

## Read Hebrews 11:1-16

### 1) What is faith being sure/certain of? (11:1)

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

### 2) How does 11:1 relate to 10:35-39?

Heb 10:35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

Heb 10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Heb 10:37 For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."

Heb 10:38 And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

Heb 10:39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Hebrews 11:1 relates to 10:35-39 because only those who are sure of what they believe and persevere in it until the end will be saved.

### 3) What was it that the ancients were commended for? (11:2)

The ancients were commended for having confidence in what they hoped for and assurance about what they did not see. (They believed God)

### 4) What is it that by faith we understand? (11:3)

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

### 5) How did Abel offer a better sacrifice than Cain? (11:4)

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did.

### 6) How do you think Abel still speaks, even though he is dead? (11:4)

By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. **The testimony of Abel's life and faith still speaks to us even though he is dead.**

**7) What is the necessary ingredient for us to please God? (11:6)**

Faith is the necessary ingredient for us to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**8) How does 11:6 relate to 11:5?**

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.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith we cannot please God and Hebrews 11:5 gives us an example of how Enoch walked faithful to God and was taken into heaven without having to experience death.

**9) In order to please God, in what two areas must faith be expressed? (11:6)**

In order to please God faith must be expressed by believing that God exist and by earnestly seeking Him.

**10) What was the focus of Abraham's faith? What was the promise to which Isaac and Jacob were also heirs? (11:10)**

Abraham's was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Isaac and Jacob were heirs with Abraham of the same promise that Abraham was looking forward to.

**11) Why was Abraham enabled to become a father? (11:11)**

Abraham was enabled to become a father because of his faith.

**12) Why was God not ashamed to be called their God? (11:13-16)**

All these people were still living by faith when they died, even though they did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

**Read Hebrews 11:17-31**

**13) Why can it be said that Abraham offered up Isaac by faith? (11:17-19)**

In faith Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice even though he had waited years for God to give Isaac to him. He believed God when He said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

**14) What did Moses regard to be of greater worth than all the treasures of Egypt and why? (11:24-26)**

Moses regarded suffering disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

**15) How did Moses keep the Passover and how did the Israelites cross through the Red Sea? (11:27-29)**

By faith Moses kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

### Read Hebrews 11:32-40

#### **16) What was the principal characteristic of all the people listed in 11:32-38?**

Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. **The principle characteristic of all these people was faith.**

#### **17) How does 11:39 relate to 11:2?**

11:39 relates to 11:2 because all these people were commended for their faith, even though none of them received what had been promised.

Faith is believing until the end!

#### **18) How did God plan for these ancients to be made perfect? (11:40)**

God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

#### **19) How does 11:40 relate to 7:19 and 10:1,14?**

**Heb 11:40** since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**Heb 7:19** (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

**Heb 10:1** The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

**Heb 10:14** For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

**Hebrews 11:40, 7:19, 10:1, and 10:14 all tell us that the law and the sacrifices of the past were all to point us to redemption through Jesus Christ.**