

“Living By Faith”
Hebrews 11:1-7
4/19/26
Message 19

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Living By Faith”

- **Review – Running Start**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Paul Quotes the OT –
- If you don’t understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don’t quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book

- To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times and help them to endure.

- **Last Time - Chapter 10 – Draw Near To God**

- **1. Remember Context**

- **Doctrine Ends - Hebrews 10:18**

- Ended the Doctrine Section of Hebrews

- **Duty Begins - From Hebrews 10:19 until the end of the book**

- It is NOW DUTY TIME
 - We have a Responsibility do something with the Doctrine

- LIVE IT OUT

- WALK WORTHY

- **Discouraged Believers (KEY)**

- Paul is encouraging these discourage believers to keep moving forward in Christ to stay the course

- There is NO Other Place to go

- You must NOT lose heart

Proverbs 24:10 (NKJV)

10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

- So critical that we are ALWAYS growing in our walks with Jesus

- Otherwise we run the risk of fainting

- **2. Running Start – Review**

▪ **The Reason We Can Draw Near To God vv. 19-21**

- The FIRST thing he does to encourage them
 - Because of what Christ has Done
 - Because He made Himself the Perfect Sacrifice
 - We NOW have BOLDNESS to come before a HOLY God
 - So let take advantage of that

▪ **The Response Of Those Who Have Access To God vv. 22-25**

- The SECOND thing he does
 - Let Us
 - Draw Near to God
 - Hold Fast Confession of our Hope
 - Consider – Others
 - Not Forsake the Fellowship

▪ **The Problem With Willful Rejection vv. 26-31**

- THIRD Thing he does
 - There is no other place to Go
 - Jesus is the ONLY WAY

▪ **The Reminder Of The Heavenly Reward vv. 32-39**

- FOURTH thing he does

- Heaven is coming
 - Hang in there Jesus is coming to take us all home
- **3. More Detail**
 - **Now - before we move onto the 5th thing**
 - Paul asks us to do in Chapter 11
 - Let me say a few more things in regard to this subject
 - **Faithfull Attending Church with the RIGHT Heart will Help you!**
 - From Becoming Stuck
 - Fainting in the Day of Adversity
 - Or worse yet Willful Rejection
 - Your Walk Will be Easier if you do what Paul Instructed
 - Let Us Draw Near to God
 - Let us Hold Fast Confession of our Hope
 - Let Us Consider – Others
 - Let Us Not Forsake the Fellowship
 - **The Danger of missing church – is that soon you don't miss it.**
 - **A Few more thoughts on – Pushback**
 - As I mentioned last week when this subject comes up it is often met with PUSH Back

- Legalism
- You Don't have to Go to Church to be a Believer
- Well, you just don't understand... "MY CIRCUMSTANCES"
- It's Easy for you to do your getting paid...
- Ignorance – Consumerism
- When I See or Hear people push back on this subject
 - MY HEART BREAKS
 - Not mad
 - Because they are not rejecting ME –
 - They are rejecting God
 - So am – just broken hearted
 - God has SO much instore for us –
 - We need to take advantage of all that He has for us and all that He asks us to do
 - **Church is VERY IMPORTANT**
 - Again – this is not just another “gathering”
 - Illustration
 - A Birthday Party in this build...
 - That's all it is
 - Now we gather for Church in this building

- Gathering as God commands
- Seeking God
- Worshiping God
- Honoring His Word
- Communion
- Etc...
- Now something VERY special is taking place

○ *Got Questions; Church is not just another meeting because it is a divinely initiated assembly (or ekklesia, meaning "called together") designed for spiritual transformation, corporate worship, and mutual encouragement, rather than mere information exchange. It is the physical gathering of the Body of Christ to experience God's presence, apply His Word, and exercise spiritual gifts together.*

- Key reasons it is different gathering
 - Jesus is HERE
 - Jesus is present here
 - When believers who gather in His name He is PLEASED
 - Transformation NOT JUST Information
 - The focus is on changing lives and renewing minds
 - Not just providing content or education.

- Edification
 - We actively build each other up, serve, and "spur one another on toward love and good deeds,"
 - Rather than passively observing
 - Church is not a spectator sport
- Spiritual Authority
 - His church
 - A spiritual community
 - With accountability to each other
- Covenant Relationship
 - It is a gathering of God's people in covenant with Him
 - To Worship, study His Word, Serve each other

• SO - WE SHOULD GATHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

○ Especially in these last days

▪ I would LOVE to see

• Wednesday Night Grow

○ As we study the OT

• Friday Home Study

○ Great Interaction

- **Saturday Men's Discipleship**

- **Men growing as His Disciples**

- **If attending church, it is about an OBLIGATION instead of OPPORTUNITY to grow more in Jesus then your heart is not in the right place**

- **One last thought**

- **As a Pastor – under shepherd**

- **It MY JOB to encourage you to be in Church / Word as much as possible**

- **Just as a doctor tells you what is best for your physical health – I am here to remind you of what is best for YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH – Which by the way is more important than ANYTHING ELSE ON THE PLANET!**

- **Now the 5th thing Paul Asks us do – Chapter 11:1-7**

- **Object Lesson – Follow those who have gone before us**

- They have left a GREAT Example – Be encourage by them don't lose heart

- Illustration

- Have you ever said to someone,

- "Let me show you how that's done."

- Of course you have! We all have...

- At times the best explanation is a demonstration.

- It's better to show a person how it's done, than it is to tell them
- Some lessons are better caught than taught
- And this is certainly true of faith

○ *Warren Wiersbe; "The best way for faith to grow is to walk with the faithful."*

- This is what Paul doing!

- He's been encouraging these Hebrew believers to trust in Jesus - to leave behind the old ways of Jewish religion and follow a person, the living Lord Jesus.
- Now let me show a whole bunch of great saints that have gone before us and left us an example to follow

○ **This chapter is also known as the Hall of Faith**

- **By the WAY**

- Who care about the HALL OF FAME...
 - I want to be in the HALL OF FAITH

- **Faith is the key – LOOK back at 10:38**

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

- The Just
 - Are those who have been Justified
 - Declared righteous by the blood of Christ – sacrifice of Christ
 - JUST AS IF I NEVER WAS A SINNER

- Those in OT
 - Were Justified because they looked ahead to the Messiah – looked ahead to the Cross and the Coming work of Christ
- NT
 - We are justified because we look back to the cross the Finished work of Christ
- The Justified
 - Walk with God and follow God, by Grace

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

***8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

- James tells us that true saving faith is a faith that works –
 - Meaning - it is evidenced by our works

James 2:14 (NKJV)

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

- True faith is a working faith!
- **Hebrews 11 - The GREAT Hall of Faith**
 - It illustrates those who walked with God / who had faith God
 - Hebrews 11 is meant to testify to us that It can be done!
 - The life of faith and Holiness is Possible

- Even thru the most difficult of circumstances & living in difficult days

• **Now This Morning 4 POWERFUL ways on LIVING BY FAITH**

- The Proclamation Of Faith vv. 1-3
- The Priority Of Faith v. 4
- The Passion Of Faith vv. 5-6
- The Perseverance Of Faith v. 7

The Proclamation Of Faith vv. 1-3

• **1. The Defination Of Faith Break Down this v. 1**

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

1 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1 (ANT)

1 NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Hebrews 11:1 (The Living Bible)

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

○ **1. Back Down**

▪ **Faith –**

- Greek: Pistis
- Means: Trust, belief
 - Don't make this word to mean more than it does.

- It simply means “TRUST”
- This is the same word translated in 10:39 as
 - Those who believe” (lit., “those of faith”)
 - Paul is simply picking up the thought at the end of the last chapter.
- **The Substance**
 - Substance –
 - Greek: Hupostasis –
 - Means: Substructure, foundation; confidence
 - NASB – “Assurance”;
 - NIV – “Being sure”
 - LT – “Confident Assurance”
 - The word translated “substance”
 - **Means literally “to stand under, to support”**
 - Faith is to a Christian what a foundation is to a house:
 - It gives confidence and assurance that he will stand
 - For a Building – dig deep pour the slab – sturdy – the higher the building the deeper the foundation
 - What is the FOUNDATION of our Faith – JESUS

- Faith is only as strong as the Object of your Faith!
 - The object of our faith is Jesus
 - Who created the worlds –
 - That which is seen from that which is not seen – Atoms and Molecules
 - Our faith is based upon some pretty solid stuff –
 - Great historical truths about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Of things HOPED for**

- Hoped
 - Greek: elpizo –
 - Means: To hope; to expect with desire
 - Present passive participle
 - “Hope”
 - Is about having a longing or desire of something that’s in the future
 - When the world uses HOPE
 - Wishful thinking, of simply “Thinking happy thoughts”.
 - LIKE I HOPE the Raiders will win another Super Bowl...
 - When we say we have “hope”

- It is CONFIDENCE ASSURANCE
 - That is will happen
- Jesus will return one day, YES HE WILL AND SOON
- **The EVIDENCE of things not seen**
 - Things –
 - Greek: Pragma
 - Means: That which has been done, a deed, an accomplished fact; what is done or being accomplished; that which is or exists, a thing - to exercise, practice; accomplish, perform
 - Evidence –
 - Greek: Elegchos –
 - Means: A proof; conviction - to convict, refute, confute; reprove; rebuke.
 - A prosecuting attorney won't take a case to the judge unless he has the right kind of solid evidence to bring a conviction.
 - Seen –
 - Greek: blepo
 - Means: to see, discern, understand
- We could translate the verse
 - Faith is the confidence of what you hope for,
 - Faith is the conviction about something that you can't see"

- Definition:
 - Faith is trusting something you don't see.
 - I may not see God,
 - But I trust He's there.
 - I may not have witnessed the Cross
 - BUT I know it happened
 - I may not see my salvation yet
 - But I trust God has given it to me.
 - I may not see Heaven now
 - BUT I know it is there

• **2. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony v. 2**

Hebrews 11:2 (NKJV)

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

- **1. For by it the elders**
 - The great examples of godliness all had different circumstances and personalities
 - But they all had one thing in common – faith.
- **2. Obtained a good testimony**
 - **Remember These Jewish Christians**
 - In this context, the term refers to all saints, both men and women, under the older covenant, a select few of whom are described

- They needed a good testimony, and so they needed these examples of faith to break them out of discouragement

▪ **Obtained a good testimony –**

- Greek: Martureo –
- Means: to be a witness, give a good report
- Throughout this chapter you will see
 - BY FAITH...
 - Which produced a Witness / Testimony

Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 11:39 (NKJV)

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

▪ **Application**

- All these people went through GREAT Struggles
- Paul’s challenge will be to his readers:
 - If they can do it – SO CAN YOU
 - What will people say about your life?

- What will they say about how you handled the difficult times in your life?

• **3. Faith gives understanding regarding the invisible world v. 3**

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

○ **1. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word**

- This happened when God simply commanded, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3).

Psalms 33:6 (NKJV)

6 *By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.*

Psalms 33:9 (NKJV)

9 *For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

○ **2. By faith we understand:**

- We did not see this act of creation
 - We only know of it by faith.
- All of Creation is without excuse
 - They SHOULD know there is a Creator

Romans 1:20 (NKJV)

20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

- There are many powerful arguments for the existence of God; among them are these:
 - **The Cosmological Argument** (kaaz·muh·laa·ji·kl)

- The existence of the universe means there must be a creator God.
- **The Teleological Argument:** (teh·lee·ow·laa·juh·kl)
 - The existence of design in the universe means there must be a designer God.
- **The Anthropological Argument:** (an·thruh·puh·laa·juh·kl)
 - The unique nature and character of humanity means there must be a relational God.
- **The Moral Argument**
 - The existence of morality means there must be a governing God.

The Priority Of Faith v. 4

1. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice v. 4

Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- **The story of Cain and Abel takes place in Genesis 4 –**
 - 2 brothers who were the first two children of Adam and Eve.
 - Abel was a shepherd
 - Cain was a farmer
 - They both came to worship the Lord

Genesis 4:3–11 (NKJV)

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

***7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.** And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."*

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

- Now what was the deal with these 2 offerings?
 - Why was Abel's considered an offering of Faith?
 - Why was Cain NOT received
 - Great Question
 - Many opinions
- What I and MANY Others believe
 - Now we know that in the book of Genesis in Ch. 3
 - After Adam and Eve sinned ate the forbidden fruit
 - They were naked, ashamed, hid themselves
 - They attempt to cover their own sins with FIG Leaves
 - God came looking for them – Seeks after sinners
 - As a heart broken Father

- God found them Adam –
 - We see they are covered by Animal Skin
 - God Made provision for his sin –
 - Sacrifice of an animal - Probably a lamb
 - Provision for his nakedness –
Animal skins – instead of Itchy fig leaves
 - There God in the very beginning –
 - Established that without the shedding of Blood there would be no remission of sins
 - Innocent victim would pay the price for Man's failure.
- Now I believe this method of Sacrifice
 - Was passed down from Adam and Eve to their Boys –
 - Which is why Abel brought a Lamb
 - Abel's sacrifice was according to the revelation of God
 - God declared him righteous as a Result
- Cain on the other hand –
 - Brought that which represented the works of his hands –
 - His crops

- Grain offering had not been established yet
 - Look what I grew – look what I made.
- Cain represents the heart of the person who says –
 - My efforts will be enough –
 - I made a god to my liking
- The same is taking PLACE ALL over the world today
 - Outside the church
 - I am a good person
 - I will make it on my own....
 - “Inside” the Church
 - Religion
 - I will worship god the way I want
 - I will make a god who ALL love and not Holy
 - He will never judge
 - He will be a god of my making

The Passion Of Faith vv. 5-6

• 1. By faith Enoch v. 5

Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- **1. Enoch is one of the mystery men of the Old Testament**

- Turn to Genesis 5:21-24 as the man who walked with God and he was not, for God took him.

Genesis 5:21–24 (NKJV)

21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.

22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- **1. Enoch's life pictures in his WALK with God – Fellowship**

- Walking speaks of fellowship / companionship
 - This is what the Lord desires of us Fellowship –
RELATIONSHIP
 - He wants us to know Him / walk w/ Him each day / spend time in His Word!
- The Life of Enoch
 - He lived for over 300 years in the midst of a wicked society
 - Around the same time as Noah
 - His life teaches us HOW to walk with God in a WICKED WORLD
 - How to press into God

- **2. NOTE**

- Another point here
 - In Genesis 5

- At the time of the Flood
- There were 3 groups of people...
 - The wicked who drowned...
 - Noah and his family who survived...
 - And Enoch who was raptured before the judgment...
- It's interesting that just prior to the end times
 - There'll also be three groups of people
 - The wicked who die in the Great Tribulation...
 - The Jews who'll survive...
 - And the Church who'll be caught up just before God's judgment comes down
 - I believe Enoch is a type of the Church

• **2. But without faith it is impossible to please Him v. 6**

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **Verse 6 is the theme of Hebrews 11 –**
 - The main point,
 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”
 - Here's what composes true faith,
 - “For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

- Sincere faith believes
 - God exists - and it expects God to bless
 - He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, BUT YOU HAVE TO SEEK!

The Perseverance Of Faith v. 7

• 1. Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen v. 7

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

○ **Noah - walked with God!**

- Lives at a Wicked Time
- Called to a special work!
 - His Life is a Great Illustration of the Perseverance of faith
 - Noah was called to create a vehicle of Salvation BOAT – that would take 120 years to build
 - The world was different at this time
 - NO need for a boat
 - The world had not even seen rain
- Noah Persevered for 120 years
 - Imagine the ridicule – what you doing Noah?

○ **Noah's Faith**

- Teaches us that it is possible to walk with God
 - To stand for God even when the rest of the world thinks we are fools
- Teaches us that we can continue to serve the Lord
 - Even when there doesn't seem to be very much fruit
 - In 120 years only 6 converts

Closing

- Keep Following GOD
 - Don't Turn Back
 - Don't lag behind
 - Don't fall into carnality
 - Don't fall into laziness
 - SEEK GOD with ALL your heart and Walk worthy of His great gift of salvation