



A NEW AND BETTER WAY



A STUDY IN HEBREWS

WEEK FOUR: A BETTER WALK OF FAITH

Read Hebrews 10:19 to 11:40

Knowing about the importance of Christ has life-changing implications for our lives. The verses of chapter 10 call us to the practical issues of what that means to us - having faith and hope and living by it. Note the significance of mutual support in verses 23-25. There are many other quotable sayings in what the writer describes, but the need to persevere and build onwards (not shrinking back - verse 39), takes us to a further examination of what faith means in chapter 11.

The first two verses of chapter 11 speak volumes about this better way and walk of faith. When we look back to Abraham who had no scriptures, no one, and nothing except (to a great extent), an unknown God to direct and speak to him. For us, in the 21st century, it is hard to comprehend the world in which Abraham lived. And yet. We have this in common, each of us must walk by faith.

[2 Corinthians 5:7](#) tells us we must walk by faith and not by sight. This may sound strange, but it is what Abraham did. He went out, not knowing where he was going. We don't know how God communicated this to Abraham (or Abram as he then was), but he must have been convinced to uproot all his family and set off on the journey.

- Have we experienced God speaking to us?
- How did he communicate with us?
- Did we act on what he said?

Remember what the first verse of chapter 11 tells us: "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen.*"

- How would you explain this to someone?
- How do we develop our faith?
- [Read Romans 10:17](#). Does this answer the question?
- What then is the major difference between us and Abraham?

Hebrews 11 lists how *the heroes of faith*, as they are often called, earned inclusion in this chapter. (Not that it is a list of everyone who walked by faith.)

- What was the outcome of Abraham's faith?

Verse 22 talks about Joseph who when he was dying, talked about the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. He had suffered much but because of his faith and trust in God, achieved much.

- How does Joseph demonstrate his faith?

Verses 23-29 Moses, the man whom God used to deliver the Israelites from Egypt is listed.

- What do you think was his most important achievement?

Gideon, Samson, David, and Samuel are all mentioned in this chapter

Verses 4-7 take us back to the beginning in Genesis, describing how Abel's sacrifice was offered in faith as opposed to that of Cain. Of Enoch who walked so closely with God that he didn't suffer death because 'God took him', it says that he pleased God. *Verse 6* tells us: *"So you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."*

- Is this what we believe? Are you able to think of occasions when you have stepped out in faith?

Verse 7 *"It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God who warned him about something that had never happened before. By faith, he condemned the rest of the world and was made right in God's sight."* (NLT). Sometimes, stepping out in faith can look very stupid but if you are certain it is from God, then do it.

Two others who are not mentioned here but showed remarkable faith were Daniel and Esther. In *Daniel 1* we learn about Daniel and his three friends. *Verse 8* says that Daniel who was a devout follower of God, made up his mind not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. The chief official was to say the least, extremely alarmed as he would be blamed if Daniel and his friends became pale and thin, compared to the other youths. However, Daniel used wisdom to ask to do this by saying the officials could check their progress against the other young men. Of course, the four young men proved to be far healthier than all the rest.

- Is there a lesson for us to learn from this?

A very brief mention is made in [Hebrews 11:30-31](#) of the prostitute Rahab, whom God used to save the spies Joshua had sent into Jericho. God had promised ([Joshua 6](#)), that she would be saved when the walls of Jericho came down – another remarkable example of faith.

- What does this tell us about God?

And lastly, for this study, we will mention Esther, not listed here, but whose faith in God was remarkable. To save her people, the Jews, she went into the King's presence, uninvited. Normally that would mean death, but the King held out his sceptre to her, granting her permission to make her request. Because she was willing to lose her life, she instead saved the Jews from annihilation. ([Read Esther](#))

The message here is found in verses [39 and 40 of Hebrews 11](#):

All these people we have mentioned received God's approval because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had far better things in mind for us that would also benefit them, for they can't receive the prize at the end of the race until we finish the race.

What a privilege to know about the better walk of faith obtained through the death of Jesus on the cross.



Prayer:

Help us at all times to walk by faith and not by the things we see or understand. May we at all times, see Jesus. Amen