

Hebrews Bible Study Chapter 11

Models of Faith

Hebrews 11

Probably no subject is so glibly misunderstood as faith. Nearly everyone professes to have some of it. Many people would like to have more.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Complete the sentence: “Faith is. . .”

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Pretend you are making a spreadsheet of your faith account. What are What are your assets? your liabilities? What is the bottom line today?

The writer to the Hebrews takes faith out of religious theory and clothes it with flesh and blood. The author does this with what we today call role models. These models inspire us to go on believing in Jesus. The writer gives an awesome array of examples of faith recorded in Scripture. Read Hebrews 11.

1. How can you be sure of your hopes and be certain of what you can't see (v. 1)?
2. What else does faith enable us to do (vv. 3, 6)?
3. Look for both assured confidence and calm expectation (v. 1) in the role models of faith in this chapter. How did Abel, Enoch and Noah express their faith (vv. 4-7)?
4. Considering the foolishness of Abraham's choices by human standards, what do you think his emotions were like (vv. 8-10)?

In what way would his hope for “the city without foundations” enable him to endure?

5. What unseen certainties have guided you in making fundamental, life-changing decisions?
6. What subtle irony about the power of faith comes out in verse 12?
7. How does the promise of a heavenly country help us to keep our faith, even when we don't see our hopes fulfilled immediately (vv. 13-16)?
8. Why do you think Abraham's faith triumphed when he was asked to give up Isaac (vv. 17-19)?
9. How would you compare the faith of the named heroes and heroines who achieved greatness (vv. 20-35) with those unnamed persons who suffered grievously (vv. 35-38)?
10. Some Christians believe that faith always leads to material and physical blessing. What does this passage tell you about the role of both blessing and suffering for the faithful?
11. In tough circumstances, what connection do you make between your faith and the certainty of resurrection (v. 35)?
12. What has God enabled you to do through faith?

Thank God for each person he has used in your life to help you to faith in Christ.

Now or Later

Make your own contemporary list of heroes and heroines of faith. Why are they included? What part did they play in your life? Can you be a model of faith to someone else? How?