

Jesus Christ - The Author and Finisher of Our Faith in the Book of Hebrews (Part 3 - Chapters 11-13)

Meeting 6

I thank the Father for the preparation of this conference. In spending time in fellowship with the Father and with the Lord concerning the things in the Word, the Spirit begins to enlighten me and to speak. It is hard to explain, but He is real; He is the living God. We are not talking to an idol or to the wall, but we are having fellowship with the living God. John said, “...our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3), and this fellowship is through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Our God is real – that is really wonderful! And the Bible is the most wonderful book because it is the living God’s speaking to mankind; it shows us His very purpose.

Hebrews 11 tells us of all these wonderful patriarchs who experienced the living God in such a living way. You cannot make up a story like Abraham’s – it was his living experience of how God led him step by step and kept His promise. And through this one man the whole nation of Israel was built up. It is all written in the Bible. It is history; you cannot lie about it. All these wonderful people in this chapter are witnesses that this wonderful God is a living God! They lived in the time of the old covenant days. We are supposed to be living in the new covenant. Which one is better? The new covenant because the word says it’s a better covenant (Heb. 8:6). That means in the new covenant we need to experience even more concerning this living God because He is living in us.

Right from the beginning, Hebrews tell us that our God is a speaking God (Heb. 1:1-2). How often do you hear His speaking? By experiencing Christ as the offerings, many of you have started to listen to the inward

speaking of the Holy Spirit. A sister said that she just wanted to go to bed and prepare for the children's meeting in the morning; but the Lord spoke to her: "Why do you spend so much time preparing for your presentation at work, but in serving God, you think it is okay to wait until the morning?" Our God is a speaking God. Because if He doesn't speak to you, there is no faith in you. Our faith within us reacts to the living God's speaking. When family members or saints come to our home, we always speak with one another. That's how we get to know each other better and deeper. How are you going to know God – just by believing He exists? No, you know God by His wonderful word that speaks to you; then you react to His speaking in your spirit, the spirit of faith. Through this reaction you experience reality. That is why there is this definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1, "*Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" What are you hoping for? And how do you know what to hope for? Hope in the Word of God! God's Word is living and real, not just some words written down. Then the Lord will give you the evidence of things not seen. Remember this wonderful definition of faith. It is wonderful because it is the faith of God. I have to repeat this many times, not just to you but also to myself. This wonderful faith is the power of God in His speaking that speaks things into being. When God says it, it will happen. The whole universe is created by His speaking, can you imagine that? Can you call something into being just by speaking it? You don't have that power; you don't have that divine ability – it belongs to God. In Genesis 1, everything that was created at that time was created by His powerful word. That is why the Gospel of John says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*" (John 1:1) because it is the speaking of God. Speaking is very meaningful – whatever is in you comes out through speaking. If you don't speak, I wouldn't know anything about you. Our God is a speaking God.

Moses, who had seen the burning bush and heard the speaking of God, asked to see God's face. But God told him, "*You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live*" (Exod. 33:18-20). We cannot see God because we are sinners. He is the most holy God, the most high God. Can you just walk in and demand to see the President in the White House? No. And with the living God, do you think you can see Him and live? No one can see God. But the Lord Jesus Christ became flesh and

expressed the glory of God. This is one of the reasons why the Lord Jesus became a Man – He came to express God. He told people, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”* (John 14:9b) and *“I and My Father are one”* (John 10:30). John 1:18 says, *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”* He came to express the Father’s glory, *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (John 1:14). So, if you want to know God, first you must know the Word, which became flesh in the wonderful person of the Lord Jesus. Through Him we can know the Father. That is why He said, *“No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6).

He is a speaking God. Today as Christians we need to hear His speaking. I must emphasize this! Just reading the Bible is not enough. Remember, the Lord said, *“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”* (John 6:63). The Word is living, but you need to mingle the word with the spirit of faith. This is very necessary. Today in your Christian life, you need to learn to be a person who hears God’s speaking, His Word, because our God is a speaking God. All the witnesses in Hebrews 11 heard His speaking, how much more should we hear God’s speaking! Learn to be a person who hears His speaking with your inner ears. Praise the Lord, God speaks! You need to appreciate that. The more you hear Him, the more your faith will grow because of your experience that He is a living God. You know He is real – no one can take that away from you. In Revelation 2 and 3 the Lord says, *“He who has an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit says...”* I can testify to you that the Spirit is a speaking Spirit because our God is a living God.

1 John 2:27 says, *“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you...teaches you concerning all things,”* not just some things. Are you open to know this God, not just through theology, but through a listening ear? As a brother testified that at first, he wanted to go to sleep and didn’t want to help his dad to fix the washing machine. He didn’t hear a loud voice saying, *“Go help your dad!”* But fortunately, the indwelling Spirit, the Anointing, who teaches us all things, gave him a wonderful feeling in his spirit that the Lord was telling him to help his dad. Once he did that, he not only learned about how to fix the washing machine but realized that this situation applies to his spiritual life as

well. This is the Lord's speaking! Don't wait for situations, but actively fellowship with God. Talk to Him about everything, because He is the living God, and He is there to help you! The Word says that the anointing that dwells in you will teach you all things, and is true, and is not a lie (1 John 2:27).

You must abide in Him. Those witnesses in Hebrews 11 heard His speaking – God appeared to them. Don't you think God will appear to you also, especially since He is dwelling in you? The Lord said, *“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you”* (John 14:20). What do you do if He's in you? Does He just dwell in you but does nothing else? Impossible! As my family came to stay at my house this week, we did things together. It is impossible for us to be together and for there to be no interaction among us. It also rained, and we found out that I had a leak in my house and fixed it. *“Lord, why did this happen now?”* We had to gain Christ in a very practical way! Learn to experience Christ! Don't wait for challenges like a broken fridge, washer, or a leak in your house to happen. It is the Lord's mercy that those things happened because He cares about you, and He wants you to experience Him! It is a wonderful experience to deal with those things for four hours without exploding! That is definitely not in our nature. This is a wonderful experience of Christ, of His life indwelling us. So, let us experience more! As we experience more of His living speaking our faith will grow and be perfected. Although, we definitely need those situations, don't wait for them! The apostles, like Peter, James, and Paul didn't. In their service, God spoke to them in a very clear way. For example, in the book of Acts we see that our God clearly is a speaking God. I used to ask God, *“Why did You speak to them so clearly? I also want to hear Your speaking so clearly. Were they so special that You spoke to them but You don't to us?”* God is a speaking God, and the Word says that He speaks to us in His Son and through the Spirit because the Son is now the Spirit indwelling us. If He dwells in us, then He must be a speaking God to us. I must testify to the glory of God, that in preparing for the conference, I need His speaking, His enlightening, His revelation, not just looking up verses here or there. Paul speaks of the spirit of wisdom and revelation, to have spiritual understanding, and a renewed mind, and having an ear to hear the spiritual speaking (Eph. 1:17; 4:23; Col. 1:9). This is good! Praise the

Lord! This is how we must go on. The more you grow spiritually, the more you will hear His speaking. It is not a strange, outward speaking but the Anointing indwelling you.

The Lord promised that when the Spirit of truth, the Helper comes, He will teach you all things and lead you into all truth (John 14:16-17, 26). And what the Spirit receives of the Lord, He will disclose it to you (John 16:15). Isn't that wonderful? How often have you experienced the Holy Spirit receiving from the Lord and disclosing it to you? We need to be those who are seeking diligently, who want to know and experience Him to run the race and reach the goal. In every family it is normal to speak to one another; it would be strange if that weren't the case. Likewise, it would be strange if the Lord lived in you and did not speak to you. That is impossible! God is a speaking God. And what is more is that when the Spirit of truth comes, He will disclose to you and show you the things that are to come (John 16:13). Don't you desire to know those things? I do. How often do you ask Him: "Lord, what's going to happen now? What is going on, and what do You want to do? Lord, show me." We need to know.

On His way to judge Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord stopped by to visit His friend Abraham (see 2 Chr. 20:7; Jam. 2:23) because He wanted to disclose to Abraham concerning His judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Why did God do that? Because He knew Abraham had a nephew there, Lot, and God wanted Abraham to intercede for Lot. So, God said, *"Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"* (Gen. 18:17-18). You don't tell your secrets to just anyone. But God stopped by to tell Abraham, who was chosen by God to be the father of many nations. Don't you want to be a friend of God? Will God reveal His secret to you? It depends on your relationship with Him and how much you know Him. I've experienced many times that God told me what He is going to do. He is a living God. He knows the future from the past. But you must have a desire to know: "Lord, what are You doing now? How should we go on? How can we reach the goal?"

You may have read Hebrews 12 many times, and yet you don't feel like you're running the race. Are you living in such a way that you are really running the race – dropping all the weight and wanting to reach the goal? Have you done that? It depends on your relationship with Him and how desperate you are to reach the goal. Do you want to be a firstfruit? Revelation 14 tells you what to do to reach the goal. For example, it tells us that firstfruits must have the Father's name written on their forehead (Rev. 14:1). How often have you thought about that? Is His name being written on your forehead more each day? Another point is that firstfruits follow the Lamb wherever He goes (v. 4). Is that just a doctrine to you? They learned to sing a new song that nobody else could learn (v. 3); they are virgins that are undefiled (v. 4); and no lie was found in their mouths (v. 5). Are we doing all these things? We need to take the word of God and mingle it with faith as it says in Hebrews 4:2. If you do that, you will have a desire to reach that goal! Meditate on Hebrews 12. Tell the Father, "I am willing to take Your discipline and to be chastised by You. I don't want to grow weary, tired and discouraged." But if you just read the chapter and don't mingle it with faith, and if there is no reaction within you to tell the Father that you want to reach that goal, then it is just some knowledge to you. So, there are so many things here you can really mingle with faith and meditate on. Somebody asked me, "How do I mingle the word with faith?" By meditating on it day and night. If the Lord touches your heart with this word, you will not forget, but you will tell the Lord, "I want to make it, help me!"

Now we come to the second part of Hebrews 12. In the Old Testament days when Moses went to Mount Sinai, it was a scary situation because there was no grace yet at that time. *"For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest"* (Heb. 12:18). They were all lawbreakers. The people of Israel coming out of Egypt could not even follow the first commandment! They came to Mount Sinai *"...and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore"* (Heb. 12:19). God spoke through Mount Sinai, and there was the law. The law is hard and to be feared because there is judgment. *"(For they could not endure what was commanded: 'And if so much as a beast touches the*

mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow” (Heb. 12:20). Would you want to come to that mountain? It must have been hard to live in the Old Testament days.

God gave them the law, but praise the Lord, He also gave them the ordinances. For example, if anyone sinned, he had to pay for his sin by death, since the wages of sin are death. But then God gave an ordinance that you could bring and offer up a lamb without blemish; the lamb would be slain and blood would be shed, and God would accept the lamb as a substitute for you. This is God’s love! And that lamb pointed to Jesus Christ: *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29b). No religion in this world has a solution for your sin. You have to work it out yourself. Or sometimes they ask you to pay a lot of money. But don’t be fooled – your money cannot redeem you. Mount Sinai was during the time when the law was given by Moses. *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”* (John 1:17). But today, we are in the age of the new covenant, which is much better than the old covenant. The Lord already put the old covenant away and replaced it with a new covenant of grace and of life. Your sins are forgiven because the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for you. Where else can you find a man without sin to die for you? Did Mohammed die for his followers? Of course not, he was not qualified because he also was a man full of sin. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is qualified to die for us because He is without sin (2 Cor. 5:21). That is why in the Old Testament ordinance, the lamb for the sin offering had to be without blemish; God would not accept a lamb that was blind, or missing an ear, a tail, or a leg, because that lamb signifies Christ, who is without sin, without any blemish. God Himself had to become a Man in Christ Jesus, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, so that sin was not in Him. Circa 700 years before Jesus Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied: *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”* (Isa. 7:14), God with us – because it was God coming to be with us through Jesus Christ. *“And His name will be called...Mighty God, Everlasting Father...”* (Isa. 9:6b). Only He is qualified! In addition to the law and judgments, God gave these wonderful ordinances out of His love for His people because He knows nobody can keep the law. The law is so hard to keep – you cannot even keep every traffic law!

Of Mount Sinai, the writer said, *“And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, ‘I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.’”* (Heb. 12:21). Even Moses was terrified! But that’s how you keep the law, because if you are not terrified, you will do anything you like and will not be afraid.

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God...” (Heb. 12:22a). This is another mountain! Pay attention to the tense in this verse: it does not say you WILL come, but you HAVE come to Mount Zion. We are in the new covenant and have come to Mount Zion and should remain there! This is the place that Abraham was looking for four thousand years ago. He was looking for this city, and now we have come to this city! Who had it better? We have it better! We have come to this city of the living God, which has foundations whose builder and architect is God. No one else can build this city. Do you really feel that you are in the city of the living God, or are these just words written on the page? Suppose you are invited to go to the White House, what would you do? Buy a new suit! Put on a tie! Get dressed! Take 3 showers! Clean yourself up because you are going to meet the President! Now who is in the house and the city of the living God? The King of kings, the living God is there! So, when we are in Mount Zion, how should we feel?

“But you have come...to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 12:22b). It is the heavenly Jerusalem, not the earthly Jerusalem in Palestine in Israel today. In the old covenant days, Jerusalem was an earthly Jerusalem, but it did not work out because that Jerusalem is earthly and temporary, and God’s people at that time were rebellious. Now we are the heavenly kingdom! That is why when John the Baptist came as Jesus’s forerunner, he said, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* (Matt. 3:2). Israel was an earthly kingdom, and they rejected God. They said, *“We have no king but Caesar!”* (John 19:15b). That was very offensive to God. And they crucified their King. They had not read Zechariah 9:9, *“Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* That was for His first coming, but in His second coming He is coming as the King of king and Lord of lords. His

second coming is for judgment. If you are not afraid now, just wait for it. Then you will remember the word spoken in this conference.

“...to an innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22c). You cannot see the angels. When the enemy was surrounding the city and Elisha’s servant was afraid, Elisha prayed, *“LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see”* (2 Ki. 6:17). Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw the legions of angels there protecting them. Hebrews says that the angels are ministering spirits serving the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). We have legions of angels protecting us in Zion. I don’t know about other places, but if you are in Zion, it’s the safest place on earth, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God, who dares to come? We must have a realization of where we are! It is not just any place!

“...to the festal gathering” (Heb. 12:23a). On the Lord’s Day, are you keeping the feasts, or is it just a tradition for you? Don’t just keep a tradition. Here in Zion is a festal gathering – we are keeping the feasts of the Lord. Isaiah 33:20 says, *“Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts...”*

“...the church of the firstborn” (Heb. 12:23b). We are all the firstborn! In the new covenant, there is no second born. We are partaking of the birthright of our Lord Jesus Christ because we are all baptized into Him. We are all like Isaac, the heir. This is a wonderful, amazing thing! Please don’t sell your birthright! You can only lose it if you sell it. The church is *“the church of the firstborn who are **registered in heaven**”* (v. 23c). Nobody can deregister you unless you do it yourself.

“...to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23c). He is the righteous One. I think Zion is probably the only place that the Lord can perfect you. You must learn to know your spirit, the spirit of faith. Walk and live by faith. You must be a spiritual man, not a fleshly or soulish man. But even if you are a spiritual man, you still need to be made perfect. Don’t say, “I’m in the spirit, and I’m okay.” No, that does not suffice, the word says, *“the spirits of just men **made perfect**.”* To be perfected, to go on to perfection, is a very important word in the book of Hebrews!

And not only that, but you have also come to Jesus. Does the verse say, “to Jesus, who was crucified on the cross?” No, it says, “**...to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant**” (Heb. 12:24a). You need to appreciate that. It is not just about the forgiveness of your sin; it is altogether a completely new covenant! He is the Mediator and our great, heavenly High Priest to serve us with the power of an indestructible, indissoluble life. This new covenant is wonderful (Heb. 8:7-13; 10:16-18)!

In every covenant you need the blood: “**...and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel**” (Heb. 12:24). Abel was murdered by his brother, Cain (Gen. 4:2-15). The Lord came to Cain and demanded to know where his brother was. Cain answered, “I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” He lied and thought God didn’t know. God was giving him a chance to repent, but he didn’t. And the blood of Abel cries out to God for vengeance. Now when Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, did He say, “Father, get rid of all these evil people who crucified Me!” No, even though God could have done it – He is a powerful God! He said, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” (Luke 23:34). So, which speaking is better – Abel’s blood or the blood of Jesus? The blood of Jesus! That is why today we have forgiveness from God; He is our sacrifice for sin. In this new covenant, God wrote clearly a promise that can never be changed, “*their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more*” (Heb. 8:12), because the blood of Jesus Christ speaks better than the blood of Abel. “*...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*” (1 John 1:7b). Where do we find such a Christ and the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than the blood of Abel? At Mount Zion! Are you scared, trembling, or terrified as Moses was at Mount Sinai? No! We are all very happy here because we are in Mount Zion.

But there is another warning: “**See that you do not refuse Him who speaks**” (Heb. 12:25a). Again, here is a reference to God’s speaking; God is a speaking God. Do not refuse Him who speaks! “**For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth,**” (v. 25b) directly in Mount Sinai and through Moses *at that time*, “**much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth**” (Heb. 12:25c-26a) – when God spoke at that

time, it really shook the earth – **“but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven’”** (v. 26b). God is going to shake everything! Today, everything is being shaken worldwide. There are earthquakes everywhere. God is already warning us, but more shaking is coming. When the sixth seal is opened (Rev. 6:12-17), there will be a worldwide earthquake, and every mountain and every island will move from its place. That will be the real shaking mentioned in this verse. (Paul quoted Haggai 2:6-7, 21-22 that prophesies of the Lord’s return.) The stars will fall (Rev. 12:13). The sun will be darkened like sackcloth, and the moon will be red like blood (Rev. 12:12). That is the sign that the last 3 ½ years of the great day of God’s wrath is starting. God will shake – He promised this. You and I may break a promise, but God will not. He has never broken His promises at any time.

*“Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates **the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain**”* (Heb. 12:27). Everything that is made will be shaken: your technology, your phone, your car, and whatever you have. There is nothing on this earth that cannot be shaken. Everything will be shaken so that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. God promised. You had better believe His promise; it may not happen tomorrow or next week, but it is going to happen soon.

Finally, the encouragement: **“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken”** (Heb. 12:28a). The kingdom is the only thing which cannot be shaken. The verse does not say “since we have received” but **“we ARE receiving”** – that means it is ongoing; it is not finished yet. You have received life, but this life must keep growing, just like a baby’s life must keep on growing. The kingdom that we have received and are receiving must grow! It is a process that we have started. The race (Heb. 12:1) is a race that we are running, meaning that we have to keep on running. If you quit, you are no longer in the race.

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear**”* (Heb. 12:28). Remember this word! Many people serve Him doing anything they want “for God,” but God will say,

“I didn’t ask you to do that.” Don’t just serve Him or do something for Him in any way like flying to some faraway place to serve Him – that is not acceptable to God. He may ask you, “Who sent you there?” If you do something for Him, you must ask Him if that is what He wants. It must be something He asked you to do. At work, if you do whatever you want that is not according to the company’s requirements, that is not acceptable, and you might be fired. Have the fear of God! Especially in Zion, if you want to serve God, you must serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear. If you just do anything you like, not only is it not acceptable to God, but you will be in trouble because God will test everything that we do by fire (1 Cor. 3:13).

We might conclude this chapter with: “For our God is a loving, merciful God.” Well, He is, but in this case, in Zion, in His kingdom, for the fulfillment of His plan and His glory, if you desire to sit with Him on this throne “**...our God is a consuming fire**” (Heb. 12:29). This is not a simple matter. Can you imagine sitting on His throne with Him still doing whatever you like? That would be terrible! Today in Zion, we must all learn to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Praise the Lord! May the Lord have mercy and give us much grace that this word will become reality for us!

Note: The above content has not been reviewed by the speaker.