

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 11: verses 1 to 7 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – October 27, 2022

Chapter 11 of the Hebrew epistle deals primarily with faith, and those in the Old Testament who stood firm on their faith even though they could not see the promise, which was still afar off. This chapter further compares the faith of the Old Testament fathers with the faith exercised by Christian believers. Although the Old Testament heroes had real faith, they did not receive the promise of God. The purpose for the delayed promise was to ensure that the Old Testament heroes, were not made perfect apart from the priesthood work of Jesus Christ.

1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - This verse is often times used as a definition of biblical faith; however, it is not an actual definition, but rather a description of what real faith is. This verse describes faith as having the substance or assurance of what one believes is true, and as result this assurance gives us confidence. In addition, this verse describes real biblical faith as having evidence or proof that something is truthful even though there is no physical nor tangible proof.
 - **Romans 8:24**
2. For by it the elders obtained a good report.
 - The church leaders demonstrated real faith by their testimony, even though their life, and spiritual walk with God was not dependent upon actual tangible proof.
3. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
 - It is biblical faith that gives believers the assurance that the world was formed by the word of God, and our steadfast belief about the creation of the universe is not based on tangible things that we can see, but rather on things that are unseen.
 - **Psalms 33:6**
4. By faith 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 yet speaketh.
 - This verse is often misunderstood, and misquoted, many believe that Abel's offering was more acceptable to God than Cain, because it was an animal, or blood rather than vegetable or grain, or that Abel's offering was a firstling offering and Cain was not. The real reason that Abel's offering was more acceptable was the heart and character of the worshipper who made the offering. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith and Cain did not, and Cain's heart was not right with God. Even though Abel is dead, by faith he still speaks.
 - **Genesis 4:3-9**

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5. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
 - Having real faith and a life or testimony in God, Enoch a 7th generation descendant of Adam was taken by God directly to heaven and, he (Enoch) never experienced earthy death.
 - **Genesis 5:21-24**
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.
 - Without genuine real faith, it is not possible to please God, because whosoever comes to God must first believe that He is God, and that He rewards those that thoughtfully pursue Him.
7. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
 - This verse gives an example of a bible character who had real faith in God that was reflective in his walk, and his fear and reverence of God. As a result of his faith, God rewarded him, and bestowed favor upon his life and family, and he (Noah) became the heir (recipient) of righteousness by God through faith