

Hebrews Bible Study

Hebrews 11:1-16

Perseverance by Faith

Outline

1. Introduction: How can you persevere?
 - A. Danger – Falling away/unbelief
 - B. You must persevere to the end
 - C. Faith is the answer
2. What faith is (Hebrews 11:1)
 - A. Faith has to have an object
 - B. Our hope
 - a. Jesus
 - b. God's New Covenant promises
 - c. We don't see it all yet
3. The lineage of those of persevere by faith (Hebrews 11:2)
 - A. God includes us in the lineage
 - B. God's people have always persevered by faith
 - C. The story points forward to Jesus, the ultimate man of faith
4. The story begins (Hebrews 11:3-12)
 - A. Creation
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
 - B. Abel
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
 - C. Enoch
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
 - D. Noah
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
 - E. Abraham
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
 - F. Sarah
What do you learn about faith/God/his promises?
5. Faith in what we do not see – our heavenly country (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - A. Suffering as strangers on Earth
 - B. God's promise to prepare a place for us
 - C. We live drastically different lives
6. Conclusion – Strengthened by faith to persevere

To Discuss Next Week

1. Faith has to have an object. In Hebrews 11:1, the author says the object of our faith is “what we hope for” and “what we do not see.”
 - In your own words, who/what is the object of our faith? The author is really expecting you to know what our hope is from what we’ve already read. So I encourage you to re-read chapters 6-10 to find the answer.
 - What else do you learn about who God is, what he is like, and what his promises are from Hebrews 11:1-16?
 - How does this increase your assurance and confidence?
2. In the story of Cain and Abel, we saw that true faith leads to good works/good fruit, but also that a seemingly “good work” can have a root of unbelief and ultimately lead to great evil/bad fruit. What is your understanding of what Scripture teaches about the relationship of faith to good works?
3. It is easy to see faith itself as a meritorious work, rather than dependence upon God and his promises. What do you tell yourself to overcome this tendency? Is there something in the book of Hebrews (or somewhere else in Scripture) that helps you?
4. Hebrews 11 lists various aspects or elements of faith. For example, vs. 6 teaches that faith believes God exists and vs. 13 teaches that faith admits we are strangers on earth.
 - This week, look through chapter 11:1-16 and list all of the aspects or elements of faith that you can find. Feel free to do the whole chapter if you are on a roll!
 - Now that you see them altogether, what jumps out to you and why?
5. Hebrews 11 also lists what faith accomplishes. For example, vs. 4 teaches that by faith Abel still speak and vs. 7 says that by faith Sarah was able to bear a child.
 - This week, look through chapter 11:1-16 and list all of the things that faith accomplishes. Feel free to do the whole chapter if you are on a roll.
 - Now that you see them all, what jumps out to you and why?
6. One major lesson we learn from Hebrews 11 is that God’s people not only begin by faith, but they continue to live by faith. How does that truth impact and change your thinking?
7. What difference does it make to realize that, no matter how weak your faith may be, you are counted in the lineage of those who are “of faith”?
8. Being reminded that of who God is and that he is faithful to keep his promises encouraged me, Laurie, and Simon. How has it encouraged you?