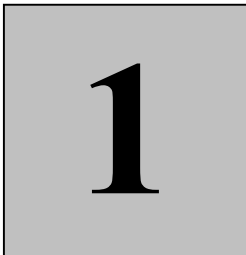

A LIFESTYLE OF FAITH

OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE

- To establish a Biblical foundation for you to “grow in faith.”
- To understand the biblical principles of “walking by faith”.
- To impart “a spirit of faith”



FAITH FOUNDATIONS

1. FAITH IS A LIFESTYLE, NOT A FORMULA, MAGIC WAND OR A QUICK-FIX.

Rom 1:17 *For in it [The Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the just shall live by faith.”*

2. WE ARE SAVED THROUGH FAITH

Eph 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

3. FAITH PLEASES GOD

Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

4. FAITH “JOINS/UNITES” US WITH GODS PROMISES

Heb 4:2 *For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine/mix it with faith.*

The word ‘united’ translates from the Greek word ‘*kerannumi*’ that means, “A mixing of two things, so that they are blended and form a new compound. For example, if highly reactive Sodium is united with the dangerous gas Chlorine, a new compound is formed: salt.

In contrast, there is another Greek word for ‘united,’ ‘*mignumi*,’ which implies “a mixing without such composition.” If oil and vinegar are mixed in a container and shaken vigorously, the two compounds will not form a new compound but will retain their original characteristics.

The Hebrews did not profit from the word they heard because they did not unite it (*kerannumi*) with a decision to believe. They heard the word, but they retained their original characteristics and they were not transformed.

Gen 15:6 *Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.*

5. FAITH GETS GODS ATTENTION

Consider: To whom did Jesus say this of, and why?:

Matt 8:10 *When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.*

- Who:
- Why:

Matt 15:28 *Then Jesus answered, "O woman, great is your! Let it be to you as you desire."*

- Who:
- Why:

6. BY FAITH WE OVERCOME

1 John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

7. FAITH COMES BY HEARING GODS WORD / HIS PROMISES

Rom 10:17 *So, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

- Faith only comes by the Word of God - Faith must have the Word as its foundation.
- The “word of Christ” here is the “word” that you have heard and believe God has spoken as applying to you personally. Its from the Greek “*rhema*”

Understanding “Logos” & “Rhema” – two Greek words for “word”:

- “LOGOS” = The complete inspired Word of God - The whole Bible (“Cannon”) of Scripture.
- “RHEMA” = The spoken Word of God (A specific word to a specific person for a specific situation).

Jesus took the Logos Word and spoke it as a when He told satan that “It is written”.

Note that in as part of the armour of God the “Sword of the Spirit” in is the “Rhema” Word of God:

Eph 6:17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [Rhema] of God.*

The Rhema comes from a rich full diet of Logos:

- By regular systematic reading of the Bible

Col 3:16 *Let the word [Logos] of Christ dwell in you _____ as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

- By Meditating on Gods Word

Psalm 1 *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

Joshua 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

- Feed your faith with daily bread form Gods Word - Are you meditating on any of Gods Word today?

In the space below, write down one verse that you are currently meditating on (or get one!):

- By confessing Gods Word in your heart and on your lips.

Luke 6:45 *“The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”*

8. YOUR FAITH CAN GROW!

- **Luke 17:5** *Lord, increase our faith!*

Question: To what were the disciples responding here?

- **Rom 4:20** *Abraham...was strengthened in his faith...*
- **Heb 11:17** *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.*
- **James 1:2-4** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

9. FAITH CAN ALSO “GO”...

- The Parable of the sower - **Mark 4**

The four soils:

Explanation:

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1. _____ | > _____ |
| 2. _____ | > _____ |
| 3. _____ | > _____ |
| 4. _____ | > _____ |

- Faith goes when you let go...

1 Tim 1:18-19 *Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.*

- Faith goes when tradition over-rides Gods word

Matt 15:5-8 *But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' ⁶he is not to 'honour his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸" 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

10. FAITH IS ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT GODS WORD:

- Gods Word is powerful

Heb 1:1-3 *The Son Superior to Angels* ¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

- Gods Word never fails

Is 55:10-11 *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

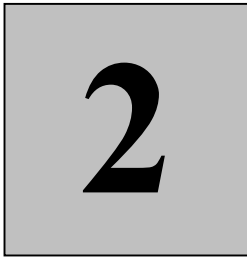
- God "watches over His Word in order to perform it"

Jer 1:12 *The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."*

REMEMBER

True Biblical faith requires more than simply holding onto a promise. It also requires a "knowing God" and a "trusting God with all your heart."

If we know God, we will trust Him, and if we trust Him, we will have faith in His Word, that it will come to pass.



FAITH IS...

***Now faith is
the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen***
Hebrews 11:1

1. Faith is NOW

- Hope is future, Faith is now.
- Hope = Greek: “*Elpis*” = “a joyful confident expectation.
- Faith takes hold of the unrealities of hope and brings them into reality now.
- Hope is an anchor, and faith keeps me connected to the anchor of hope.

2. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for

- The word assurance derives from the Greek word *hupostasis*, a legal term referring to the transfer of property. *Hupostasis* was essentially a “title deed.”

3. Faith is the conviction of things not seen

- The word conviction derives from the Greek word *elengchos*, a forensic term referring to the prosecutor’s presentation of irrefutable evidence in the courtroom.

2 Cor 5:7 *We walk by faith, not by sight*

In The Message: *It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going.*

Homework:

**Write down your one main “faith challenge” and any “faith questions.”
Find two verses of Scripture which most closely speak to this challenge and questions**

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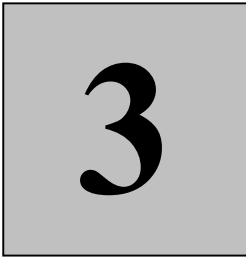
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HERO'S OF FAITH

There are 15 people named in the Hebrews chapter 11, the so-called "*Hall of faith.*" A study of the lives of these specific hero's of faith reveals some essential characteristic of faith to help us in our own faith walk.

For each of these hero's of faith listed, write down:

1. The verses in Hebrews 11 where this persons name is listed
2. One key word or phrase which sums up the specific aspect of their faith as recognised in Hebrews 11
3. The main Old Testament Bible reference / passage where this persons faith walk is recorded.

1. Abel's faith...

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2. Enoch's faith...

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3. Noah's faith...

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4. Abrahams faith...

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5. Sarah's faith...

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6. Isaac's faith...

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7. Jacob's faith...

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8. Moses faith...

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9. Rahab's faith...

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10. Gideon's faith...

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11. Barak's faith...

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12. Samson's faith...

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13. Jephthah's faith...

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14. David's faith...

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15. Samuel's faith...

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TEN “WORKS” OF FAITH”

James 2:17 *“So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).”* (Amplified)

Matt 7:21 *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

Matt 7:24 - Building your house on the rock or the sand depends on whether you “do the word” or not.

1. FAITH UNDERSTANDS

Heb 12:3 *“By faith we understand that ... the things which are seen were not made of things that are visible”*

- a. **Rom 4:17b** *“God calls those things which do not exist as though they are.”*
- b. “When I see it I’ll believe it” versus “Because I believe it, I’ll see it”.

2. FAITH OBEYS

Luke 5:5 *But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”*

- a. Noah obeyed by faith
- b. 1 Samuel 15:22,25, Works = Obedience to the Word, not sacrifice

3. FAITH WALKS

2 Cor 5:7 - *“We walk by FAITH, not by”*

- a. Faith keeps walking with God, because faith believes that God is with me, no matter what.
- b. *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.* Psalm 23:4
- c. Faith walks in the truth

4. FAITH ASKS

James 1:2-8 - *“...let him ask in faith, without”*

- James 5:15 - *“The prayer of faith will heal the sick.”*

5. FAITH SPEAKS

2 Cor 4:13 *It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,*

- a. Luke 4: 4, 8, 10 Jesus said: *"It is written ...It is written...It is written"*
- b. **Mat 12:34** *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" - The tongue is like a small rudder that turns a large ship, and so is the confession of our faith with our lips.*
- c. **Heb 13:5-6** *"...He himself has said...So that we may"*
....."
- What has He said about your situation? Confess it!
- d. See also Joshua & Caleb - Numbers 13. A person of faith always has a good report - Believing God and His Word above the circumstances.

6. FAITH SOWS

2 Cor 9:6 - *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."*

- a. **Prov 11:18** - *"The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward."*
- b. **Gal 6:7** *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."*
- c. With all God gives us, there is always a portion of seed to sow, and a portion of bread to eat. Always sow your seed, because if you eat your seed, you are eating your next harvest!

7. FAITH RESISTS

1 Pet 5:8 ⁸*"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."*

- **Eph 6:16** - *"Above all, taking up the shield of faith Take up the shield of faith"*

8. FAITH PRAISES

Acts 16:25 - *"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."*

- Praise acknowledges and declares that God greater than your problem, that God is able.

9. FAITH THANKS

1 Chron 16:34 *Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

- **Psalms 103** *"Bless the Lord O my soul...and forget not all His benefits..."*

10. FAITH TRUSTS

Prov 3:5 *“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding...”*

STUDY

Read through the following “faith accounts”, and summarise thee applications for living by faith from each of these:

- Thomas’ lack of faith (John 20:24-29).

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- The woman with an issue of blood, and Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:21-42).

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- David and Goliath. (1 Samuel 17)

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- Friends who let the cripple down through the roof to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12).

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- Blind Bartemaues (Mark 10:46-52).

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SUMMARY: Go, and live by Faith!