

- I. Text – Hebrews 11:1-10, 36-40
- II. For a proper understanding of Hebrews 11, it is necessary to look at the last five verses of chapter ten. The writer has been trying to encourage a group of people who were in despair and on the verge of giving up their faith in Christ. The exhortation in Hebrews 10:35 is that the people should not cast away their confidence because it would be rewarded in the end. The writer of this epistle states in the 38th verse of the 10th chapter that God is pleased with those who live by faith, but He has no pleasure in those who do not believe. After expressing the need for faith in the 10th chapter, the writer explains how the life of faith works in chapter 11.

- I. Faith Described

- A. In verse one the writer describes what faith is. He says that faith is both “substance” and “evidence” in things not seen, but hoped for. The word “substance” may also be translated “assurance.” The word “evidence” may be translated “conviction.”
- B. What are the things hoped for?
 1. The fulfillment of God’s plan in the world. The triumph of Christ over Satan. The victory of good over evil. A world where perfect peace reigns.
 2. What are things not seen? The spirit world and spiritual blessings are things that cannot be seen unless we have faith. Faith is the soul’s eye that sees the invisible; it is the soul’s hand

that grasps promised blessings and makes them its very own.

II. Faith Demonstrated

- A. Faith Worshipping. Verse 4 – Abel showed his faith by offering the right kind of sacrifice and worshipping in a way that pleased God. Cain's failure was because of a lack of faith.
- B. Faith Fellowshiping. VV 5, 6 – Enoch showed his faith by walking with God in communion and fellowship. Enoch pleased God because he was in step with God. His faith was rewarded with translation.
- C. Faith Serving. V 7 – Noah showed his faith by working for God. Noah worked for God during a very dark hour in world history. His faith was rewarded by his family being spared from the flood which came upon the world.
- D. Faith Obeying. VV 8-10 – Abraham showed his faith by obeying God. It was not easy for this man to leave his country and journey to Canaan on the strength of a promise, but he believed God and so he journeyed for God.
- E. Faith Choosing – Hebrews 11:24-27.
- F. Faith Victorious – Hebrews 11:29

III. Faith Tested – VV 36-38. Some are called upon to suffer for their faith. Many Old Testament saints were severely tested, but they were victorious because of their faith.

- A. Jeremiah's faith: was tortured, Jeremiah 20:2.
- B. Zechariah's faith: was stoned. II Chronicles 24:20-21.

C. Isaiah's faith: sawn asunder. Tradition

Conclusion

All these obtained a good report through faith, but died without receiving all the fulfillment of God's promises. One day we will all receive the fulfillment of God's promises. Until then, our faith will keep us true to God.

“Without faith life is a sum that will not come right, a riddle without an answer, a night without a star, a story without a meaning, a journey without a goal.” Albert Osborn

Cedar Hill Assembly – 1/14/68

Amarillo First Assembly – 3/19/78

Amarillo First Assembly – 9/27/87

Amarillo First Assembly – 11/16/88