

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Seeing The Unseen"
Hebrews 11:1-3
Study-24

The word "Faith" occurs 24X in this chapter.

The Thought Of Our Passage: "Faith Accepts God's Word; Faith Wins God's Approval; And Faith Recognizes God's Power."

1. Verse 1 – Faith Accepts God's Word

2. Verse 2 – Faith Wins God's Approval

3. Verse 3 – Faith Recognizes God's Power

1. Verse 1 – Faith Accepts God's Word:

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is" – The Context: Hebrews 10:32-39 – "Our Enduring Confidence."
Hebrews 10:39

The Theme of Hebrews is "Move On To Maturity", Hebrews 6:1.

Hebrews 10:22-25 – there are 3 exhortations dealing with Faith, Hope and Love: Hebrews 11 – Faith; Hebrews 12 – Hope; Hebrews 13 – Love.

Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is": This is not a Definition of faith but a Description of what faith does and how it works. (Nature and quality of true faith)

Abel – offered, Noah – prepared, Abraham – offered, Moses – left Egypt.

The word for "Faith" is used in Scripture in several different ways:

- **The Faith (Christianity)** – The sum of what Christians believe. The body of truth; the essential beliefs of Christianity. 1 Timothy 1:2

Jude 1:3

- **Faith (Justification)** – That Results In Righteousness – Romans 3:22

Romans 5:1

- **Faith (Is Born And Nurtured From God's Word)** – Faith comes from hearing the Word proclaimed – Romans 10:17

True Bible Faith Involves Revelation – “The Word Of God”: The God we know is the God who speaks.

Hebrews 1:1-2

This is one of the basic themes of Hebrews – it is that God has spoken.

Hebrews 12:25

What is True Bible Faith? – “confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of feelings, circumstances, and consequences.”

“In Faith” – God speaks and we hear His Word. We trust His Word and act on it no matter what the circumstances are or what the consequences may be. The circumstances may be impossible, and the consequences frightening and unknown, but we obey God’s Word just the same and believe Him to do what is right and what is best.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith Is The Foundation Of Things Hoped For: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,” – the word “assurance” (substance) “a setting or placing under, substructure, foundation, that which is firm” or “the title-deed of things hoped for.”

This Assurance Is Objective Truth – Hebrews 1:3

This Assurance Is Subjective Truth – Hebrews 3:14

True Biblical Faith Involves Relationship – A Walk With God.

Relationship With God Should Have As Its Goal To Please God: Heb 11:6

Relationship Is Fellowship With God: Able – found at the altar, Enoch – walked with God, Samuel – heard God’s voice as a child.

Relationship Is Seeking God – Heb 11:6

John 4:23

True Biblical Faith Involves A Response – doing the will of God.

Abraham – at the age of 75 left the security of his home and relatives and went to the place that God would show him.

Faith Is The Proof Of Things Not Seen: "the conviction of things not seen." – The term "conviction" – proof or evidence – This is the inward conviction from God that what He has promised, He will perform. The presence of God-given faith in one's heart is conviction enough that He will keep His Word.

God speaks and we hear His Word. We trust His Word and act on it no matter what the circumstances are or what the consequences may be.

2. Verse 2 – Faith Wins God's Approval:

Hebrews 1:2

"For by it the men of old" – "the fathers, the saints of the O.T." Hebrews 1:1

"gained approval." – They literally "were witnessed"; (KJV "obtained a good report") The word "Witness" is the same word. Human Observation!

Most importantly God bore witness that their faith was genuine.

Hebrews 11:4-5

True Bible Faith Involves Reward – the witness of God: Heb 11:6

Hebrews 11:39

The Summary Of The Hall Of Faith – Hebrews 12:1

1 John 5:9-10

We Must Have Both Objective Truth And Subjective Truth.

Objective Truth, 2 Timothy 2:15

Subjective Truth – Need for God to speak to the heart! It must be supported by Scripture.

3. Verse 3 – Faith Recognizes God's Power:

Hebrews 11:3

"By faith we understand" – "inward perception and apprehension of the visible creation as the work of God, which follows the sight of the phenomena of nature," Romans 1:20.

John 7:17

“that the worlds” – “ages”; not so much the material creation but the world in the sense of time.

“were prepared” – “to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange”; “by the word of God,” – Faith looks backward as well as forward. A genuine faith produces a genuine knowledge.

Hebrews 1:2-3

Genesis 1:1

Job 38:4

(NLT) Hebrews 11:3 – “By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.”

Application:

1. Faith Accepts God’s Word – Confident Obedience To God’s Word In Spite Of Feelings, Circumstances, And Consequences.
2. Faith Wins God’s Approval – There Was Human Observation, But Most Important, God Bore Witness That Their Faith Was Genuine.
3. Faith Recognizes God’s Power – Faith Enables Us To See What Others Cannot See. As A Result, Faith Enables Us To Do What Others Cannot Do.