



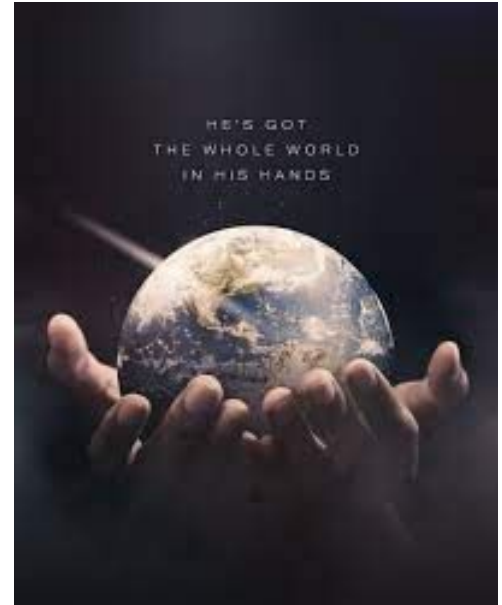
Heroes of Faith

Hebrews 11



What is Faith?

- Hebrews 11:1-3
 - 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.
 - 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- When we hear the stories of these people we will see that faith is about what they believed but in each story we see that faith is more than just having the right beliefs.



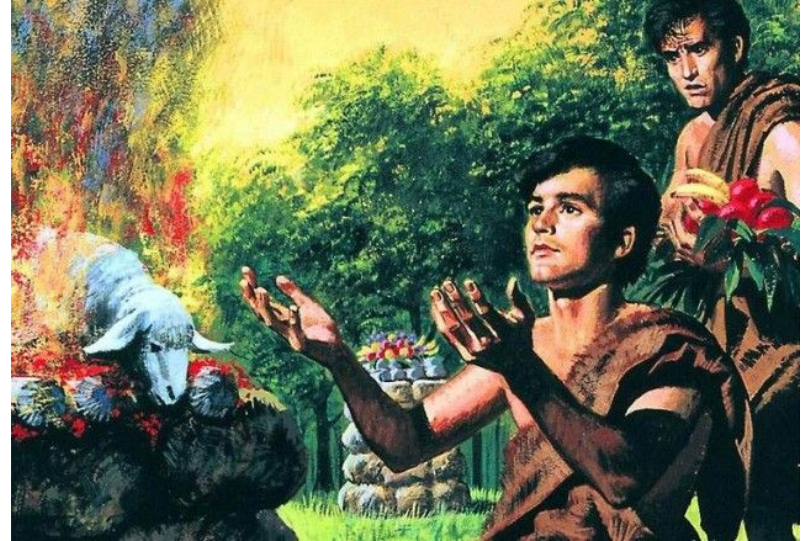
What is after Faith?

- James 2: 14-22 (read 14, 20, 21-22)
- Being a Christian is more than just having a certain set of beliefs. It is also about the way we live our lives in this world
 - Abraham had faith, and sacrificed his son Isaac, by doing this action his faith increased
- Let us be people whose faith moves us to action. Let us look at the world around us through the eyes of faith so that we might be able to make the difference God has put us here to make.



Abel- Hebrews 11: 4

- What is the name of Abel's brother?
(Cain)
- Who are their parents? (Adam and Eve)
- Abel's sacrifice was more excellent because he was more selective in giving God his best while Cain just made due with giving God something
- Lesson: God wants our best effort in everything we do



Enoch- Hebrews 11: 5-6

- Enoch walked with the Lord and spent his time in the presence of the Lord to get to know Him more
- Enoch was pleasing to God because he not only lived his life by faith, but he also lived his life in intimate communication with God
 - Enoch diligently sought after the Lord, and was rewarded



Noah- Hebrews 11: 7

- The story of Noah was a faith building story.
 - God has a plan. God tells Noah his plan.
Noah listens and obeys. God rescues Noah.
- Obedience is still an important part of growing our faith.
 - Who are some people in our life that we should obey?
- God has been plain about how He wants us to live. He has been clear about what is right and what is wrong. He calls us to live holy and pure lives.
- We won't ever be perfect on our own. That is why God has grace. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do our best to live obediently to God.



Review

- What is faith?
 - Hebrews 11:1
- Faith is dead without what?
- Abel- gave his best to God
- Enoch- diligently sought after the Lord, and walked with God
- Noah- obeyed God

Abraham- Hebrews 11:8-10; 12-19

- God asked Abraham to leave the land that he knew and follow after Him, and he left everything behind and followed Lord Jesus
- He looked not for earthly possession, but looked up to things that God has promised; Hebrews 11:10
- Abraham through faith believed that God would provide him a son even in his old age and waited patiently for the Lord
- When the time came he with faith was ready to sacrifice the son that he loved so much; Hebrews 11:17-19
- We have never seen heaven or been there but God tells us that He is going to take us there. We have never seen God face to face but the Bible says that one day we will. This all takes faith and it takes trust.
- Faith is about total reliance on God for everything



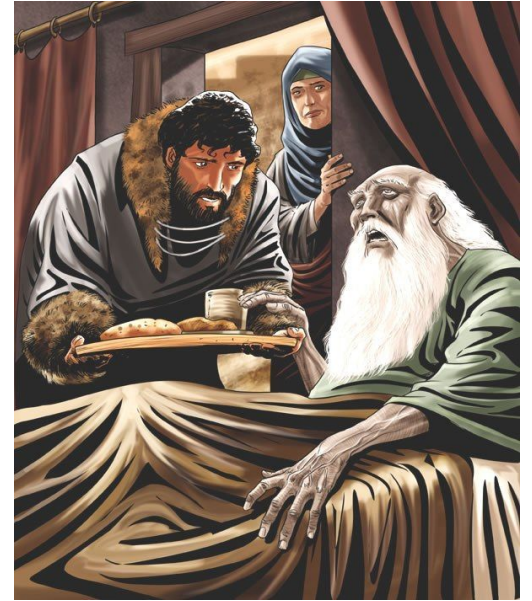
Sarah- Hebrews 11:11

- Sarah the wife of Abraham believed that even in her old age she would be able to have a son, because she remembered the promise of the faithful Lord
- God is able to take impossible situations and make them possible
- If God was faithless and never came through on His promises, faith would be impossible.
- Remember the promises God has made to grow in our faith



Isaac- Hebrews 11: 20

- By faith Isaac blessed Jacob even though Esau was the oldest and was supposed to receive the birthright
- Even though Isaac was unaware of what the future would hold, he looked to God in faith for what the future may hold
- Looking to God in faith of an unknown future



Jacob- Hebrews 11: 21

- Jacob left his father's house and went to his uncle's house
- Once again with no hope for his future he relied on Lord Jesus for all things
- Jacob learned to trust God and have complete faith in Him about all future things
- Trust in God about the future to increase faith



Joseph- Hebrews 11: 22

- Joseph was sold by his own brothers as a slave
- He was put in prison but never gave up hope and faith in the Lord Jesus
- Joseph stood for Lord Jesus in all he could and made sure he lived a life that was pleasing to the Lord, and the Lord increased his faith
- He became a ruler of Egypt, but knew that Egypt was not his land and had his bones taken back to Israel
- Standing for what is right in the Lord will increase faith



Moses- Hebrews 11: 23-29

- The parents of Moses by faith kept him alive during a time when pharaoh was killing all of the infant boy children. Hebrews 11:23
- By faith when Moses became of a certain age realized that he was not part of the Egyptian people and separated himself
- During the time of Moses came the exodus from Egypt, parting the Red Sea, wandering in the wilderness, receiving the Law, and getting to the Promised Land. Hebrews 11:27-29
- Moses had faith and God was faithful to Moses. like Moses, we choose God over any and everything else. The world will try to tell us different and push us into its mold but we must resist.



Joshua- Hebrews 11: 30

- Joshua by faith had the walls of Jericho come down
- God doesn't always tell us to do things that make perfect sense to us. Here God orders Joshua to have the people march around the city and blow trumpets to knock the walls down.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Joshua had faith in God, and believed even though things seemed impossible



Rahab- Hebrews 11: 31

- Rahab was a resident of the city of Jericho, the city God's people were to attack. She wasn't with God's people when they crossed the Red Sea. Yet she had heard of God and knew how powerful God was.
- She had faith that all she had heard would happen because she believed God was that powerful.
- She hid the Israelite spies with faith that God would save her when the Israelites attacked the city



Gideon- Hebrews 11: 32

- An angel of the Lord came to Gideon and told him he was to lead the people of Israel to war. Gideon said that he was from a poor humble family. God responded through the angel that Gideon would lead the country to victory
- God said that Gideon had too many men. God wanted Israel to know that it was not the might of 32,000 men that saved Israel, but God Himself.
- Gideon with faith took only 300 men to war and saw a victory with the help of God



Barak- Hebrews 11: 32

- Barak reminds us, and what I think he seems to forget, is that God's divine call is always accompanied by His divine provision.
- God clearly calls Barak to take 10,000 men to go and attack Jabin's army, but Barak clearly doesn't do that. His response to Deborah is, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." He had little faith that God would accomplish what he said but he still trusted in God
- God is not going to call us to something that He will not also give us the means to accomplish it. God will always give us the means to do what He has called us to do



Samson- Hebrews 11: 32

- Samson was kept separate as a Nazarite through the faith of his parents but as he got older was unable to remain separated from the world
- He gave away his secret to a heathen and caused his death
- Samson, in one final act of faith in God, prays that God would strengthen him one last time. And God does. And Samson brings down that house upon all the men and women who were in it, and it says that “the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.”



Jephthah- Hebrews 11: 32

- Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and that he was used by God to secure victory over the Ammonites. Judges 11:32
- Because he did not seek God's will and made a vow he lost his daughter
- Even though he had weakness in his faith God was able to use him
- 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10



David- Hebrews 11: 32

- David was a man of great faith. God even called him “a man after my own heart.” 1 Samuel 13:14
- What made David’s relationship with God so amazing was his trust in God. One of the stories where we see that shine through is the story of David and Goliath.
- A second lesson from David’s life is how he dealt with failure; whenever a prophet came to correct him he would repent and not repeat the same mistakes
- When you are disciplined by God it is important that you allow that to be a learning process that draws you closer to God rather than allow it to drive you away from God. Hebrews 12:6-7



Samuel- Hebrews 11: 32

- Samuel's mom prayed many years with faith to have a child. We may pray for something for many years and never get a "yes" from God. It is important to remember that by faith we understand God's ways are higher than our own and so we accept whatever answer God gives us to our requests.
- Samuel with faith stood as a prophet for the people of Israel and led the people alongside the kings



Others- Hebrews 11: 33-40

- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- The Prophets
 - Jeremiah
 - Isaiah
- Esther
- The Disciples
- Apostle Paul
- The Early Church
 - All their persecutions
- and more...

