



**“FAITH”  
HEBREWS 11**

WHAT IS “FAITH?” WE TALK SO MUCH ABOUT IT AT CHURCH, BUT WHAT IS IT REALLY? THE CLEARST BIBLICAL ANSWER IS FOUND IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF HEBREWS, FOR THIS IS THE FAITH CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE. TWENTY-THREE TIMES THE WORD “FAITH” APPEARS IN THIS CHAPTER. THE WRITER OF HEBREWS WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT FAITH IN GENERAL BUT ABOUT A PARTICULAR KIND OF FAITH. THIS FAITH, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SAINTS OF GOD AND ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE OF JESUS, IS A FAITH WHICH PUTS US IN TOUCH WITH GOD AND ETERNITY.

**I. FAITH’S CHARACTER (V. 1)**

THE WRITER EXPRESSES HIS DEFINITION OF FAITH IN TWO PARALLEL AND ALMOST IDENTICAL PHRASES:

**A. THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR**

FAITH IS LIVING IN A HOPE THAT IS SO REAL IT GIVES ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE. TRUE FAITH IS NOT WISHFUL THINKING, BUT A CERTAINTY BASED ON THE CHARACTER OF GOD, WHO IS TRUE TO HIS PROMISES. FAITH PROVIDES THE FIRM GROUND ON WHICH WE STAND.

**B. THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN**

THIS STATEMENT CARRIES THE SAME TRUTH A BIT FURTHER BECAUSE IT IMPLIES A RESPONSE. THE PERSON OF FAITH LIVES OUT HIS BELIEF. HIS LIFE IS COMMITTED TO WHAT HIS MIND AND SPIRIT ARE CONVINCED IS TRUE.

**II. FAITH’S TESTIMONY (V. 2)**

THE WRITER OF HEBREWS NOT ONLY DESCRIBED WHAT FAITH IS; HE ALSO DECLARED WHAT FAITH DOES.

**A. FAITH CHOOSES.**

USING THE EXAMPLE OF MOSES IN V. 25, THE WRITER DECLARED THAT FAITH NOT ONLY DISCERNS THAT THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS---THE MATERIAL AND THE SPIRITUAL---BUT IT ALSO DELIBERATELY CHOOSES THE SPIRITUAL. FAITH OPTS FOR GOD. NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION, FAITH DECIDES FOR GOD AND HIS WAY.

**B. FAITH ACTS.**

NOTICE THE ACTIVE WORDS IN THIS CHAPTER. ABEL OFFERED (V. 4). ENOCH WALKED (V. 5). NOAH PREPARED (V. 7). ABRAHAM WENT (V. 8). FAITH NOT ONLY CHOOSES GOD, BUT IT GOES TO WORK FOR HIM. FAITH IS ACTIVE.

**C. FAITH ENDURES.**

BEGINNING IN VERSE 33, LIKE A FAST MOVING MOTION PICTURE, THE MANY ATTACKS ON FAITH ARE FLASHED BEFORE OUR EYES. BUT FAITH ENDURES THEM ALL, AND REMAINS FIRM TO THE END.

**III. FAITH’S UNDERSTANDING (V. 3)**

IN THIS VERSE, THE WRITER EXPLAINS TO THE JEWS WHO HAVE NOT YET TRUSTED CHRIST, THAT THEY HAVE A START TO A PROPER SAVING FAITH IN THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT GOD CREATED ALL THINGS. HE SIMPLY SAYS THAT BELIEF IN CREATION COMES ENTIRELY BY FAITH, AND THEN SO TOO, DOES BELIEF IN GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION AS IT IS REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS OUR CREATOR BY FAITH, AND WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR BY FAITH. FAITH COMPREHENDS WHAT THE MIND OF MAN CANNOT FATHOM. NO ONE CAN REALLY EXPLAIN HOW GOD CREATED ALL THINGS, IT IS ACCEPTED BY FAITH. ALSO, NO ONE CAN REALLY EXPLAIN HOW GOD COULD SAVE MANKIND THROUGH JESUS BECAUSE IT TOO, IS ACCEPTED BY FAITH. GOD’S GREATEST TRUTHS ARE DISCOVERED BY SIMPLE FAITH, AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM.  
FAITH IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD.