

In These Last Days – The Message of Hebrews
#11- Jesus, Author and Perfecter of Our Faith

Hebrews 10:35–39, Rom 1:17, Hebrews 11, Josh 2:9–11, Hebrews 12:1–3.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” .

The Righteous Will Live by Faith

Hebrews 10:35–39 (NKJV) ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith;** But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. **Hab 2:3, 4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11**

Romans 1:17 (NKJV) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Hebrews 12:12 (NKJV) Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

Eyes are the sense through which we see the world. Christians see the world through faith.

Hebrews 11:1–3 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Psalm 33:6, 9 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth ... For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

- String theory is the idea in theoretical physics that reality is made up of infinitesimal vibrating strings, smaller than atoms, electrons or quarks.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- It does not say that it is *difficult* to please God without faith. He says that it is impossible.
- Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.
- Unbelief puts our circumstance between us and God, but faith puts God between us and our circumstances. -- F.B. Meyer

Hebrews 4:1-2 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith ...

Wrong Faith James 2:19 (NKJV) You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Mark 1:23–24 (NKJV) Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

Hebrews 11 now we enter Holy Ground...

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, serves as the central point of the history of baseball in the United States and displays baseball-related artifacts and exhibits, honoring those who have excelled in the sport. Among fans, "Hall of Fame" means the pantheon of players, managers, umpires, executives, and pioneers who have been inducted into the Hall.

Football Hall of Fame – Tennis Hall of Fame

Aviation Hall of Fame To Induct 8 Oklahomans - George E. Batchelor; Published: Sun, October 27, 1996 12:00 AM

Able, Abraham, Barak, Daniel, David, Gideon, Jephthah, Jesus Christ, Joseph, Moses, Noah, Rahab, Samson, Samuel

Hebrews 11:4–7 (NKJV) By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

The main object of the Epistle was to keep those Jews who had accepted Christ from apostatizing from the Christian religion. They were suffering trials and persecution. The principle means of securing them from apostasy was “faith,” and with this in mind it goes into an extended account of its nature and effects, occupying this entire chapter. (**Faith mentioned 25 times in chapter**)

By Faith, Abraham . . .

Hebrews 11:8–10 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Abraham is probably the most important character in this chapter.

Hebrews 11:16 (NKJV) *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

Mark 8:38 (NKJV) *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

- “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man’s power ends.” George Muller.
- A weak faith is weakened by predicaments and catastrophes whereas a strong faith is strengthened by them. - Victor Frankl

Moses: Believing in the Unseen

Hebrews 11:20–28 [Read] (NKJV) *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.... ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

We All Have Faith. Romans 12:3 *God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* Cross walk. Canned food. Potluck.

How do we Get More Faith? Romans 10:17 (NKJV) *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- **Faithless Christianity is the great obstacle to the world’s conversion.** We must even believe in the existence of the Devil to some extent. We can’t see germs but to stay healthy we better believe in them.

By Faith, Rahab and the Rest . . .

Hebrews 11:30–31 (NKJV) *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.* Paul ends his lineup with Rahab, a Gentile.

Joshua 2:8–11 (NKJV) *Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: “I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*

James 2:25–26 (NKJV) *Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

James 2:14-26 ...faith without works is dead...

- “Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” -- Will Rogers

There really is no conflict between faith and works. In the Christian life they go together like inhaling and exhaling. Faith is taking the Gospel in; works is letting the Gospel out. Actually, what James is saying is: you can’t have one without the other.

Hebrews 11:32 *And what more shall I say?* Read remaining verses.

Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith

Galatians 3:26 (NKJV) *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NKJV) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*