



Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Sometimes we leave the impression that having been saved by faith, the rest of life is up to us. Not so! The same faith that saves us is the faith that carries us from day to day as we make the journey from earth to heaven. The whole Christian life is a life of faith. We are saved by faith, kept by faith, and we walk by faith, endure by faith, ... all that we do, we do by faith.

### Faith Described – Hebrews 11

#### 1) Faith ... In Search of a Definition ... Hebrews 11

- a. these individuals are widely separated by time and space ... they are joined by one common factor: What they did, **they did by faith**.
- b. living by faith often meant moving against the prevailing tide of **public opinion**.
- c. the life of faith is **more common** than we think.

#### 2) What then is Faith?

- a. Faith **believes** what others do not **believe**.
- b. Faith **sees** what others do not **see**.
- c. Faith **does** what others do not **do**.

#### 3) Faith Illustrated ... 11:24-27

#### 4) Faith Applied

- a. Faith is not a **feeling** but a conscious choice to believe what God has said.
- b. Faith **acts** even in the face of doubt and opposition.
- c. Faith sees **opportunity** while others see none.

### 3 Conclusion about those who live by faith ...

- 1) They will see great **triumphs** and endure great **trials**.
- 2) They will be **misunderstood** by the world.
- 3) They will be **glad** they did what they did in the end.

1. In 5 words or less ... describe God. Why did you choose those words? How do you know that what you said about God is true?

2. Read the following verses about faith ... What do these verses tell us about faith?

Ephesians 2:8-9	Proverbs 3:5-6	Hebrews 11:1
James 2:19	Romans 10:17	Hebrews 11:6
1 Corinthians 2:5	James 1:5-8	Luke 1:37

3. Read the top paragraph on the sermon notes. "All that we do, we do by faith." What does that mean? How do we utilize faith in our everyday life? How does faith affect the decisions we make? How does faith affect the way we do relationships? How does faith affect the way we do our work or school?

4. Is it possible to "believe in God" and still not go to heaven? Why or why not? Look back at James 2:19 and reconsider this question? What is the difference between the belief of the devil and the faith of a person who is saved?

5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.

- a. How does a person who struggles with doubts get faith and grow strong in faith?
- b. Since God's promises are given in specific contexts, how can we know which of them apply to us now?
- c. Why is it important to affirm that faith is not a work that gains God's merit? How do rewards fit in with faith?
- d. Why is the doctrine of creation as revealed in God's word crucial for knowing Him and for the Christian life?