THE WAY OF FAITH

**DATE: 8/13/2014 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 11:1-3, 6**

**INTRODUCTION**

We now have come to the great Faith chapter of the Bible

**Hebrews 11** is the classic chapter on Faith

-- The noun ***“faith”*** occurs 24 times in this chapter

-- The adjective ***“faithful”*** just once

-- The verb ***“believe”*** only once

The need of these believers was Faith and Patient Endurance

This chapter will cite a number of OT characters who manifested their belief through such patience

Paul wants his readers to follow their example

After a lengthy and somewhat complicated plea for his readers to strengthen their Faith and hold out for all the wonderful things God had promised them,

Paul now uses their history as a means of persuasion

He provides example after example of people who demonstrated Faith that led to positive results

They were all people who chose to be Faithful despite never receiving what they had been Promised

This is something Paul is asking his readers to do

Let’s pray and think on this thought -

***“The Way of Faith”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

Some have called this chapter “Faith's Hall of Fame”

The Christian life is a life of Faith

First, let’s look at -

**I. THE “DESCRIPTION” OF FAITH – v.1**

Noah Webster defines Faith as *the assent of the mind or understanding to the Truth of what God has revealed*

Without God's Revelation, there can be no reliable Faith

**Romans 10:17 – *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”***

When God says something, we take Him at His Word

**A. Faith is ‘Confidence’ – v.1a**

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for …”***

Sometimes we confuse Faith and Hope

According to this verse they are different

The word *“****substance”*** is a compound word that means *to stand under*

The idea is that of a foundation that gives support

*Faith is the Confident Assurance* that undergirds our Hope

Hope is a Confident Desire

Faith is the Assurance of that Desire

Assurance is a kind-of guarantee

Many folks say that the believer's Faith is blind and baseless

They would try and tell us that Faith is nothing more than wishful thinking,

But that couldn’t be any farther from the truth

Faith is foundational only when focused on the person of Christ

**Hebrews 12:2a – *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith…”***

**Galatians 2:20 – *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”***

However, in the Bible the word Hope carries the idea of confident assurance …

Because when God says something is going to happen or has already happened

We can except that it has or will happen

Not based on wishful thinking, but based on the character of God / the Truth of God’s Word

When God says something, we take Him at His Word

Not based on what we think, but on Who He is

**Faith is ‘Confidence’**

**B. Faith is ‘Conviction’ – v.1b**

Faith is being convinced beyond a reasonable doubt

-- Faith treats the invisible as though it were visible

-- Faith treats the future like the present

Faith is ***“the evidence of things not seen”***

This Truth is illustrated in **vs. 8-10 …**

Abraham looked for that ***“…city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”***

Abraham didn't have a road map; he sojourned by Faith

Abraham didn't see the city, but he looked for it based on God's Promise

He didn't have to see it

*The evidence of its existence was in the fact that God promised it*

**1.** God’s Plan

God is Omniscient—He knows things that I don’t

Though I’m often taken by surprise

He knows what is ahead and nothing has ever happened in my life that did not go past Him first

His Plan is more important than mine

He is fully able and prepared to handle anything that comes my way

**2.** God’s Possession

I’m His; I am bought with a price

**I Corinthians 6:20 – *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”***

He takes full responsibility for me

God has made a great investment in us

He purchased me with the price of His Son's Blood

**3.** God’s Purpose

When I face tough times, He has a Purpose for it and will use it for my good and for His glory

**Romans 8:28 - *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”***

God often uses our trials and tribulations to train and strengthen us for His greater Purpose

**4.** God’s Power

We are not to rely upon our own strength, for we are weak and failing

Our reliance is on Him

We serve the God of all power and He will see us through

God can and will get me through it if I abide in Him

**II Corinthians 12:9 - *“And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”***

**5.** God’s Protection

Because I’m saved, I’m forever His

No matter what happens here

I am going to be with Jesus Christ for all eternity!

**II Timothy 1:12 – *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed,***

***…and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

**6.** God’s Praise

If we endure faithfully, someday we will hear Him say

**Matthew 25:21 – *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant”***

The rewards we earn for faithful service now will someday be cast at the feet of our Saviour

It will be worth it all

**Ephesians 1:6 –** ***“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved”***

**THE “DESCRIPTION” OF FAITH**

**Faith is both Confidence and Conviction**

**II. THE “DUTY” OF FAITH – v.2**

***“For by it the elders obtained a good report”***

The ***“elders”*** are the men who walked by faith in the OT

Several of them are mentioned in this chapter

Men like Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham

These all obtained a good report by Faith

The lives of these men show us that Faith …

-- Not only Believes regardless of Evidence

-- It Obeys regardless of Consequences

**THE “DESCRIPTION” OF FAITH**

**THE “DUTY” OF FAITH**

**III. THE “DYNAMIC” OF FAITH** **– v.3**

***“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”***

We understand by Faith the Driving Force behind all that we see around us

Ten times in **Genesis 1** we read the words – ***“God said”***

God created the world by His Word

Jesus is the Word of God

**John 1:1-3 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” “The same was in the beginning with God” “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made”***

He simply spoke it into existence

Academia promotes all kinds of theories,

But the bottom line is that God Almighty created the earth

He didn't use evolution! He didn't use the Big Bang!

We are told that ***“the things...which are seen [creation] were not made of things which do appear [His Word]”***

There was nothing visible when God created the world

The word *“****created”*** in **Genesis 1:1** means *to create something out of nothing*

**Psalm 33:9 – *“For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast”***

**THE “DESCRIPTION” OF FAITH**

**THE “DUTY” OF FAITH**

**THE “DYNAMIC” OF FAITH**

Let me close with this thought

**IV. THE “DILIGENCE” OF FAITH – v.6**

***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

Unbelief is an awful insult to God

Look where it will get someone

**Romans 1:17-25 …**

Faith is belief in what God says

It is taking Him at His Word

Without such faith it’s ***“impossible to please Him”***

God is only pleased when we walk by Faith in total dependence upon Him

Unbelief keeps someone from experiencing God's best for their lives

And can be ruinous

Genuine Faith is not stagnant and still

Faith Diligently seeks God and God is a Rewarder of them that Diligently seek Him

**Diligent** – *persistent hard work*

**Quote:** H. A. Ironside said – “*No man in any dispensation who honestly sought after God never failed to find Him, for He always revealed Himself to those who came to Him by faith”*

Faith …

-- asks no questions

-- requires no explanations

-- fears no consequences

It simply believes God for Who He is and obeys out of love

**THE “DESCRIPTION” OF FAITH**

**THE “DUTY” OF FAITH**

**THE “DYNAMIC” OF FAITH**

**THE “DILIGENCE” OF FAITH**