



# A NEW AND BETTER WAY



## A STUDY IN HEBREWS

### WEEK FIVE: A BETTER WALK OF FAITH (2)

#### Read Hebrews 12

To help us further understand this better walk of faith, Hebrews 12 develops two aspects of our faith: **FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH** and **STEADFASTNESS OF FAITH**.

There are those who think that verse one of this chapter refers to the people who have died in the faith and are looking down on us. However, the very first word '**Therefore**', indicates that this is following on from chapter 11. The books of the Bible were not divided into chapters until around AD 1227 when the Archbishop of Canterbury put them into place. The first published edition with these was the Wycliffe Bible of 1382. Since then, most Bible translations have followed these chapter divisions.

So, when a chapter begins with the word '*therefore*', it is indicating that it is following on from what was previously written, in this case, chapter 11.

When the Bible uses '*therefore*' it is like we would nowadays say 'so'. If a chapter begins with the word '*therefore*', it is indicating that it is continuing what had previously written, in this case, chapter 11, and is not a new beginning. So, it follows that the '*great cloud of witnesses*' refers to the heroes of faith who are listed in chapter 11.

- If you were to pick out 'heroes of faith' past or present, whom would you choose?
- Do we think those mentioned in chapter 11 are more important than present-day heroes?
- What is the difference between the two groups?

Whilst researching this topic, I came across this definition of faith:

***"Faith puts you "in Christ" where you are completely safe, even if you are full of fear; assurance is the joy and peace that comes from knowing that in Christ***

*you are completely safe. Your eternal safety does not rest on the degree of peace and joy you experience in your Christian life.”*

- How does a ‘full assurance of faith’ compare with what the Old Testament heroes were able to receive?

Many times, we use ‘Christian’ terminology without fully understanding what it means.

- What do you understand this definition to mean to Christians in general?
- What do you think it means in relation to you?
- Do we expect our lives *should* run smoothly if we have committed ourselves to Jesus?
- How do you cope with disappointment and fear?
- Verse 6 tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. How do we develop our faith and how important is it that we do so?

The second aspect of this better walk of faith is **STEADFASTNESS OF FAITH**.

The website *Words for a season* says:

*Being steadfast means: **trusting the truth of God's Word over the say of any man.***

*Being steadfast also means:*

- **“Being rooted and grounded in the Word throughout any season or circumstance”**
- **“Being firmly fixed in place: IMMOVABLE**

***The measure of your steadfastness is proven over time. Being steadfast for the Lord means daily following Him and His leading step by step in small, seemingly unimportant ways - planting seeds, showing love, and showing up each day.”***

***Ephesians 4:14:*** We must **no** longer be children, **tossed** to and fro and blown about by **every wind of doctrine**, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

Let us think about what this means for us:

- Do we trust God’s word over that of any man? Explain what that means for you.
- How do we become ‘rooted and grounded’, immovable?

- How does Ephesians 4:14 fit into that?
- The definition of steadfastness: planting seeds, showing love, and showing up each day, seems at first to be easy. How these might be developed in our Christian walk.

*Read Luke 9:51-53*

- This links with *Isaiah 50:7*. What does this tell us about Jesus?
- The well-known Gospel song says: *I have decided to follow Jesus ... No turning back, no turning back.* Have we made that decision?

These are some scriptures for us to think about:

[Luke 14:33](#) So, therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

[Matthew 10:38](#) And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

[Galatians 2:20](#) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

[Luke 9:57-62](#) As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ...

"He never promised that the cross would not get heavy  
 And the hill would not be hard to climb  
 He never offered our victories without fighting  
 But He said help would always come in time  
 So just remember when you're standing in the valley of decision  
 And the adversary says give in  
 Just hold on, our Lord will show up  
 And He will take you through the fire again."

**Father God, strengthen our faith that we**

**might never give up, that we will be  
steadfast to the end.**

