

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: DESCRIPTION OF FAITH

HEBREWS 11:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians who were struggling with their faith. (Heb. 13.22)
2. We can have confidence in our relationship with God on the condition of our obedience. (Heb. 10.22,36)
3. In a context of suffering, Hebrews 11 reminds us to put our faith in the God who is always there. (cf. Jer. 17.7).
4. Hebrews 11 begins with a description of faith.
 - a) Without faith, we draw back to perdition. (Heb. 10.38,39)
 - b) What does it mean to have faith? (Heb. 11.1)

I. "THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR"

A. HEBREWS 11.1: "Now faith is the substance."

1. Substance (hypostasis): Hope – "under"; Stasis – "stand." Literally, to stand under as a support.
2. Accepting, trusting, and obeying the word of God gives support to our hope.

B. HEBREWS 11.1: "...of things hoped for."

1. The Bible concept of hope is desiring and expecting something in the future. (Prov. 10.28; 13.12)
2. I can desire and expect eternal life. (Titus 3.7)
3. I can desire and expect the resurrection. (Acts 23.6)
4. I can desire and expect the salvation of my spiritual family. (1 Thess. 2.19)

II. "THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN"

A. HEBREWS 11.1: "the evidence"

1. Evidence (elenchus): "conviction, persuasion"
2. Accepting, trusting, and obeying the word of God convincing me of those things that I cannot see.

B. HEBREWS 11.1: "of things not seen."

1. Spiritual: There are things that I cannot see which are not of this world. (Rev. 4.1,2; 2 Cor. 12.2-4; John 1.18)
2. Historical: There are things that I cannot see because it happened in the past. (2 Pet. 3.6)
3. Yet I am convinced that they exist and happened because of faith. (Rom. 10.17)

CONCLUSION: Faith is the very foundation of our Christianity.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

April 11, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

FAITH OBEYS

Faith is a necessary and critical component of our relationship with God. The inspired writer tells us in Hebrews 11.6 that *"without faith, it is impossible to please Him."* Jesus tells us that *"whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3.16). If faith is necessary to please God and have everlasting life, it is essential that we understand faith.

To understand the Holy Spirit, we would want to study Romans 8, since that is the Holy Spirit chapter of the Bible. To understand love, we would want to study 1 Corinthians 13, because that is the love chapter of the Bible. Is there a chapter we can study if we want to understand faith? Indeed, there is. The faith chapter of the Bible is Hebrews 11.

Throughout this chapter, we find example after example of individuals who had faith. If we spend any amount of time exploring these examples, the characteristics of faith will become obvious. With the examples of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and many others, it tells us that they had a faith that obeyed. For example, we read in Hebrews 11.8 that *"by faith Abraham obeyed"*

Faith as defined in the Bible is a faith that accepts what God says, trusts what God says, and obeys what God says. It is only when we have that kind of faith that we can be pleasing to God and have eternal life in our future. A faith that saves is a faith that obeys. CLP

HAS GOD DISAPPOINTED YOU?

HEBREWS 13:5

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever felt abandoned by God?
2. Sometimes suffering leaves us wondering if God is really interested in our lives. Why does He allowed me to suffer?

I. JOB FELT DISAPPOINTED BY GOD

- A. Consider the worst day in Job's life.
 1. Job was the wealthiest man in all the land, and in a moment, he lost it all. (Job 1.3,13-17)
 2. Job had a beautiful family, and in that same moment, lost them all. (Job 1.2, 18,19)
 3. Some time later, Job lost his health. (Job 2.7,9)
- B. Job defended himself against the thought that he deserved it.
 1. **JOB 23.1,2:** Job was bitter and groaning.
 2. **JOB 23.3-7:** He wanted to plead his case before God.
 3. **JOB 23.8,9:** But God is nowhere to be found.

II. DAVID FELT DISAPPOINTED BY GOD

- A. David believed his problems would never end.
 1. **PSALM 13.1,2:** *"How long, O LORD"*
 2. Yet our problems are but for a moment. (2 Cor. 4.17)
- B. David believed God was not interested in him.
 1. **PSALM 13.1:** *"Will you forget me forever?"*
 2. Yet God is involved in our lives. (Heb. 13.5)
- C. David felt great sorrow.
 1. **PSALM 13:2:** *"Having sorrow in my heart daily"*
 2. Yet we don't have to let sorrow remain. (Phil. 4.6)
- D. David felt that his prayers went unanswered. (Ps. 13.3)

III. JESUS FELT DISAPPOINTED BY GOD

- A. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed with all His heart.
 1. **HEBREWS 5:7:** *"He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears"*
 2. **HEBREWS 5.8:** *"He learned obedience."*
- B. What was Jesus thinking while on the cross?
(Matt. 27.26,35,39-43,46; cf. Isa. 50.6)

CONCLUSION: Do you feel like God has let you down? You are not alone. The Bible has the answer!

MARRIAGE IS ABOUT BEING THE RIGHT PERSON

Socrates once said, "By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, then you can become a philosopher."

What is the most common problem in marriage? If you talk to enough couples, you will learn that the most common problem in marriage is the other person. Many see a successful marriage dependent on finding the right spouse. Most couples will name the other person as the root of all their marital problems. "If he would just be more communicative, we would have a much better marriage," or "If she would not nag so much, we would be much happier." However, marriage is not about finding the right person. It is about being the right person. While it is important to find someone who is compatible, has similar life goals, moral standards, and spiritual priorities, a successful marriage begins when each is focused on being the best spouse they can be rather than wanting their husband or wife to be what you hoped they would be.

Many spouses bemoan the fact that they are not happy in their marriage because their partner does not show them affection, but it must be asked how much affection they have shown their spouse. Some complain that their spouse does not communicate. But how much have they communicated with their spouse or, have they made it difficult to communicate by yelling or shouting at their spouse? When one is not happy with the behavior of their spouse, it is time to honestly assess their own behavior and consider whether or not their spouse is happy with them.

The happiest of all marriages is when both husband and wife act not out of *"selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind esteem the other better than himself"* (Phil. 2.4). Each one ought to start out the day making a commitment to their spouse to be thoughtful, to be considerate, putting their wants and needs ahead of their own. Even if the same commitment is not made by their spouse, one making that kind of commitment will almost automatically result in a noticeable change in the behavior of the other.

God established marriage from the very beginning (Gen. 2.21-24). When both husband and wife live by the principles of selflessness that God demands in a marriage, there can be nothing but success. Hard times may come, but with love, they can always be overcome.