

“FAITH’S HALL OF FAME - Part 1” (Hebrews 11)

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April 21, 2024

INTRO: We’ll continue eating spiritual meat in Hebrews 11. Faith is a much broader topic than what some have taught.

I. WHAT FAITH IS (vv. 1-3, 6).

A. **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** (Heb. 11:1)

1. Faith believes what is hoped for will occur.
2. Faith is the essence and evidence of what is hoped for.

B. Faith obtains a good testimony (v. 2).

C. By faith we understand God created the world (v. 3).

D. By faith we please and diligently seek God (v. 6).

II. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF FAITH (vv. 4-5, 7-12).

1. Abel – gave an offering by faith (v. 4; Gen. 4:1-8).

2. Enoch – was translated by faith (v. 5; Gen. 5:18-24).

3. Noah – built an ark by faith (v. 7; Gen. 5:25 – chapter 10).

A. Faith doesn’t ask God to do what you can do yourself.

B. Faith is often more of a marathon than a sprint.

C. Faith is something we should also exercise for others.

4. Abraham (vv. 8-10, 17-19; Gen. 12:1-5; 22:1-19).

A. Journeyed by faith (Heb. 11:8; Gen. 12:1-4).

B. Dwelt in a strange land by faith (vv. 9-10; Gen. 12:5).

C. Was willing to sacrifice his son (vv. 17-21; Gen. 22:1-22).

5. Sarah – trusted God for a son (vv. 11-12; Gen. 18:10-15).

•Why do you suppose their failures aren’t mentioned (Gen. 12:10-20; chapter 16; 18:10-15)? Heb. 8:8-13; 10:16-17!

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH (vv. 13-16).

A. Faith doesn’t always receive in this life (v. 13).

B. Faith sees & is assured through spiritual eyes (2Cor. 4:18).

C. Faith focuses more on the eternal than temporal (vv. 14, 16; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 21- 22:5).

D. Faith looks forward not backward (v. 15).

CONCLUSION: Let’s learn from those in faith’s hall of fame who have gone before us. Let’s vibrantly live out these truths about faith. Live by faith and nurture your faith.