

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 12-Having a Faith that Works

Focus: Hebrews 11:1-22

- **Having Faith is having an eye that sees surely into the future (v.1-3)**
 - *“Faith is the substance [essence, or realization] of things hoped for...” “...the evidence [conviction, or confidence] of things not seen.” This tells us that faith sees the reality of something we’ve never beheld with our eyes before. Faith can taste the realness of things that are promised to be coming to us! There is substance, weight, or realness to these things.*
 - *(v.2) It was by faith that the “elders” or the older generations obtained a good testimony. Faith is what led them to live for God and to experience His righteousness and truest blessings in their lives.*
 - *(v.3) Faith looks back to the Creation and recognizes that God is the all-powerful One who can create even the worlds from the mere sound of His voice! Faith realizes that God can make the visible things of the world from things that are invisible; God Himself being invisible when He chooses. God formed all the substances of this world. Everything came together at His command! Even the little invisible atomic particles came together and bonded at His voice so that every visible substance would be formed from them.*
- **Faith propels the Actions of our Lives (v.4-7)**
 - *(v.4) Abel set an example for righteousness that still speaks to us today (even though he is long dead and gone). His testimony passed over the borders of the grave and of all time! His faithful act to God was never forgotten. This son of Adam and Eve was **obedient to the voice of God!** He gave what God was asking for—that is, the offering of the Lamb! He looked forward by faith. He trusted God, and he obeyed Him. **Faith leads us to live obedient lives before God! True faith that saves is the kind of faith that leads people to obey God’s voice!** (It is not a mere assent to the truth or a mere profession—Even Jesus taught us that a mere profession will not be enough, but we must obey God—faith that saves will obey the voice of God—that is true faith! Ref. Matthew 7:21-23). The story of Cain and Abel is found in **Genesis 4:3-5**.*
 - *(v.5,6) Faith led brother Enoch of old to be so close to God, that one day he finally just went home to be with God in heaven. What an incredible life testimony! **Faith leads us to have a life that is pleasing to God!** We should strive always to have such a life and testimony! Even see Paul’s life aim and testimony about this (Acts 24:16). **To please God, we must have faith! Trusting that He IS—that is, He exists! And, trusting that He will reward those who diligently seek Him! Therefore leading us to seek Him diligently!** (Jesus comments about such rewards too and we should heed them! See Matthew 6:4,6). We should become as a little child who trusts God’s word! **(Matthew 18:3)**.*

- (v.7) *Based on the prophecies and revelations from God about what was going to happen, Noah took action and built an ark. His family was saved from the great flood because he trusted in God! **WE should take action in our lives according to the truth that God has revealed to us through the prophets! We have the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, and elsewhere which should guide us to take action in our lives and to prepare!** One who says a hurricane is coming, but then fails to prepare their house and merely sits on a lawn chair sipping lemonade is not one who we can believe. That is not one who truly believes that the reports of the coming storm are true! We must consider our lives today! Are we making ready for the coming storm that prophecy reveals to us? Have we studied and do we know the things that are coming?*
- **The Faith of Abraham gives many good lessons for us (v.8-12)**
 - (v.8-10) Faith goes where God says! Although we do not know all the details of what will happen in front of us, but if we know that God is leading us then we should go there by faith! Abraham's faith looked even farther ahead than just the temporal realities. He looked even to the things that were coming beyond that! That is, the things of heaven and the heavenly city that God had promised for the redeemed! (In the days of Jesus this city was talked about in John 14:1-3 and also Revelation 21). How incredible a city it is! Abraham even saw Jesus through the eyes of faith (John 8:56). We should see the things that are a far off (Galatians 3:6-9).
 - "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29, 30-31). God's word was written so that we might believe and have faith!! His word will increase our faith (Romans 10:17). By faith **we can KNOW that these things are true (John 21:24)**. We can see well and believe!
- **Faith looks for the Promised Blessings of God and presses on to receive them! (v.13-16)**
 - *These people all died in faith, but they were looking forward to the promise! And they died happily! They will still see the fulfilled promises of God! We can see that beautiful city of God! (Revelation 21). It will be so wonderful! Let us look forward by faith and let us be there together!*
- **Faith looks beyond the grave! (v.17-22).** *We should trust the word of God and that what He has promised will be done! He is not limited as we are! Though one dies, yet shall we live! Let us be faithful even to the dying moments of our lives!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to have faith in God and trust Him with your life today?_____