

Sovereign Grace Church
“The Life of Faith” outline
April 2, 2017

Hebrews 11: 1-3

As we return to our study of Hebrews we begin one of the most famous chapters in the Bible. The Faith chapter of Hebrews 11. Faith is central to Christianity and the Christian life. Without it we have no hope of pleasing God. Yet it is important to remember that it is not faith per se that is crucial. As we will see, everyone must utilize faith in order to live. It is the object of the faith which is so fundamental to what kind of life is lived.

We have been created to live a life dependent on God and His Word. Yet, God cannot be seen. We cannot put Him under a microscope or gaze upon His being via even an infinitely powerful telescope. The only way that God can be “seen” is through faith. Faith is determining to live on the authoritative basis of that which cannot be seen. However, it is not the same as living on the basis of what cannot be known. Many things can be known which we cannot see....ourselves, thoughts, feelings etc.

Faith is merely the eyes by means of which we see the glories of the unseen Reality which undergirds and supports all that we do see & determine to live life on that basis. Such a life honors God and directly challenges the world which denies Him. It is indeed a life dancing on a razor's edge. The closer we walk with God the more we challenge the unseen forces of darkness. Yet at the same time, the more confident & joyful in this dance we become. The Christian's life of faith in Jesus is the world's most serious challenge. You will not go unnoticed! Nor unblessed!

Hebrews 10: 36-39; Habakkuk 2: 3-4

1. What is faith? v. 1

- **Faith and the Faith II Tim. 4: 7; Rom. 3: 21-22**

- **Elements of Faith Isa. 43: 10**

- **Faith is the *substance of things hoped for.***

- **Faith is the *evidence of things not seen.***
II Cor. 5: 17; Jn 17: 21

2. What is the testimony of faith? v.2
Heb. 11: 6

3. What are the fruits of faith? v. 3

- The Word in Creation Jn. 1: 1-3; Heb. 1: 1-2
- The Materialists dilemma
- Thick and Thin

Matt. 28: 18-20

Questions for Discussion

1. How would you define “faith” in your own words? How does faith relate to knowledge? Reason? Works? Can you have faith and doubt at the same time? Compare Thomas in Jn. 20: 24-29 with 13: 9-11. Was Thomas “clean” when he doubted? Have you ever struggled with doubts concerning spiritual things? Is it better to hide our doubts from God or to entrust Him with them?
2. In what ways has your life over the past few days been different because of your living by faith in Christ? What decisions did you make that would have been made differently apart from Him? How does your faith in Jesus impact your seeking a spouse? Vocation? Church?
3. If you became President of the U. S. how would your faith in Christ make a difference? Is living as a Christian an impeachable offense? [Note: Living as a Christian entails holding your spiritual beliefs as public knowledge....not mere personal opinion.] Wouldn't it be nice to find out?!
4. Have you ever sought the world's honor over Christ's? Is it necessarily wrong to be honored by the world? Can you give examples of faithful Christians who have been honored by the world in the Bible? History? Today? In terms of priorities, how did Paul rank his worldly honors with the honor of serving Christ (Phil. 3: 4-8).