

Faith
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
January 24, 2009

What is faith?

Hebrews 11

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - 1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (NIV)
 - 1 Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. (ASV)
 - 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction (**a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested**) of things not seen. (RSV)
 - 1 And faith is of things hoped for a **confidence**, of matters not seen a conviction (**a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested**), (YLT)
- 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.

We don't even think twice about the results - we assume things will react in a certain manner. We have no doubts!

When we walk into a room and touch the light switch, we expect the light to turn on. We have no doubts and are, in fact, disappointed if the light does not come on. We assume something is wrong.

Why don't we have that type of faith in God? We should expect the result, and only IF it doesn't happen should we examine what is wrong.

Instead, we have doubts that the result we should expect will happen and seem to be surprised if it does happen.

- 4 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

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- 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.
 - He does not reward those who are striving for the reward - He rewards those who seek to follow Him!
 - Our efforts mean nothing if we are out of sync with His will!
 - 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.
 - To build an ark when it is not raining takes a lot of faith!
 - It reminds me of the lazy man with a hole in his roof
 - He can't fix it when it is raining
 - When it's not raining, it doesn't need fixing
 - 8 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.
 - Genesis 12
 - 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.
 - 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
 - 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - 4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
 - Abram just left

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- Abram didn't question the direction
- He didn't question where he was going
- He didn't question whether it was a good move or not
- He simply believed God would take care of him and provide for him
- 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's faith included looking for the city, the New Jerusalem, described in Revelation 21
- 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.
 - Abraham's faith regarding the birth of Isaac was
- 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
 - These elders only received a partial fulfillment of the 'promise'.

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- 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.
- 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- 16 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.
- 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,
- 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be

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called,"

- 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
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 - Abraham exhibited his faith when he offered up Isaac
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- 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
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 - When the blessing was given, there was no doubt that it would be carried out
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- 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.
- 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.
- 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.
- 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.
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- 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
- 32 And what more shall I say?
 - o How many examples do we need before we truly believe and have the faith written of by the OT writers?