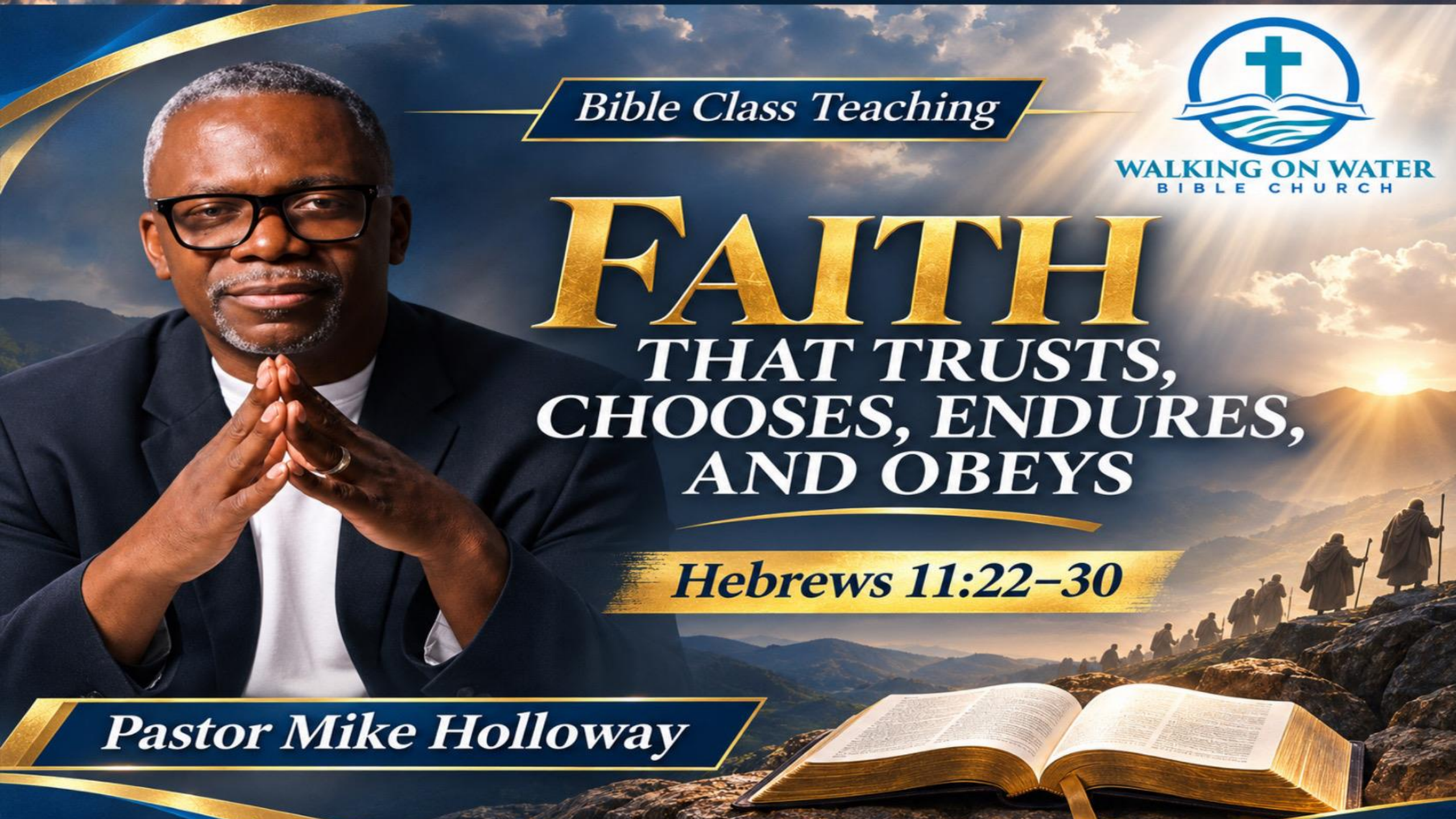

Bible Class Teaching
WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH
FAITH
THAT TRUSTS, CHOOSES, ENDURES, AND OBEYS
Hebrews 11:22–30
Pastor Mike Holloway

Hebrews 11:22-30

- 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.
- 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

Hebrews 11:22-30

- 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.
- 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
- 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Hebrews 11:22-30

- 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

INTRODUCTION: FAITH IS MORE THAN BELIEVING GOD EXISTS

- Hebrews 11 presents individuals who demonstrated their faith through their actions.
- Faith is not simply acknowledging that God exists.
- Faith involves confidence in God's character and promises.
- Faith often requires making difficult decisions without knowing the outcome.
- Faith enables believers to look beyond present circumstances to God's ultimate purposes.

JOSEPH — FAITH THAT LOOKS BEYOND DEATH

- **Hebrews 11:22 | Genesis 50:24–25**
- **A. Joseph believed God's promises concerning Israel.**
- Joseph spent much of his life in Egypt.
- Although Egypt provided security and prosperity, Joseph understood it was not Israel's permanent home.
- God had promised Abraham and his descendants a land of their own (Genesis 15:13–16).
- Joseph believed God would fulfill that promise even though he would not personally witness its fulfillment.

JOSEPH — FAITH THAT LOOKS BEYOND DEATH

- **Joseph demonstrated his faith through instructions concerning his bones.**
- His instructions were an expression of confidence in God's future deliverance.
- His faith extended beyond his own lifetime.
- **Fulfillment:**
- Exodus 13:19 — Moses carried Joseph's bones out of Egypt.
- Joshua 24:32 — Joseph's bones were buried in Shechem.

MOSES' PARENTS — FAITH THAT OVERCOMES FEAR

- **Hebrews 11:23 | Exodus 1:22; 2:1–10**
- **A. Their faith was demonstrated during a dangerous time.**
- Pharaoh commanded that Hebrew male infants be killed.
- Moses' parents faced a conflict between Pharaoh's command and their responsibility to protect their child.
- They chose to preserve Moses' life despite the danger.

They recognized something special about Moses

- Hebrews describes Moses as a beautiful child.
- The Greek word *asteios* communicates the idea of being beautiful, attractive, or pleasing.
- This does not necessarily mean his parents possessed special revelation concerning his future calling.
- What is clear is that they acted courageously and trusted God's providence.

They recognized something special about Moses

- They hid Moses for three months.
- They were unwilling to allow fear of Pharaoh to determine their response.
- Faith did not eliminate the threat, but it influenced how they responded to the threat.
- **Supporting Scripture:** Acts 5:29 — God's authority takes precedence over human authority when the two conflict.

BIBLICAL FAITH

- **Faith chooses obedience over intimidation.**
- Following God may sometimes involve personal risk.
- Faith does not mean danger is imaginary.
- Courageous faith chooses what is right despite genuine danger.
- **Teaching Principle:** Faith is not necessarily the absence of fear; it is the decision to obey God despite what we fear.

Moses rejected the privileges of Egypt.

- **Verse 24 — Moses refused to be identified as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.**
- Consider what Moses potentially surrendered:
- Royal privilege and recognition.
- Material wealth and prosperity.
- Political influence and social status.
- Personal security and comfort.

Moses chose suffering with God's people over temporary pleasure

- **Verse 25 — He chose affliction instead of the passing pleasures of sin.**
- Moses recognized that earthly pleasures are temporary.
- He preferred suffering in faithfulness to God over prosperity gained through compromise.
- The issue was not that wealth or comfort is automatically sinful.
- The issue was what Moses would have to compromise to preserve his privileged position.

Teaching Principle:

Faith understands that temporary pleasure is never worth abandoning faithfulness to God.

Moses valued the reproach of Christ above Egypt's treasures

- **What does "the reproach of Christ" mean?**
- God's work through Moses was part of His larger redemptive plan culminating in Jesus Christ.
- The Exodus anticipated the greater redemption accomplished through Christ.
- Moses suffered because of his identification with God's people and purposes.
- Hebrews connects that suffering with Christ, showing the unity of God's redemptive work across both Testaments.

Moses looked beyond immediate circumstances toward God's reward

- Moses assessed his choices from an eternal rather than merely earthly perspective.
- He recognized that God's reward was more valuable than Egypt's treasures.
- **Application:** Faith changes how we evaluate success, prosperity, sacrifice, and suffering.
- **Teaching Principle:** Faith measures the value of our choices by God's purposes rather than temporary worldly benefits.

MOSES — FAITH THAT ENDURES BY SEEING THE INVISIBLE

- **Hebrews 11:27 | Exodus 2:15**
- **A. Moses' faith enabled him to persevere despite Pharaoh's opposition.**
- Moses' identification with Israel brought him into conflict with Pharaoh.
- He was forced to leave Egypt.
- His departure did not mean he had abandoned God's people or purposes.

God provided specific instructions for the Passover

- **Hebrews 11:28 | Exodus 12:1–30**
- The Israelites were commanded to:
- Select a lamb according to God's instructions.
- Slaughter the lamb.
- Apply its blood to the doorposts and lintel.
- Follow God's directions concerning the Passover meal.
- The blood marked the households that would be spared from the judgment upon Egypt's firstborn.

The Passover pointed forward to Jesus Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 5:7 — Christ is identified as our Passover.**
- The Passover involved deliverance from judgment.
- The Exodus initiated Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
- Christ's sacrifice accomplishes the greater redemption from sin and condemnation.
- The Passover therefore has significance within God's unfolding redemptive plan.

Application: Faith takes God's warnings and promises seriously

- Faith does not dismiss divine warnings simply because judgment has not yet occurred.
- Faith receives the provision God has made for deliverance.
- Christians are called to place their confidence in Jesus Christ and His finished work.
- **Teaching Principle:** Biblical faith takes God at His Word and responds accordingly.

ISRAEL — FAITH THAT MOVES FORWARD WHEN THE WAY SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE

- **Hebrews 11:29 | Exodus 14:10–31**
- **A. Israel faced seemingly impossible circumstances.**
- The Red Sea was before them.
- Pharaoh's army was behind them.
- The people became fearful and complained against Moses.
- From a human standpoint, escape appeared impossible.

Moses encouraged Israel to trust God's deliverance - Exodus 14:13–14

- Moses urged the people not to fear, but to witness God's salvation.
- Moses remained confident in God's ability to deliver.
- The people ultimately followed God's instructions and crossed the sea.
- **Leadership Insight:** The strong faith of one leader can encourage others to act courageously even when they initially struggle with fear.

FAITH THAT OBEYS EVEN WHEN GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS SEEM UNUSUAL

- **Hebrews 11:30 | Joshua 6:1–21**
- **A. Jericho presented a major obstacle to Israel's conquest.**
- Jericho was a fortified city.
- It stood in the path of Israel's possession of the Promised Land.
- Israel's first major victory in Canaan would demonstrate God's power and faithfulness.

God's instructions required trusting Him rather than conventional military strategy

- God directed Israel to:
- March around the city once daily for six days.
- March around it seven times on the seventh day.
- Follow the instructions concerning the priests, trumpets, and shouting.
- These were not ordinary siege tactics.

Israel's obedience demonstrated confidence in God's promise

- The walls did not fall because marching and shouting possessed supernatural power.
- God was the one who brought the walls down.
- Israel demonstrated faith by responding to His revealed instructions.
- **Key Observation:** Faith is not the creation of our own strategy and expecting God to bless it. Faith responds to what God has actually commanded or promised.

The victory at Jericho opened the way for further conquest

- Jericho was the beginning of Israel's campaign in Canaan.
- God's faithfulness at Jericho confirmed His ability to accomplish what He had promised.
- The victory belonged to God, not merely to Israel's military strength.

Application

- **Faith obeys even when we do not fully understand God's methods.**
- God's instructions are not always consistent with human expectations.
- Faith does not require complete understanding before obedience.
- Obedience must be based upon God's revealed Word, not presumed personal revelation.
- Faith is demonstrated by obedience to God's Word, even when His instructions challenge our human reasoning.