

Building Our Faith....

....Through the Heavenly Hope

Introduction

1. This morning we conclude our study of building our faith as we have examined Hebrews, chapter 11.
 - A. We began our study by reading **Hebrews 10:35-39** "the just shall live by faith"
2. We should have learned that through perseverance in God's promises, that we can have salvation.
3. In addition, we have learned that it is the power of faith that keeps our mind and heart firmly fixed on heaven even in the midst of trials and tribulations.
 - A. The examples that we have looked at during these past 5 lessons should help us to adhere steadfastly to the profession of our faith.
4. We have examined the faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others to see what motivated them to stay true to God.
 - A. There are two key verses that tells us about faith and how all of these were able to be pleasing to God.
 - 1) **Hebrews 11:1**
 - 2) **Hebrews 11:6**
4. This morning, we want to bring to a conclusion some thoughts concerning these great characters of the past while at the same time looking to what we need to do to have pleasing faith to God.

The Heavenly Hope

Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40

- 1. The Hebrew writer states that these had not received the promises, but having been assured of them, embraced them.**
 - A. The promises referenced here are no doubt those given long ago to Abraham. Abraham said:**

Genesis 23:4 "I am a foreigner and a sojourner among you."

- 1) These realized that they were only strangers in the land, longing for the eternal land of rest with God.**
- 2. Were they looking toward heaven — or a physical home?**
 - A. If it were only a physical home, they could have returned to their original homeland (V15).**
 - B. Some might argue that these early patriarchs did not know of an eternal kingdom, that they were only looking forward to the continued blessings of their off-spring.**
 - 1) I believe that we can show that they indeed were looking toward a heavenly home. Notice:**

Hebrews 11:10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- 2) Verse 16 clearly points to the fact that they were looking toward heaven.**

3. **I suggest to you that these verses show that their faith was strengthened in that they were **looking forward to heaven.****
 - A. **They knew there was something better. They longed for the “heavenly hope” as we should today.**

4. **In verse 39 there is no contradiction here that the saints of old “did not receive the promise” and its being said of Abraham that he did “obtain the promise.”**
 - A. **In the case of Abraham he did “obtain the promise” in the sense that he had the promise of God confirmed and assured to him.**
Hebrews 6:15
 - B. **In the case of the saints of old, it is the same for Christians today in that this promise is still in the future.**
 - 1) **To those of us and to all the saints at rest.**
Revelation 21:2

John 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

2) The saints of old are still waiting for judgment.

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

5. **We are, as they were, looking for something better. The promise of an eternal life apart from pain and suffering ---- a home with God!**

The Race of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-3

1. **The first two verses are in reality an appeal for the Christian to run the race of faith based on the cloud of witnesses that we have just studied.**
 - A. **It is an exhortation that began in chapter 10:19 and evidenced by those in chapter 11.**
2. **We have learned so much concerning those mentioned in chapt. 11.**
 - A. **The thought would be that these are witnesses to us that if they could overcome trials and tribulations of life, based on faith, then we certainly can too.**
3. **As a result of that, we are encouraged to “lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us.”**
 - A. **Before we can conform to God’s word, we must first confront that which keeps us from doing so.**
 - 1) **Paul said:**

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

- 2) **Put aside every weight that would prohibit us from running a good race of faith.**

- 4. As we run the race, we need to look toward Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.**
 - A. He began our walk of faith and he will finish our walk with His coming again.**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

- 1) Every witness of chapter 11 exhibited obedience to God. We must do likewise to be counted worthy.**
- 5. Jesus endured the cross and died for us. Knowing this, let us not become weary and discouraged in our daily life.**

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Summary

A review of our chart shows us some of the characteristics that the faithful exhibited in their walk of faith. Remember:

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But **if anyone draws back**, My soul has no pleasure in him.

1. SUFFERING (Abel)

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution**.

2. **STEADFASTNESS (Enoch)**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

3. **PERSEVERANCE (Noah)**

Romans 8:24-25 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we **eagerly wait for it with perseverance**.

4. **OBEDIENCE (Abraham)**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him**

5. **DEDICATION (Moses)**

Matthew 6:33 But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth.

6. **ENDURANCE (Others)**

Hebrews 12:1-3

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:6

- **As we close our study of "Building Our Faith" – may we diligently seek Him all the days of our life!**

