

# Hebrews

## Chapter 11

Memory: 11:6

Theme: Faith

Chapter 11 is perhaps the best known chapter in Hebrews. It is a chapter of inspiration and comfort to the honest and sincere, and one of dismay and disgust to the dishonest. It defines faith as action by the concrete examples listed. The overall admonition is in 11:6, “without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (11:1, NASB). This translation gives a better sense of the meaning of faith. It is not “evidence,” but is based on evidence. When we believe something, it means we are convicted. Conviction without evidence is foolishness and feeling, not faith.

Beginning with Abel and ending with Samuel and the prophets, the writer lists a host of men and women who lived for the Lord (11:4-40). Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc., all acted when God spoke. They did this because they realized this world was not their home. They embraced the promises, did not look back, desired a better “heavenly country,” and, therefore, “God is not ashamed to be called their God” (11:13-16). Note the present tense of verse sixteen—though they are dead, they live (cf. Matt. 22:23-33)!

This chapter not only builds our faith with examples, but also strengthens us by affirming the accuracy of the Old Testament: the creation (Gen. 1, 2; Psa. 33:6, 9), the flood (Gen. 6-8), the exodus (Ex. 12-20), etc. Men have claimed that a denial of the literalness of these historic accounts is not a “salvation issue.” In so doing, they contradict the Hebrew writer. To doubt their reality is to doubt God and His word.

## Questions & Discussion

Note Key Verses:

1. We must diligently seek God (11:6). Find other passages on diligence and be prepared to discuss them.
2. Could Abraham see the end of the journey on which he went (11:8-10)? What lesson(s) can we learn from this?
3. What other passages describe us as pilgrims on earth (11:13)?
4. How did 11:15 apply to the Hebrews and how does it apply to us?
5. Match the events of 11:33-37 with Old Testament characters (A person may fit more than one event).