

UNDERSTANDING FAITH

HEBREWS 11: 1-34

BRAAM
FAMILY



The above scripture is a list of those we call “Heroes of Faith”, who were used by God to do amazing things - using their faith. Sadly there are so many believers that only hope for something to happen, but don't apply their faith for it. HOPE is a positive expectation for the future, whereas FAITH is the conviction and assurance that whatever you hope will happen. Faith is the substance to our hope that gives us certainty.

A much secular definition of faith would be a “complete trust or confidence in someone or something” - this is a natural kind of faith. That is why people can say they have faith in someone or something. Unfortunately many stop at the level of having faith in what they can see but fail to believe in God because He is invisible.

Moving a level up, we will find what we call RELIGIOUS FAITH, for us Christians, it is the faith that we have when we are saved. It's believing that Jesus Christ is our Lord and saviour.

Now above and beyond the entry-level faith of salvation, every believer is called to live by it. The opening verse defines faith by saying that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. Unlike secular faith, our faith in God is not based on assumptions nor is it self-standing, but it is sustained by God's word. There is no certainty in secular faith because it can fail (it is not backed by anything), but having faith in God will never fail you.

Faith brings you into salvation, but that faith should introduce you into FAITH AS A LIFESTYLE. “The just shall live by faith,” the bible says in Romans. Therefore because we believe in God, we have been justified, and our faith is credited to us as righteousness (see verse 2 and Genesis 15:6). Living by faith isn't something reserved for certain people, but it is the standard of life for everyone who has already believed in God. Countless times in gospels, you see Jesus saying “your faith has made you well”, can you imagine what your faith can do for you? The reading above gives a picture of what your faith can do for you.

The faith lifestyle is one of NEW UNDERSTANDING and NEW ACTIONS (that's because it's different from the norms of this world).

Your faith will cause you to see and act differently from what seems to be logical to the human senses. Faith gives you a greater understanding of God's abilities. You get to understand that God creates the visible from the invisible. To the human mind, this lifestyle of faith doesn't make sense at all, but for believers, it is the lifestyle that is pleasant to God (Hebrews 11:6).

One's actions of faith are called ‘illogical’ because they contradict popularity, but in reality, it is the true logic. And that is because true logic is always aligned with God's mind. True logic is every action that is done inspired by God. Your faith in God will always validate whatever method He instructs you to follow, whether it's logical to humans or not.



The faith that causes you to do things that are illogical to reasoning, also causes you to obey God blindly. Certain acts of obedience may seem foolish to man, but the Bible says that "obedience is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22). The reason why obedience is better than sacrifice is because there is a sacrifice included in obedience. Look at Abraham, his life is an example of living in obedience as a faith response; he left his home to live in tents looking forward to the promise-land. It would be foolishness to leave your place of comfort to obey God, but he did it and that is why he is called the father of faith. Your faith causes you to be remembered.

Your faith will also teach you to TRUST God with what He has given you, look at the time when Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only son. He did it because he had faith in God as the provider and giver. He trusted God with the son that He gave him. That same faith develops PATIENCE in you, which is the ability to wait whilst maintaining a good attitude.

You wait because you have the assurance that even though situations might be unpleasant, you trust that God's promises will prevail.

Having Faith makes you REWARD MINDED, and because of that, you will refuse moments of pleasure that are sinful, just like Joseph did in front of Potiphar's wife. Similar story with Moses, the Bible says in Hebrews 11:24-26 that "by faith Moses when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."



Living the faith lifestyle develops in you a BETTER APPRECIATION for the things of God. You appreciate the ways of God, and also His people, and because of that you actively participate in God's plan. There's a shift that happens and you start valuing what God values; i.e church, souls, serving and being His hand here on earth.

The lifestyle of faith is all about MOVING WITH GOD. You operate at His drum beat, so you move when He says move, and stay when He says stay.

After reading the amazing changes that the lifestyle of faith brings, there might rise that idea in us that our faith is TOO LITTLE to do anything. We may ask yourself, how big does my faith need to be for me to see results?

Well, Jesus said it clearly in Luke 17:6 that "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you". So your faith that you call "LITTLE" is enough to produce results for whatever you are believing for. Remember that faith works based on the object of it rather than its subject, and our object of faith is in Jesus Christ who is the PIONER and PERFECTER of it (see Hebrews 12:2).

So now what about the times that Jesus rebuked His disciples by saying "you of LITTLE FAITH", was Jesus contradicting Himself?

We found the story in Matthew when the disciple panicked while facing the storm. Reading in Matthew 28:6 it says: but Jesus said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. This verse reveals that it is FEAR that makes faith impotent, their little faith was big enough to calm the storm, but it's just that they were overcome by fear.

DOUBT that exists at the level of the mind is just faith seeking understanding, that doubt only becomes dangerous when it births fear. So don't let your doubts create fear, because fear is the enemy of faith. Jesus in this story wasn't condemning their little faith, but He was condemning their fear. Do not let your fears cause you to miss out of the lifestyle of faith. The faith that you discredit as being little, is enough to move all the mountains in your life. Build your faith in the Word of God, and only believe so that you live above your fears.