

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



12. A Call to Live by Faith (1)

(Leader's Copy)

Introduction

Faith! This is a word we often use, but do we know what it really means? In our study of the Book of Hebrews we have come to chapter 11, often known as the 'faith chapter' of the Bible. In the earlier chapters we have been looking at Jesus, who is the High Priest over God's House. We are God's House, together with all those who have put their trust in Jesus. Since he is our High Priest we are urged to draw near with full assurance of faith. Now in chapter 11 it goes on and gives examples of those who have had faith and inherited the promises.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-19

Part 1 - The faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham

- ❖ Explain faith in your own words? See v1-3, 6.

Discuss

Sometimes we hear people say they have faith for something to happen, and yet they do not see the results. What could be wrong? Discuss. What is true faith based on according to these verses?

- ❖ What promises did God give to Noah and Abraham? V7, 8, 11. Also see Genesis 6:17-18, 12:7, 17:6, 17
*(Noah – God was going to send a flood to destroy all flesh, but his family would be saved.
Abraham – God would give him the Promised Land and also give him a son, making him fruitful.)*
- ❖ What had these men of God learnt about God that enabled them to trust him? V6, 11
(That God rewards those who seek him and he is faithful to his word.)
- ❖ Why do we sometimes find it difficult to trust God? What can we do to overcome these difficulties?
(One reason many find it difficult to trust God is because those close to them have not been trust worthy. It is only when we forgive those who have broken our trust, and we receive healing from our hurts, that we can begin to trust God, who is always trustworthy. Ask the Holy Spirit for a revelation of who God really is. We need to spend time meditating on God's word and his promises, as faith comes by hearing the word of God.)
- ❖ How does God regard our faith? V2-4, 5-6, 16
*(He commends our faith.
He regards us as righteous when we act in faith.
It pleases him.
He is not ashamed of us when we have faith.)*
- ❖ Faith begins with hearing God speak to us, but then it must be followed by obedience to that word. What actions followed the faith of the following men: Abel in v4, Noah in v7, Abraham in v8 and v17?

(Abel brought sacrifices in faith.

Noah built an ark.

Abraham left his homeland and offered his son as a sacrifice.)

Share

Can you think of an incident in your own life when you have had to act in faith on a word that God has given? What happened?

Conclusion

As we have looked at the lives of some of these men of old, we have learnt some wonderful truths about faith. Faith is not just wishful thinking, but it is hearing what God is saying to us personally, taking him at his word and acting on it. Let's learn to live like that.