



Faith and Faithfulness

Faith is trusting and obeying God despite our circumstances

A) Our Faith is in a Faithful God

“O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; For Thou hast worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness” (Isaiah 25:1).

- God is faithful
 - God is unchanging
 - God’s Word is unchangeable (Mat 5:33)
- “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished” (Mat 5:18).
- Wavering our trust in His Word is doubting God Himself

Faith depends on God’s faithfulness

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever” (Heb 13:8).

- God’s faithfulness is like a target; it allows us to understand and trust Him.
- God’s unchanging nature and faithfulness to His Word becomes the backbone of an ultra-strong faith.



Developing our faith

“The righteous will live by faith” (Rom 1:17).

“Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith” (Hab 2:4).

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb 11:6).

- Godly men are men of faith.
- “Holding onto the faithfulness of God.” – Hudson Taylor

“Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master” (Mat 25:21).

B) Faith: The Tie between Heaven and Earth

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval” (Heb 11:1-2).

- We cannot be godly without being possessing faith.
- People’s belief in creation (Hebrews 11:3)

Challenge for secularism: “If I recognize a Creator, I am obligated to obey Him.”

“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible” (Heb 11:3).

- Abel’s sacrifice (Hebrews 11:4)

Test of Materialism: “I can get by with offering less.”

Without faith
it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God
must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder
of those who seek Him.”
(Hebrews 11:6)

“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks” (Heb 11:4).

- Abraham’s promise of Land (Hebrews 11:8)

Test of Insecurity: “Could not be sure of what he would face.”

“By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Heb 11:8).

In hope against hope he (Abraham) believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God (Romans 4:18-20).

- Abraham’s weakness was also his opportunity to show his trust in God.

- Isaac’s future blessing (Heb 11:20)

Test of the Future: “Confident God’s blessing would come.”

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come” (Heb 11:20).

- Jacob’s blessing and worship (Heb 11:21)

Test of Allegiance: “Trusting God to pacify Joseph’s anger”

“By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff” (Heb 11:21).

- Moses riches in Egypt (Hebrews 11:25)

Test of Indulgence: “Chose God’s promises over many riches.”

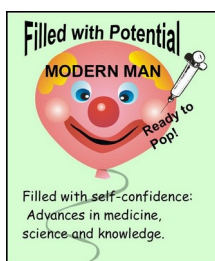
“Choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin” (Heb 11:25).

C) God’s Faithfulness and Demonic Scheming

Satan’s technique

- Accused of our unfaithfulness
- Convince us that we are unworthy
- “You should just give up”

“It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim 2:11-13).



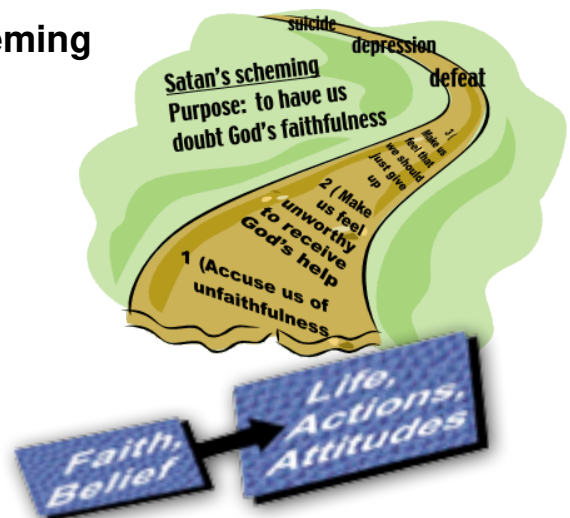
Self-dependence (“I can handle it!”)

- (1) What does today’s version of counterfeit faith look like?
- (2) What is the world’s faith like at the heart level?

“And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them” (Gen 11:6).

Our challenge

- Our faith develops faithfulness
- Our belief shapes our actions and attitudes.
- There is no accidental growth.



Personal reflections

- How has God personally shown His faithfulness to you?
- How does one grow in one's faith?
- What are some practical steps you have taken to grow in faith?

Study questions

- List at least three tests the men of Hebrews 11 faced.
- Why should we never think our sin is too bad to forgive?
- Why is Genesis 15:6 the scriptural origin of the Gospel?
- How does meditation increase faithfulness?
- What are the three steps Satan uses to make people question God's faithfulness?