

Hebrews

Chapter Eleven

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Eleven

SUMMARY: Verses 1-40

1. Faith is a requirement to pleasing God.
2. Everything about God finds its foundation in faith.
3. Probably one of the most well known verses in the bible is "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
4. if we have faith, then we know for sure that everything we're hoping for and dreaming of will eventually come true. Even though we can't see the path ahead of us, faith tells us the road will be a smooth one.
5. All the stars of the Hebrew Bible had faith, the author tells us. Paul gives a list of names and life examples of faith prove his point: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets, and martyrs. Basically a who's-who of the faithful.
6. Every person listed in this HALL OF FAME is another characteristic defining authentic faith. Each person's story is equated with believing coupled with works. In short, faith produces obedience.
7. Again, Paul list all of these shining examples of faith to make one great point. All these people believed in God but never had what you and I have: Jesus. For them it was a promised work - yet they believed. For us it is a finished work - will you believe?
8. They believed without seeing and stayed the course based on a future promise. Will you believe without seeing based on a finished work that is a guarantee of things to come?

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Which story of faith means the most to you?
3. Can you identify with any of the people listed in the Hall of Fame?
4. How do you think these heroes of faith stayed the course having only a promise?
5. Explain the difference between "a future promise and a finished work".
6. Why do you think it is impossible to please God without faith?

APPLICATION

1. Take time to read the life story of the hero of faith you most identify with.
2. Make a list of circumstances in your life that are similar in the story.
3. Make a faith confession every day that will challenge you to stay the course even when it seems hopeless.
4. You can't have faith without hope. What are some things you are hopeful for right now? In any circumstance it's easy to lose hope. So don't focus on the negative. Stay hopeful.
5. Determine a circumstance you are facing now which may be causing you trouble. Now make a list of hope statements concerning this situation. Confess these 'hope statements' every day.

