

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

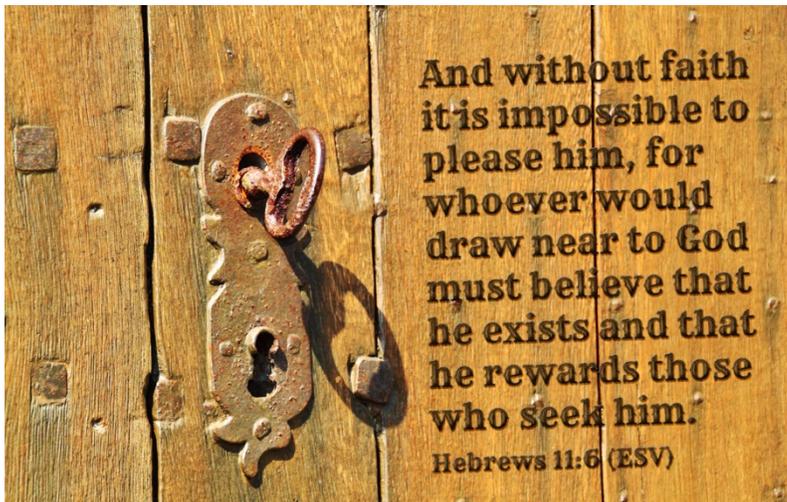
JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD

27 March 2022

Chapter 11:4-22

Verse of the Day:

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
(Hebrews 11:6)



Review: Who, What, When, Where, & Why?

What's Going On Here

Hebrews 11 is one of the more exciting chapters in the Bible. The heroes of Scripture are gathered here in the "Hall of Faith." We are introduced to the "greats" of the Old Testament, who remind us to remain strong in faith in Jesus Christ. But, lest we begin to think that only the "greats" of history are included in this hall, we are also introduced to those who remain anonymous. They are included because they endured all things through their trust in God, who had called them into the faith. ...

Faith is the chief characteristic of the people of God. They live on the promises of God and apply them to their lives in order to know stability and grow to maturity. Heroes don't arrive on the scene full-grown either. They grow up and mature as they exercise their faith. All of their lives are based on their belief in the existence of God, the attributes of God, and His unfailing promises. You can count on this. You, too, are that special person whom God is preparing to enter into that great hall of heaven, where He gathers all those who have believed in Him and have rested on the hope He gives. ¹

By Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is

v3: c.f. Genesis 1:1-3 & John 1:1-3

v4: c.f. Genesis 4:3-7

v5: c.f. Genesis 5:21-24

¹ Kramin, Howard (1997). *God's Word for Today: Hebrews* (p. 82-83). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only.

<p>impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who <u>seek him</u>. ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.</p> <p>⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, <u>living in tents</u> with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to <u>the city</u> that has foundations, whose <u>designer</u> and <u>builder</u> is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was <u>past the age</u>, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.</p> <p>¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his <u>only son</u>, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.</p>	<p>v6: impossible to please God, c.f. John 15:1–5</p> <p>v6: seek him → focus on continuous action</p> <p>v7: In the case of Noah, the immediate benefit was tied to faith. God could have destroyed the wicked in any way he chose, but he turned the flood itself into an example of benefit through faith. How does this example demonstrate a similar lesson in Baptism?</p> <p>v8: c.f. Genesis 12:1–3</p> <p>v9-10: What is the difference between tents & a city with foundations? Why does the author of Hebrews point out that Abraham and his kids lived in tents?</p> <p>v10: designer & builder → craftsman/artisan & worker</p> <p>v11: Sarah was 90 yrs old (c.f. Genesis 15; 18:9–14; 21:5)</p> <p>v13: What comfort is it to point out that they died in faith, not having received the things promised?</p> <p>v17: c.f. James 2:20–25</p> <p>v17: only son – “<i>monogenēs</i> ≈ “unique” or “special”</p> <p>v22: What promise did Joseph base this faith upon?</p>
---	--