

LIVING FAITH I
What and Why?
Hebrews 11:1

INTRODUCTION

- A. Questions on faith:
 - 1. If I were to ask you to answer the question, “What is faith?” your answer might be:
 - a. Hebrews 11:1, 6
 - b. And you get it, Romans 10:17.
 - 2. But ask the question, “What role does it play in salvation?” you may get many different answers.
 - a. “I believe there is a God.”
 - b. “I think my faith is a personal thing between God and me.”
 - c. “I believe there are many different ways to get to God.”
- B. But what do we really know about faith?
 - 1. Let’s see what the Bible says about faith.
 - 2. And the role it plays in our life.

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. Hebrews 11:1
 - 1. *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*
 - 2. Alternate reading, *“Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we don’t see it.” Easy to Read Vers.*
 - 3. But to what “things” is he referring, when speaking of “things hoped for” and “things not seen”?
- B. “Things Hoped For”.
 - 1. Speaking of events yet to come. A forward look ahead.
 - 2. Much of the Christian life involves looking ahead.
 - a. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper, 1 Cor. 11:26.
 - i. The second coming of Christ, 1 Thess. 4:15-18.
 - ii. Come Lord Jesus, Revelation 22:20.
 - iii. Because of our confidence in Christ’s return, we live in obedience to Him and His Word, 2 Cor. 5:7; Romans 10:17.
 - b. It is faith in **ALL** of the promises of God.
 - i. Daily provision, Matthew 6:33.
 - ii. Belief in salvation for eternity, Revelation 2:10.
 - ii. Confidence He will never leave us, Heb. 13:5.
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- C. “Things Not Seen”.
 - 1. Not only the future, but also things in the past.
 - 2. This is a faith in those things revealed to us in God’s Word.
 - a. Creation of the world, Heb. 11:3.
 - i. Job 38:4-7
 - ii. Genesis 1:1, *“In the beginning God...”*
 - iii. Psalm 33:6, *“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.”*
 - iv. Romans 1:20
 - b. We were not present when Christ walked the earth, “but we believe”.

- i. John 20:30-31
- ii. Did not witness the crucifixion, resurrection or ascension. Mt. 27-28
- iii. We did not witness the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles. Acts 2

II. FAITH THAT LIVES.

A. A Faith That Is Seen.

- 1. Verse 2, *“For by it [faith] the men of old gained approval.”*
- 2. One does not know of the faith of another, just because he “believes”.
 - a. Claims to be a great mechanic, but until I **SEE**...
- 3. One can know of another’s faith because he hears of and sees living faith in action.

B. Examples of Living Faith.

- 1. Luke 5:18-20 – paralyzed friend healed when Jesus **SAW** their faith, vs. 20.
- 2. Luke 7:36-50 – Jesus **SAW** the faith of the woman, vs.48, 50.
- 3. Luke 8:22ff – Jesus **SAW** the lack of faith in the fear of the disciples.

C. Implications of a Living Faith.

- 1. Can a person be saved simply by *“accepting Christ as his Savior”* in the privacy of his own living room and be saved?
- 2. Can the belief of *“once saved, always saved”* be accepted in light of the instruction to Christians to live a faith that is seen? James 2:14-17
- 3. You can say that you believe in things hoped for and things not seen, but until you actively obey the One who authored these things, your belief will be of no value in saving your soul.
 - a. John 1:12, gave the right to become...

III. WHY FAITH IN JEHOVAH?

A. Many Objects of Worship.

- 1. There are many things, people and “deities” which have become objects of worship.
- 2. The Egyptians (Moses) worshipped bulls, the sun, the Nile River, etc.
- 3. The Apostle Paul preached to residents in Athens regarding their many gods, Acts 17:22-23.
- 4. Today, people worship money, fame, earthly power, even themselves.

B. But What Does the Bible Say?

- 1. Psalm 9:10
- 2. Psalm 125:1-2
- 3. Jeremiah 17:7-8
- 4. John 11:25
- 5. Romans 5:1

CLOSING

A. Faith in God through Jesus Christ.

- 1. John 20:30-31
- 2. Acts 4:12
- 3. Philippians 2:8-11
- 4. Mark 16:16
- 5. But will He find faith in you? Luke 18:8