>a</sup> a city.

<sup>36</sup> And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

<sup>37</sup> They were <sup>b</sup> stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about <sup>c</sup> in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

<sup>38</sup> (<sup>e</sup> Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup> And these all, <sup>7</sup> having obtained a good report through faith, <sup>h</sup> received not the promise: <sup>40</sup> God having <sup>3</sup> provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.