

Faith

Introduction:

All of the people listed in Hebrews 11 had great faith. Today, we will look at why they could have great faith.

- I. Each of these people acted on their faith.
 - A. Notice the example of the three characters that we will look at this week.
 1. Abraham (Heb. 11:8-10, 17-20)
 - a. Abraham was called by God in Gen. 12:1-3.
 - 1) Verse 4 says that he went where God lead him.
 - 2) If he would not have gone, he would not have obeyed God.
 - b. Abraham was willing to offer Isaac when God told him to.
 - 1) If he had not taken Isaac to be offered, he would not have obeyed God.
 - 2) Because of his obedience, it is said of Abraham that “he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 15:6).
 3. This same idea is found in Rom. 4:3, 9, 22.
 2. Joseph (Heb. 11:22)
 - a. Joseph was a slave in Egypt when he was put in charge of Potiphar’s household (Gen. 39).
 - 1) Potiphar’s wife wanted to commit adultery with Joseph; but he refused.
 - 2) Notice what Joseph said in Gen. 39:9: There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?
 - 3) Joseph was faithful to God even through the slavery that he endured.
 - b. Because he was faithful to God, he was made second in command of all Egypt, and delivered the people out of a severe famine (Gen. 41:1-57).
 - c. At the end of his life, he predicted the departure of the children of Israel and gave them instructions concerning his bones (Gen. 50:22-26; Heb. 11:22).
 - d. If Joseph was not obedient to God, he would not have been successful.
 3. David (Heb. 11:32)
 - a. Even though his name is only mentioned in Heb. 11, we can see the faith of David in the battle he had with Goliath (I Sam. 17).
 - b. Without faith, David could not have picked up the 5 stones from the brook.
 - c. Without picking up the 5 stones from the brook, David would not have faith.

- d. In order for David to have true faith in God, he had to act on that faith.
 - B. We must have works to go along with our faith.
 1. Faith without works is dead.
 2. James 2:14-26
 3. We must have faith, but we also have to have something else.
- II. Each of these people continued to grow in our faith.
- A. Each of the people listed in Heb. 11 continued in their faith.
 1. They did not have one good event and then quit serving God.
 2. They followed after God their entire lives.
 - B. We, today, need to continue to grow in our faith.
 1. II Pet 3:18 - but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
 2. II Pet 1:5-8 - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. {8} For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. Heb 5:12-6:2
 - C. We get that faith only by hearing His word.
 1. Rom 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 2. We can listen to His word being proclaimed, but we also need to study His word for ourselves.
 - a. II Tim 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - b. II Tim 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- III. Each of these people knew that they had to have faith in order to be pleasing to God (Heb. 11:6).
- A. Faith is a basic principle of Christianity.
 1. We must believe that there is a God (Heb. 11:6).
 2. We must believe that Jesus is His Son (John 3:16).
 3. We must believe that Jesus came to this earth and died for us and was raised from the dead (Rom. 10:9).
 - B. We must believe that God will reward us for seeking after Him.
 1. God has promised us a home in heaven (John 14:1-3).

2. In order for us to receive that home, we must have faith in Him.
- C. Without the kind of faith that these men had, we cannot be pleasing to God!
1. If we are not pleasing to God, then we cannot have that home in heaven with Him.

Conclusion: