HEBREWS 11: THE FAITH CHAPTER

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**Lesson 1: Introduction to Faith (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 & Genesis 1)**

1. What is natural faith?
2. What is saving faith?
3. Can faith by itself save?
4. Hebrews 11 is about men and women who exercised sustaining faith. What is sustaining faith?
5. What is the Christian hoping for? What is “not seen” that faith gives evidence of?
6. Why is it important that we believe God created the universe (v. 3)? Contrast the Biblical worldview with a materialistic/naturalistic worldview.
7. Discuss what verse 6 means when it says “we must believe that God is.”

**Lesson 2: The Faith of Abel (Hebrews 11:4 & Genesis 4)**

1. Faith pre-supposes divine revelation. What did God reveal to Cain and Abel?
2. What has God revealed to us about our sacrifice?
3. What is the significance of Abel's sacrifice?
4. Why was Abel's sacrifice accepted by God?
5. Cain brought the best he had. Why was it rejected?
6. In what way does Cain represent false religion?
7. How are faith and obedience related?
8. What is Abel saying from the grave?

**Lesson 3: The Faith of Enoch (Hebrews 11:5-6 & Genesis 5)**

1. What would have been true about Enoch in order for him to “walk with God”?
2. How did Enoch please God?
3. What reward did Enoch seek from God?
4. What are the characteristics of child-like faith?

**Lesson 4: The Faith of Noah (Hebrews 11:7 & Genesis 6)**

1. Why is Noah's faith so profound?
2. What does it mean that Noah moved with fear? What is the application for us today?
3. How is the ark a picture of salvation?
4. 2 Peter 2:5 says Noah was a “preacher of righteousness.” What does this mean?
5. How is Noah's life of faith instructive to every Christian?

**Lesson 5: Abraham’s Journey of Faith (Hebrews 11:8-10 & Genesis 12; 15)**

1. What is the Abrahamic Covenant? What is the difference between a conditional and unconditional covenant? Does God have any unconditional covenants for today?
2. Why is Abraham called the father of the Jews as well as “the father of all who believe” (Rom. 4:11)?
3. Discuss the faith of Abraham. Discuss the application to us.
4. How is Abraham's journey a reflection of Ephesians 4:22-24?
5. In our struggle to leave worldliness behind, how do we overcome?

**Lesson 6: The Faith of Sarah (Hebrews 11:11-12 & Genesis 17:1–18:15; 21:1-7)**

1. When Abram announced to Sarah that God had spoken to him and they were to pack up and leave, how do you think that conversation went?
2. Peter tells us that Sarah was submissive to Abraham and called him her lord (1 Pet. 3:5-6). What are some examples of this statement? Was her compliance always the right thing to do? When did Sarah usurp Abraham's authority? What were the consequences?
3. Have you ever tried to accomplish what you felt was God's will for your life through your own effort, not willing to wait on His timing?
4. When told they would have the child of promise Abraham laughed outright and Sarah laughed to herself. Their lack of faith didn't stop God from fulfilling His promise. Discuss how faith and God's purpose interact.

**Lesson 7: The Faith That Sees Heaven (Hebrews 11:13-16 & Genesis 23; 25:1-11)**

1. What is an eternal perspective?
2. Read Heb. 11:13 and discuss the elements which led to an eternal perspective.
3. How should a Christian live in light of the eternal perspective?

1. How do you balance living in this world with being a citizen of heaven?
2. What promises are we waiting for that we won’t receive in this life?
3. What promises can we appropriate by faith for this life?

**Lesson 8: Faith Without Deeds is Dead (Hebrews 11:17-19 & Genesis 22)**

1. What is the difference between justification and sanctification? Define past, present, and future sanctification.
2. How is failure used by God in your progressive sanctification?
3. God tests our faith but never tests us beyond our ability to succeed. How did this apply to Abraham when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac?
4. Why was Abraham so willing to obey God when asked to sacrifice Isaac?
5. The proof of faith is a willingness to sacrifice (Matt. 16:24; Rom. 12:1). What is in your life that God is asking you to sacrifice?

**Lesson 9: Faith in the End (Hebrews 11:20-22 & Genesis 27; 48-50)**

1. Compare 2 Timothy 2:13 with 1 John 2:19. What is the meaning of both Scriptures?
2. The faith of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph referred to in Hebrews 11 was in relation to their deaths. Why do you suppose that is?
3. If we trust God imperfectly, how do we know that we will persevere to the end?
4. Can we confer God's blessing on our children today?
5. What promises has God made that we are faithfully waiting for?

**Lesson 10: Moses and the Providence of God (Hebrews 11:23-26 & Exodus 2)**

1. Discuss the preserving providence of God in the early life of Moses.
2. Where and when did Moses get his understanding of God? How can this motivate those of us who are parents?
3. It has been said that it is hard to stop seeking worldly things, but it's even harder to give them up once we have them. What did Moses have growing up that he chose to give up? Is there anything God is asking you to give up?
4. Do you think Moses struggled with his loyalty to Pharaoh's daughter and his loyalty to Christ?
5. Discuss the conflict that exists in the Christian because of the pleasure of sin. How do win the battle?

**Lesson 11: Moses and the Exodus (Hebrews 11:27-29 & Exodus 11-14)**

1. Explain how God can use someone with a disability, such as Moses’ speech impediment (Ex. 4:10)?
2. What is the hardening of the heart?
3. How was the first Passover a manifestation of faith?
4. How was passing through the Red Sea an act of faith?

**Lesson 12: Remarkable Faith (Hebrews 11:30-31 & Joshua 2; 6)**

1. Who was Rahab and why is her response to the spies so remarkable? Share any remarkable salvation stories that you have witnessed.
2. Why is the faith of Israel at Jericho so remarkable?
3. Why do you think we sometimes have weak or little faith while at other times we exercise extraordinary faith?
4. Discuss the following statement taken from John MacArthur's commentary: “There is faith that receives, as when we come empty-handed to Christ for salvation. There is faith that reckons, that counts on God to undertake for us. There is faith that risks, that moves out in God's power, daring to do the impossible. And there is faith that rests—the kind that, in the middle of pain and suffering and rejection, sits back in confidence that God will deliver.” Which category does the fall of Jericho come under? Which category are you in need of this week?

**Lesson 13: Faith in Victory and Defeat (Hebrews 11:32-40 & Judges 16; Daniel 3; 6)**

1. How does Samson (Judges 16) illustrate the failure of the flesh and the faithfulness of God?
2. From the stories of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3) and Daniel (Dan. 6), discuss the confidence of faith that accepts, adjusts, and submits to God's plan as it unfolds. Apply this to yourselves.
3. Verses 32-38 are remarkable, verses 32-35a showing examples of faith in victory and verses 35b-38 showing examples of faith in defeat. Some by faith escape the sword (v. 34) and others by faith are killed by the sword (v. 37). Discuss how the life of faith does not guarantee earthly success and comfort. How does this passage, particularly verses 35b-38, contrast what is taught in “prosperity gospel” churches? (See also Heb. 10:32-34.)
4. What promise of God motivated the saints of Hebrews 11 to live as they did? What does it mean that they did not receive what was promised (v. 39)? Have we received that promise?

**Lesson 14: Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith (Hebrews 12:1-2 & Philippians 2:6-11)**

1. What is “the race that is set before us”?
2. What is the difference between these two hindrances: “weight” and “sin”? What weights and sins threaten to hinder you as you run the race?
3. How is Jesus an example to us of a life of faith (see Phil. 2:6-11)?
4. What does it mean to “look unto Jesus”? Why is looking unto Jesus the way to successfully run the race?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the “founder and perfecter” of our faith?
6. What was the shame of the cross for Jesus? What was the joy that was set before Him? What is the significance of Jesus sitting at the right hand of God?