

Faith to the Saving of the Soul

Introduction: Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:7 'We walk by faith and not by sight.' What does it mean to walk by faith? What does that look like in the life of believers? This morning, I would like to look at the discussion of faith in Hebrews 11 and what that teaches us about our faith.

I. What Is Faith?

- A. Faith is a conviction of the truth of anything, a belief in that which we cannot see.
- B. Faith is confident in what we hope for, assurance for what we do not see. Faith then is a matter of assurance and conviction.
- C. Faith is an essential part of our spiritual life: Hebrews 11:6, John 8:24
- D. Four elements of faith we want to discuss are trust, hope, action, and endurance.

II. Faith Trusts:

- A. An essential element of faith is that of trust. We trust or have confidence in what we don't see.
 - 1. We have examples of people of faith, having nothing but the promises of God to rest upon, regulated their whole lives in light of those promises.
 - 2. Their faith consisted of simply taking God at His word. Thus, faith involves more than simply believing in God, it also believes God.
- B. Trusting faith is not blind. It is based upon the faithfulness of God:
 - 1. God is faithful: Deuteronomy 7:9, 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - 2. God keeps His promises: Hebrews 6:17-18, Titus 1:2
 - 3. God is faithful and is thus worthy of our trust.
- C. Abraham is a great example of trusting faith: Hebrews 11:17-19
- D. We have a tendency to question, to wonder why. When you look at the trials of Job, God never gives him a reason. When we face difficulties, God is not always going to give us the why. The reason is He wants us to trust Him. He wants us to consider the evidence found in His word, acknowledge His trustworthiness and place our trust firmly in Him.
 - 1. The true test of faith is not trusting it will all work out, but trusting even if it does not work out.
 - 2. There are going to be times when you don't know why, when things don't make sense. We need to reach a point where we don't need to understand all the details, we'll simply choose to trust in God.
 - 3. I don't have to have all the answers, I just have to trust the one who does.
- E. We need to develop a deep and abiding trust in God. God will not let you down. God will not disappoint you. Trust Him!

III. Faith Hopes:

- A. Faith and hope are intimately related: Galatians 5:5, 1 Peter 1:21
- B. We hope for what we do not yet have or experience. When we believe in that for which we hope and are as confident of it as if we already possessed it, then we have true biblical faith.
- C. So faith is, by its very nature, forward-looking.
 - 1. The Patriarchs died in faith because they lived in hope: Hebrews 11:13-16, cf John 8:56
 - 2. Moses chose to give up the glory of life in Egypt to join himself with his people: Hebrews 11:24-26
- D. We have reason to live our lives with the same hope: 1 Peter 1:3-4
- E. I may not know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow and that should be enough for me.
 - 1. We need to remember that this world is not our home but we are seeking something greater.
 - 2. Even if this world completely falls apart around us, even if our lives are ended by some catastrophe, we ought to be able to be at peace knowing that there is a home waiting for us.

IV. Faith Acts:

- A. True faith will be seen by others: Mark 2:5, James 2:18
- B. True faith is going to respond to its hope by serving God:
 - 1. Faith, if it is to please God, must move the believer to action: James 2:14-26
 - 2. Hebrews 11 is filled with examples of people that acted upon their faith by obeying God.
- C. Why? We have to reach a point where our trust in God and His promises and our hope for them, drive us to action.
 - 1. We must move from a point of check listing to a life that is moved by faith.
 - 2. We need to make sure that our faith is not in our obedience but in God.
- D. If your faith won't move you to service, what makes you think it will get you to heaven?

V. Faith Endures:

- A. Since faith is filled with hope, it will continue in faithfulness so it can enjoy that hope.
 - 1. Many of the examples described in this chapter faced difficult circumstances. They lived nomadic lives. They faced strong opposition, yet they never gave up. Their hope and trust was so strong they could not bring themselves to quit.
 - 2. We can't ever quit. This life will throw us difficulties. We will face opposition. We must develop such deep and abiding faith that will cause us to press through those trials to the end.
- B. The thrust of the book of Hebrews is never give up: Hebrews 10:35-39, 12:1-2
- C. Despite the trials that we face, faith will continue to press on: Philippians 3:12-14, Revelation 2:10

Conclusion: True faith is going to result in a transformed life. We see how the faith of these people affected the life that they lived. If your faith does not affect every part of your life, it is not the faith that leads to the saving of the soul. How much does your faith affect your life?