

## The Book of Hebrews Chapter Eleven

### *God's Hallway of the People of Faith*

#### I. Chapter Two Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

#### II. Introduction – Hebrews 11 is a complete \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith

- A. **Faith Accepts God's Substitute** (11:4) - Abel
- B. **Faith Walks With God** (11:5) - Enoch
- C. **Faith Pleases God** (11:6)
- D. **Faith Works** - Noah (Heb 11:7)
- E. **Faith Obeys** - Abraham (Heb 11:8-10)
- F. **Faith Accomplishes the Impossible** - Sarah
- G. **Faith Reaches Beyond the Grave** - Heavenly Faith of All Saints!
- H. **Faith Passes the Tests of Life** - Abraham and Isaac
- I. **Faith Prepares for the Future** - Isaac
- J. **Faith Begins and Ends with Humility** - Jacob
- K. **Faith Never Forgets Some Things** - Joseph
- L. **Faith Defies the World** - Amram and Jocabed
- M. Hebrews chapter eleven presents the Power of Faith as superior to the power of a carnal ceremony or ritual of good works!

#### III. Lesson – Chapter Eleven

##### A. The Meaning of Faith (11:1)

1. Biblical faith
  - a. Not faith in science, or in superstitions (number 13), or in priests, or in churches - not blind faith. And not *imagined* faith either!
  - b. But the faith as described in the Bible - very different from what we expect
  - c. The most important thing we can learn at first is just what Biblical faith is. To do that, we obviously need to go to the Author, and the Finisher of faith (Heb 12:2).
2. The Definition of Faith (Heb 11:1):
  - a) Faith is not unreal - it has two things that prove its existence:
    - 1) Faith has **Substance** - it is solid, and real - we say, living BY faith
      - (a) Tangible, real, something you hold onto - it is what you hold onto when there is nothing else to hold on to!
      - (b) It is a confidence in both the abilities and promises of God.
      - (c) It is the foundation upon which everything else in our lives is built upon - you either believe (are confident), or don't believe what God said!
      - (d) Like with Thomas (Jn 20:25-31) - Substance was in front of him
    - 2) Faith has **Evidence** - there ought to be evidence that you have faith
      - (a) There is proof that faith is there - evidence (2 Cor 4:18) that can be presented in a court of law - no doubt exists along side real faith! Even though not seen with the eye, it is felt by the heart, and is as real as you yourself are!
      - (b) When we have faith in God, we become the evidence proving there is a God - not by our words, but changed lives!

- 3) If someone wanted you to point to "faith" - where would you point? You should point to the Bible, and say that THAT is your faith. Someone asked me, "What do I believe? What is MY faith?" I held up my Bible and said THIS! Start to finish! Plus nothing, minus nothing
- b) Faith therefore is \_\_\_\_\_, enough to just \_\_\_\_\_
- 1) It is confidence
  - 2) It is what enables you to do the impossible, simply because you are following Jesus' example
  - 3) It is NOT telling God what to do, but you trusting God's word enough to do what HE tells you to do!
- c) Not talking about BLIND faith, but believing THE faith – the words of Almighty God (Titus 1:2), who cannot lie, which are proven to be without error
- 1) Historically
  - 2) Scientifically
  - 3) Prophetically
3. There is so much to living by faith, that God filled the pages of the Bible with the recorded examples of hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_. Then, in Hebrews 11, God settles for \_\_\_\_\_ people to present as His *honour role*, who receive a good report card for their "faith," their confidence in God. It is sort of a condensed history of faith.
4. There are various kinds of faith:
- a. From No faith,
  - b. To Little faith,
  - c. To Wavering faith,
  - d. To Active faith,
  - e. To Unfeigned faith,
  - f. And finally to Great faith.
  - g. Just like anything, faith needs to \_\_\_\_\_ - and that is what this chapter is all about - feeding our faith so that it grows!
- 5. Do you know what possessing true, Biblical faith does for a person?**
- a. It supplies all the **hope** the human heart needs to survive!
  - b. It also provides all the **evidences** we need to satisfy our doubts and fears
  - c. It brings **rest** - giveth his beloved sleep - even when the ship is sinking
  - d. It is beyond our own abilities - confidence is in God now, not self
  - e. It causes a hunger to trusting God more. If you have faith, you will be wanting to experience its limit, not just its "flavour" (just staying comfortable).
  - f. It is what develops Maturity - develops you just like a healthy diet - Paul calls it "who through faith..."

**B. The Good Report of such Good Men (Heb 11:2)**

1. The elders – mature believers from the Old Testament – as listed here in chapter 11
2. A good report is a praise from God!
3. Praise from God comes only as we live by faith!

**C. Comprehending Faith (Heb 11:3)**

1. Faith Believes God's Word - *Rewarded with Comprehension* (11:3)
2. Understands \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 1:1-3; Jn 1:1-3) - Understand what we see

- a. God *spoke* it, Jesus created it, all out of nothing (scientists now have to admit that all their theories require that EVERYTHING we see in the universe, must have come from a very, very tiny dot, if that at all!)
  - b. This entire universe (“worlds” not just the world), all just appeared out of nowhere, fully mature, ready to go. And a Bible believer understands it! Amen! Don’t be afraid of “science” (Ps 119:97-100)
  - c. A person who believes this Book is at least 500 years ahead of science!
  - d. Anybody who believes this Book, has in their hands the very same **power** that CREATED this entire universe! Wow!
3. Understands Consistence (Col 1:16,17) Jesus is the glue all the scientists are trying to find - He is the *Strong Force* of Einstein. Why doesn’t everything just fly-apart? The Bible believing Christian knows why!
    - a. He is holding that chair together
    - b. He holds YOU together – not just your heart, but your molecules!
    - c. He can get you through!
    - d. By faith, the Christian sees God in control, and working towards a goal (Rom 8:28)
  4. Understands the Conclusion of everything (2Pe 3:10-13)
    - a. Faith is what a Bible believer uses to understand *the future*
    - b. Wouldn’t waste a sec. believing the world is getting better and better!
    - c. We KNOW what’s going on, and what’s going to happen – a big BANG!
  5. To the person with this kind of faith, the invisible world is more real than the visible – because we have a way to see “the invisible” (2 Cor 5:7)!

D. **Abel’s** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:4)

1. Faith Accepts God’s Substitute - *Rewarded with Salvation* (11:4)
2. Didn’t start with Adam. Started with Abel. Faith is clearer in Abel’s life!
3. Abel’s blood still speaks – across all times, all dispensations!

E. **Enoch’s** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:5,6)

1. Faith Walks With God - *Rewarded with Translation* (11:5) - Enoch (Gen 5)
2. To walk with God is to be aware of God’s Presence all day long; to look to God for every decision; to seek God’s help with every problem. God is to be in all our thoughts, and we are to pray without ceasing.
3. We do not begin our discipleship with this kind of spiritual strength. But if we have a heart for God, after a number of years have passed we discover that we are able to be filled with thoughts of God all day long. We walk with God.
4. True faith brings us to a perfect walk with God. False faith is an attempt to wring something from God by making ourselves believe one thing or another. We hope to use God as a source of magical power.
5. What two facts must the individual believe who wishes to approach God?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. And that \_\_\_\_\_ the person who seeks Him.
6. On many occasions, God defers the hopes of the righteous and insists that they remain in prisons that are unpleasant. The righteous keep on believing that God exists and that He will reward them for their patience in His schools and His prisons. Faith holds fast to the truth that God knows what is happening to us and is bringing us toward joy.
7. We see, therefore, that our faith is our statement concerning God’s character—whether God is good and faithful or whether God has evil intentions toward us. This was the issue Satan raised in the beginning.

8. Satan understands well that God exists but Satan does not have faith that God will reward those who earnestly seek Him. Satan doubts the goodness and faithfulness of God's character and attempts to deceive us into having the same attitude.

**F. Noah's \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (Heb 11:7)**

1. Faith Pleases God (11:6)
2. Faith Works - Noah (Heb 11:7; Gen 6-9) - Rewarded with a New World
3. What emotion caused Noah to prepare an ark when there was no visible evidence that a flood was coming? \_\_\_\_\_ — resulting from his faith that God would do exactly what He had said He would do.
4. What three things were accomplished as the result of Noah's obedience in building the Ark?
  - a. Noah saved his household.
  - b. He condemned the world.
  - c. He became an heir of the kind of righteousness that can be produced only by faith toward God.

**G. Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (Heb 11:8-10; 11:17-19)**

1. Faith Obeys - Abraham (Heb 11:8-10; Ge 12-15) Rewarded with an Inheritance
2. Abraham lived like a \_\_\_\_\_ in a foreign country.
  - a. Didn't become like those around him!
  - b. Although Abraham was extremely wealthy he chose to live in tents, just as was true of his fellow-heirs, Isaac and Jacob.
  - c. Each Christian disciple is to live in this present world as an alien in a foreign country. If he does, not attempting to become rich in the things of the world, he will inherit the earth at the coming of the Lord. The farthest reaches of the earth and the nations thereof are the inheritance of Christ and His coheirs (Ps 2:8).
3. What was Abraham looking for?
  - a. A city whose Architect and Builder is God Almighty.
  - b. There is only one city like that: the holy city, the new Jerusalem.
4. How did Abraham know about the new Jerusalem? Abraham was a prophet. God must have showed him the city in vision.
5. Abraham and Sarah were elderly. How were they able to conceive Isaac? By a little faith in the truth and power of the Lord's promise.
6. To what extent has God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah? Beyond the most fantastic dreams that could be dreamed by men and women!

**H. Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (11:17-19) – Faith is always \_\_\_\_\_!**

1. The most precious and important things to us, belong to God!
2. Offering up is a free will response to the command of God
3. Abraham overruled his senses and decided to live by faith
  - a. Accounting – reckoning on the power of God to resurrect Isaac
  - b. Trusting in the promise of God “That in Isaac shall thy seed be called”
  - c. Allowing God to use his testing for a greater purpose – to be a “\_\_\_\_\_” and example for all believers!!!
4. What does Abraham's experience teach us about faith?
  - a. That we often must wait a long while before we receive the fullness of what God has promised to us.
  - b. True faith embraces the promise of God and then waits patiently for the fulfilment.

I. **Sarah's Impossible Faith** (Heb 11:11,12)

1. Faith Accomplishes the Impossible - Sarah - Rewarded with Ability
2. Sarah did NOT tell God to give her a child. She just accepted what God offered to her, no matter how impossible it would be!
3. Same with forgiveness, and eternal life!

J. \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** - Faith Extends \_\_\_\_\_ the Grave (Heb 11:13-16) – *Faith Endures*

1. Faith Reaches Beyond the Grave - Heavenly Faith looks for the fulfilment of God's promises not all in this life, but rather in the world to come - eternal!
2. Evidently there are many believers whom God is ashamed that he is called their God!
3. Our faith HAS to be greater than what comes naturally!

K. **Isaac's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:20) - *Biblical Faith Prepares the Next Generation for a Godly Life*. Notice the faith that springs from knowing the \_\_\_\_\_!L. **Jacob's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:21) - *Biblical Faith Begins and Ends with Humility*M. **Joseph's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:22) - *Biblical Faith Never Forgets Some Things*

1. When Joseph gave instructions concerning his bones, he was making a statement that the destiny of Israel would far exceed the glory of anything that the land of Egypt could ever offer.
2. OUR bones will be taken out of here when we leave – by rapture or resurrection!

N. **Moses'** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:23-26)

1. Note the faith of Moses' parents!!! It affected their son!
2. They had courage to behave in a godly way, even at the risk of their lives.
3. They could see that Moses was a beautiful child and they were not willing to obey a law that would destroy this gift from God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is an important part of faith.
5. Moses showed faith
  - a. First when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter!
  - b. When he rejected the sinful pleasures of the world
  - c. When he choose instead to suffer afflictions and hardships along with all of God's true people.
  - d. When he forsook – dumped Egypt. Moses "forsook Egypt" by faith. Faith is revealed in action that proceeds from obedience to God.
  - e. When he ignored the wrath of the Pharaoh
  - f. When he endured
  - g. When he saw Him who is invisible! What a statement
6. Biblical faith decides that it is better to be in disgrace for Christ's sake than to have all the treasures of the world. The reward that will be given in the future to those who seek and serve the Lord God while they yet are living in the world far outweighs in value anything the present world has to offer.
7. Did Moses knew about Christ?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Abraham knew about the city that has foundations. Paul stated that Christ followed Israel through the wilderness (1Cor 10:4)
  - c. I think Moses followed the figure, the illustration of the Messiah without knowing the fullness of that example.

O. **Israel's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:27) – *Faith causes you to leave some things BEHIND!* We receive the guidance, courage, and strength to keep acting in faith when we fix our eyes steadfastly on the invisible Jesus. When we live by sight, we fall!

P. **Israel's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:28) - *Faith Delivers the Soul from Death*

1. Being a descendant of Abraham did not protect anyone from the wrath of God
2. Only the blood of a lamb would protect
3. So, faith is only real when we act in obedience to what God tells us to do.
4. Sprinkling animal blood on the doorway of one's house does not make sense in the physical world. But God commanded it to be done, and the result was protection in the day of calamity.
5. God commands us to do many things that do not make sense in the physical world. Water baptism is one example. Yet such obedience to God will bring us salvation in the Day of Wrath.

Q. **Israel's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:29) - *Faith That Will Get You Through*

1. Faith operates beyond science!
2. All writers of Scripture believed in miracles AS written!

R. **Joshua's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:30) - *Faith Breaks Through All Obstacles*

S. **Rahab's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:31)

1. Condemned!
2. Yet she got saved!
3. Not because she was "elect" or predestined! But because she respinded to the wrath of God with faith in that same God!
4. He or she who hears about the power of God in righteous judgment, and reasons that such a God is right, can and should also reason that he is the only Power that can provide deliverance and security from that wrath!

T. **Gedeon's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:32)

1. Gideon obeyed the angel of the Lord, although he did not have much faith in his own abilities.
2. Because of his obedience, a victory was won.
3. Gideon's faith was that of simple obedience to the Lord and reliance on the Lord.

U. **Barak's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:32)

1. Barak, at the word of the prophetess Deborah, obeyed the Word of the Lord, and a victory was won over Jabin's army.
2. Deborah was a prophetess, but not a writer of Scripture

V. **Samson's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:32; Judg 13-16). Faith is accepted even at the last, as it was with the dying thief next to Christ on the cross!

W. **Jephthae's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:32; Judges 10:16 - 11:35)

1. Foolishly vowed to the Lord
2. He should have sacrificed HIMSELF instead of his daughter
3. But evidently, God honoured his faith in victory in spite of the foolishness
4. More evidently, almost ALL of our acts of faith are flawed, and yet God honours them!

X. **David's Giant Faith** (Heb 11:32; 1 Samuel 17:40-53)

1. Killed a bear, and a lion by faith
2. Used the SAME faith to kill Goliath!

Y. **Samuel's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith** (Heb 11:32; 1 Samuel 3-8)

Z. **The Prophet's Focused Faith** (James 5:10)

1. Each of the prophets of the Bible portray the life of faith.

2. Jeremiah was at odds against his own nation. Jeremiah’s faith stood against the sin and the fleshly, soulish behavior of the princes of Israel. The king of Babylon slew the princes of Judah but saved Jeremiah alive.
3. The prophets of Israel were, to a great extent, rejected and persecuted.
4. The man of faith, living a righteous life, may find that he is rejected and hated. Rejection and hatred from other people is one aspect of the life of faith, the true faith that brings us into the rest of God.

AA. The faith that overcomes the world, is here demonstrated in the **lives** of people (Heb 11:33-40) – not just their mental beliefs!

1. By conquering kingdoms, as did David, and Joseph – He Subdued an entire kingdom (Gen 39-41)
2. By performing acts of righteousness, as Joseph fled from Potiphar’s wife.
3. By obtaining promises, as did Abraham and Sarah.
4. By shutting the mouths of lions, as was true of Daniel.
5. By quenching the power of fire, as did the three Hebrew men - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s’ Care Free Faith (Heb 11:34)
6. By providing escape from the edge of the sword, as was true of Queen Esther and Mordecai.
7. By acquiring strength out of weakness, as happened to Elijah who had food given to him by the angel. Sarah received strength to bear Isaac.
8. By becoming mighty in war, as in the case of Samson.
9. By success in driving out foreign armies, as occurred with Gideon.
10. By women having their dead brought back to life, as in the incident concerning Elisha and the Shunammite woman.
11. By choosing the Lord’s way even though it meant enduring torture, because of their hope of obtaining a better resurrection. The saints of all ages have hoped for a better resurrection.
12. By enduring mocking, scourging, chains, imprisonment, stoning, being sawn in two, temptation, death by the sword, as happens to those who declare a true witness of God.
13. By the Lord’s elect wandering about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, oppressed, treated in a cruel manner, seeking refuge in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground, which is the expected experience of those who represent God in the present evil world.
14. We can understand from the above statements that the true life of faith often means danger, trouble, and pain in the world. Faith in God, the faith that overcomes the world, enables us to choose the Lord’s will and way no matter what may be the consequences to ourselves, and to enter victoriously into the Presence of Christ.

BB. What did the saints obtain by their faithfulness during their fiery trials? A good report; God’s approval.

**IV. Questions from Chapter Eleven**

- A. What is faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. What did the godly men of old gain by faith? \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Why was Abel’s sacrifice better than that of Cain? \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Because of Abel’s faith, what kind of man did God consider Abel to be? \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. What quality of Enoch’s personality caused him to be translated from the earth into the Presence of God? \_\_\_\_\_.

- F. How did ALL the people of the Old Testament please God? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- G. What two facts must the individual believe who wishes to approach God?  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- H. What emotion caused Noah to prepare an ark when there was no visible evidence that a flood was coming? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- I. What three things were accomplished as the result of Noah's obedience in building the Ark?  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_.
- J. In what attitude did Abraham conduct his life in Canaan? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- K. What city was Abraham looking for? \_\_\_\_\_.
- L. How did Abraham know about the new Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- M. Abraham and Sarah were elderly. How were they able to conceive Isaac?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- N. To what extent has God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- O. What can we do to make sure that God is not ashamed to be called our God?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- P. What has God prepared for the people who are desiring and looking for a heavenly world?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q. What kind of faith offered up Isaac? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- R. What did Abraham believe that God would do in order to keep His promise concerning Isaac? \_\_\_\_\_.
- S. What kind of faith did Joseph exercise when he gave instructions concerning his bones?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- T. What kind of faith did the parents of Moses demonstrate? \_\_\_\_\_!
- U. Give three ways that Moses showed faith:  
 a. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 b. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 c. \_\_\_\_\_.
- V. What kind of faith did Gedeon have? \_\_\_\_\_
- W. What can we say about Samson's Faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- X. What did the saints obtain by their faithfulness during their fiery trials?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.