

LIVING FAITH

THE FINAL WORD: KNOWING CHRIST THROUGH HEBREWS | HEBREWS 11:4-40 | AUGUST 2, 2020 | PASTOR JIM CALER

SERMON OUTLINE:

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
(Hebrews 11:1)*

True Christian faith is taking God at His word and building your life on it.

Four aspects of the life of Faith that are exemplified by these stories:

1. The life of faith serves as encouragement for believers throughout all history. (vs 3-7) Creation, Abel, Enoch, Noah

*"For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope."
(Romans 15:4).*

2. The life of faith looks forward to God's eternal promises, not to immediate rewards. (vs 8-22) Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

*"By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."
(Hebrews 11:9-12)*

*"Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world."
(Hebrews 11:13)*

*"...By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones."
(Hebrews 11:22)*

3. The life of faith moves forward according to God's direction, not human wisdom. (vs 23-31) Moses' parents, Moses, Joshua, Rahab

*"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict."
(Hebrews 11:23)*

*"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days."
(Hebrews 11:24-31)*

*"What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"
(James 2:14)*

4. The life of faith experiences a variety of outcomes, but shares a common victory. (vs. 32-40) Prophets and Kings

*"And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect."
(Hebrews 11:32-40)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Begin your study by praying that God would speak to you through His word. Then, whether you're alone or with a group, read all of Hebrews chapter 11 aloud.

Open Up (Answer One)

1. Think of the people closest to you, what stories of faith could you share about them?
2. What would you say are some popular misconceptions of faith?

Dig In

1. How would you explain faith to someone else?
2. Based on chapter 11, how do you think the author of Hebrews would define faith?
3. What are some of the reasons spelled out by our author so far to trust God's promises?
4. List some of the amazing things done by faithful people in past ages (Hebrews 11:33-35a).
5. What do you learn about difficulty and persecution from this chapter?
6. List some of the things these people of faith endured in past ages (Hebrews 11:35b-38).
7. Why do you think life following God isn't always "rainbows and puppy dogs"?
8. What did all of these 'heroes of faith' obtain? What did they not? Why?
9. Why do you think the "eyes of faith" are important during a time of trial?
10. Are there any examples of faith in Hebrews 11 that surprise you? Why?

Live It Out (Answer One)

1. What promises from God give you the most hope?
2. Of all these witnesses of faith, who most encourages you?
3. How does Hebrews 11 sharpen or change the way that you understand faith?

DIG DEEPER:

This week let Hebrews 11 encourage your life of faith. Here are some practical ways to do that:

- Each day, read the Old Testament version of one of the stories Hebrews 11 refers to.
- Read Hebrews 11 out loud at least 2 times this week