

Jesus Christ – the Author and Finisher of Our Faith

in the Book of Hebrews
(Part 3 – Chapters 11-13)

- I. The definition of faith (Heb. 11:1)**
 - A. The SUBSTANTIATION of things hoped for (Col. 2:7; John 1:17; Heb. 10:1)
 - B. The EVIDENCE of things not seen
 - C. We have all received equally precious faith (2 Pet. 1:1)
 - 1. Faith is of God and is powerful (Mk. 11:13-14, 20-23 <Εχετε πιστιν θεου – faith of God>; 9:23; Matt. 17:20; 21:19)
 - 2. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2)
 - 3. We all have the same spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13) – faith is in our spirit
 - 4. The need to mingle the word of God with faith (Heb. 4:2, 12)
- II. By this faith, the ancient fathers obtained a good testimony to which God Himself bore witness (Gen. 31:50; Rom. 1:9; Phil. 1:8; Acts 15:8; 1 Thess. 2:5; Heb. 2:4; 11:5; 1 John 5:9)**
 - A. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word (rhema) of God (Heb. 1:3; 11:3; John 1:1; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 33:6, 9; 148:1-5; 2 Pet. 3:5; Isa. 40:26)
 - 1. A sober and reasonable intellect is needed
 - 2. The word – the living speaking of God (Genesis 1)
 - 3. The worlds were framed <created in perfect harmony> (Isa. 45:18; Col. 1:15-17; John 1:1-3)
 - B. Abel, Enoch, and Noah
 - C. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
 - D. Moses and his parents
 - E. The people led out of Egypt by Moses
 - 1. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land (Heb. 11:29)

2. By faith the walls of Jericho fell (Heb. 11:30; Josh. Ch. 6)
 3. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish (Heb. 11:31; Jam. 2:25; Matt. 1:5a; Josh. Ch. 2; 6:22-25)
- F. The time of the judges, kings, and prophets (Heb. 11:32-34)
1. By faith Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David
 - a. Subdued kingdoms
 - b. Out of weakness were made strong
 - c. Became valiant in battle
 - d. Turned to flight the armies of the aliens
 2. Through faith Samuel and David worked righteousness (1 Sam. 12:3-23; 2 Sam. 8:15)
 3. Joshua obtained promises (Josh. 1:5; 21:43-45)
 4. Samson, David, and Daniel stopped the mouths of lions (Jdg. 14:5-6; 1 Sam. 17:35; Dan. 6:22)
 5. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah quenched the violence of fire (Heb. 11:34; Dan. 3:14-30)
 6. Elijah, Elisha and Jeremiah escaped the edge of the sword (1 Ki. 19:1-2 ff; 2 Ki. 6:8-18; Jer. 26:24)
 7. The widow of Zarephath received her dead son raised to life again (1 Ki. 17:17); Elisha raised the Shunammite's son (2 Ki. 4:14-37; Heb. 11:35)
- G. The martyrs (Heb. 11:35b-38)
1. Through faith were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection – Eleazar the Scribe and the 7 brothers (See 2 Macc. 6:18-30; Ch. 7)
 2. Went through trials of mocking and scourging, of chains and imprisonment, e.g. Micaiah son of Imiah (1 Ki. 22:8, 13-28); Jeremiah (Jer. 38:4-6)
 3. Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest was stoned and put to death by king Joash (2 Chr. 24:20-22);

Naboth the Jezreelite was also stoned to death
(1 Ki. 21:1-14)

4. Isaiah was sawn asunder by Manasseh; the prophets were slain with the sword (1 Ki. 19:10)
 5. Many wandered in deserts, mountains, and caves, and the holes of the earth, e.g. the hundred prophets hidden in the caves (1 Ki. 18:4, 13); Judas Maccabeus and others (2 Macc. 5:27; 10:6)
- H. These men obtained a good testimony, but did not receive the fulfillment of the promise (Heb. 11:39-40; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Luke 2:22-38 <Simeon and Anna>)
1. Concerning the first and second coming of the Messiah – the Savior King
 2. The better covenant
 3. The heavenly Jerusalem
 4. And many more
- I. The world was not worthy of these martyrs, but they are precious in the sight of God (Ps. 72:14; 116:15; Rev. 6:9-11)
- J. The Old Covenant is the preparation for the New; The New Covenant is the fulfillment of the Old (Heb. 11:40)

III. The encouragement to run the race set before us with perseverance (Heb. 12:1-14)

- A. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (Heb. 11)
- B. Looking unto Jesus (the perfect example) who reached the goal (Heb. 2:9a)
 1. By focusing with JOY on the goal set before Him
 2. Endured the cross, despising the shame
 3. Perfected through sufferings (Luke 24:25-26; Heb. 2:10; 5:7-9)
 4. Sitting at the right hand of the throne of God
- C. Not to become weary and discouraged in our souls due to diverse sufferings

1. **Considering Christ** who endured great hostility from sinners against Him
2. We have not yet resisted, striving against sin to bloodshed – to the point of martyrdom (Rev. 6:9-11)
- D. Not to despise the *chastening of the LORD*, nor be discouraged by His rebuke (Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 3:11-12; Job 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 11:32; Rev. 3:19)
 1. God our Father chastens us out of love and for our profit to train us
 2. That we may be partakers of His holiness and yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness (see Heb. 12:14)
- E. On our part:
 1. We must actively strengthen the hands which hang down and the feeble knees
 2. Make straight paths for our feet
- F. A warning
 - a. Not to fall short of the grace of God
 - b. Not to let any root of bitterness spring up from our hearts
 - c. Not to sell our birthright

IV. The unshakeable kingdom of God (Heb. 12:22-28)

- A. We have come to Mount Zion – the city of the great King (Ps. 48:2; Matt. 5:35)
- B. The city of the living God (Heb. 11:10; 13:14)
- C. The heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:9-11ff)
 1. To an innumerable company of angels
 2. To the festal gathering (Isa. 33:20) and the church of the firstborn, who are registered in heaven
 3. To God the Judge of all
 4. To the spirits of just men made perfect
 5. To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel
- D. Another warning to His people
 1. Do not refuse Him who speaks from heaven

2. The Lord will shake the earth and the heavens (Heb. 12:26; Hag. 2:6-7, 22; Isa. 2:19; 13:13)
 - a. All things that are made will be shaken and removed
 - b. Only the things which cannot be shaken may remain (2 Pet. 3:9-12; Heb. 1:10-12)
- E. We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken
 1. Let us hold fast to the grace
 2. That we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear
 3. For our God is a consuming fire

V. The evidence of faith expressed in Zion (Heb. Chapter 13)

- A. Continuous brotherly love (1 Thess. 4:9; 2 Pet. 1:5-7; Rev. 2:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:31; 13:1-10, 13; 14:1a)
- B. Hospitality
- C. Remembering those who are in bonds for the sake of Christ, identifying yourselves with them
- D. Let marriage be held in honor – God will judge fornicators and adulterers
- E. Be free from the love of money <covetousness = idolatry> (Col. 3:5; Heb. 13:5-6)
- F. Having proper respect for those who lead the saints (Heb. 13:7, 17)
 1. Who care for the spiritual well-being of the souls of the saints
 - a. As those that must give an account to the great Shepherd of the flock (Heb. 13:17-20; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
 - b. Having a good conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16)
 - c. In all things desiring to live honorably
 2. Who have spoken the word of God to you
 - a. The saints should observe attentively (closely) the outcome (issue) of their conduct
 - b. Then follow (imitate) their faith

- i. Do not be blind followers of blind leaders
(Matt. 15:14; Mal. 2:8; Jer. 5:31)
 - ii. But have the spirit of discernment
(1 Cor. 14:29; Acts 17:10-11)
 - iii. Go on to maturity, perfection
 - 3. Pray for the serving ones (Heb. 13:18a)
 - G. Not to be carried about with various and strange doctrines
(Heb. 13:9; Matt. 24:4; Acts 20:30; 2 Cor. 11:13-15;
Eph. 4:14; 5:6)
 - H. Eating of Jesus Christ as the reality of the offerings
(Heb. 13:9b-16; 1 Pet. 2:5)
 - 1. In Zion – the city of our feasts (Isa. 33:20)
 - 2. Outside of the traditional religious camp
(Heb. 13:13-14)
 - a. For here we have no continuing city
 - b. We seek the one to come
 - 3. Present our offerings to the Father – the fruit <calves> of
our lips (Heb. 13:15-16; Hos. 14:2)
- VI. The benediction for the saints** (Heb. 13:20-21; Num. 6:22-27)