



The Hall of Faith

(Hebrews 11:1-16)

Hebrews 11:1-16

- **11** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.
- ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:1-16

- ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
- ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken, he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:1-16

- ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Hebrews 11:1-16

- ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

“The assurance of things hope for”



Comparing “Hope” and “Faith”

- “Now faith is the **assurance** of **things hoped for**” (Hebrews 11:1a ESV).
- **Hope *for* something**
- **Faith *in* someone**
- *Pistis*: (Greek) faith *or* faithfulness
- “the righteousness of God through **faith in Jesus Christ** for all who believe” (Romans 3:22 ESV)
- “the righteousness of God through **the faithfulness of Jesus Christ** for all who believe”
- “the righteousness of God through **faith in the faithfulness** of Jesus Christ”
- Faith is the **assurance**—the solid, you-can-rely-upon-it entity (i.e. God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit) who is **the guarantor** of the thing that is hoped for

The Faithfulness of God

- “The basic idea of *aman* [Hebrew] is ‘constancy,’ something that is lasting” (John Reumann, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*).
- And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness” (Zechariah 8:8).
- Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, **faithful God**. (Psalm 31:15)

Faith in that which is unseen (God)

- “the conviction of **things not seen**” (Hebrews 11:1b)
- “whoever would draw near to God **must believe that he exists**” (11:6b)
- “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events **as yet unseen**, in reverent fear constructed an ark” (11:7b)
- “For we walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

Faith is counted as righteousness

- “**By faith Abel** offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he **was commended as righteous**, God commending him by accepting his gifts” (Hebrews 11:4).
- “By this he condemned the world and became an heir of **the righteousness that comes by faith**” (Hebrews 11:7b).
- ²⁰ No unbelief made him [Abraham] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why **his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”** (Romans 4:20-22)

Hope as a “traveling towards”

- “The concept of the ***status viatoris*** is one of the basic concepts of every Christian rule of life. To be a “viator” means to be “one on the way”. The *status viatoris* is, then, the “condition or state of being on the way” . . .
- To be on the way, to **be a *viator***, means to be making progress toward eternal happiness. . .
- It would be difficult to conceive of another statement that penetrates as deeply into the innermost core of creaturely existence as does the statement that man finds himself, even until the moment of his death, **in the *status viatoris*, in the state of being on the way”**.

--Josef Pieper, *Faith, Hope, Love* (pp. 91-92)

The “now and not-yet” of Christianity.

Hope as a “traveling towards”

- “**By faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And **he went out, not knowing where he was going.** ⁹ **By faith** he went to live in the land of promise . . . For **he was looking forward** to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.” (Hebrews 11:8-10).
- These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but **having seen them and greeted them from afar**, and having acknowledged that they were **strangers and exiles on the earth.** ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that **they are seeking a homeland.** . . . ¹⁶ But as it is, **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.** (Hebrews 11:13-14, 16a)
- ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is **the guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Faith is rewarded

- “For by it [faith] the people of old received **their commendation**” (Hebrews 1:2).
- “By faith Enoch was **taken up** so that he should not see death” (11:5).
- “he **rewards** those who seek him” (11:6b).
- “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed **an ark** for the saving of his household” (11:7a).
- “By faith he [Abraham] went to live in **the land of promise**” (11:9a).
- “By faith Sarah herself received **power to conceive**, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised” (11:11).
- “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but **having seen them and greeted them from afar**” (11:13).

God as a means or an end?

- What is the end-goal?
- God as the means to obtain the thing desired? (God is simply a tool to be used to get what we want.)
- Or God as the end in and of Himself? (Our focus is on God, thus making the acquisition of the thing “hoped for” of no significance. God is our reward and destination.)
- “But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the sovereign Lord my Refuge; I will tell of all your deeds” (Psalm 73:28).



Let Us Pray

