

By Faith
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Hebrews 11:17-40 (ESV Strong's)

“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”
(Hebrews 11:38-39, ESV)

Introduction

As we saw in the first six verses of Hebrews 11, “...*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible...And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*” (ESV). So we know what faith is, but do we understand the more important matter of WHY faith is?

1. Faith for today and faith for tomorrow. (Hebrews 11:17-31)

- a) The faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses.
- b) The faith of Rahab the prostitute.

2. The faith of these “of whom the world was not worthy.” (Hebrews 11:32-38)

- a) The faith of those who apparently overcame.
- b) And the faith of those who were apparently overcome.

3. A shared commendation and reward for our faith. (Hebrews 11:39-40)

- a) Our commendation from God comes from our faith in Him not our relative success in the world.
- b) “God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”

Conclusion

We concluded last time with the thought that faith in God is not meant to merely benefit the individual believer, but to benefit others. We are recipients and witnesses of God’s power, love and faithfulness so that we might show and tell others, so that they, too, might personally benefit and bear witness to others of our great Creator, Savior and Helper. This is why the Great Commission is not a contradiction: God is love and He so loved the world that He gave His Son, and because He still loves the world He would give life to and through you and I!

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) What do we learn from God’s response to the faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses?
- 2) What do we learn from God’s response to the faith of Rahab the prostitute?
- 3) What do we learn from how God has chosen to perfect all who believe in Him at the same time?

112518cdg@hch