



The Book of Hebrews How To Please God Without faith...

it is impossible to please Him!

The phrase “by faith” appears eighteen times in vv. 3-31 and chronicles the ‘faith’ of the Old Testament saints. If faith in the Old Testament is powerful—how much more in the New Testament and **NOW**?

A. The Character of Faith Heb 11:1-3; 6

1. Substance of hope: [:1] Faith is something objective that in the here and now gives to the things hoped for ‘a substantial reality, which will unfold in God’s appointed time’. Faith ‘lays hold of what is promised and therefore hoped for, as something real and solid, though as yet unseen’.

2. Evidence of the unseen: [:2] Faith ‘proves’ or demonstrates the existence of things not yet seen. We do not embrace the heavenly world because we can see it—but because we believe (have faith) in what the Bible says about it.

3. A Witness to the world: [:2] God intends that ‘faith’ be a witness or testimony of His love, grace and power. As we live by ‘faith’ we give evidence of the existence of God and His love for mankind.

4. The basis of what I know: [:3] So how do we understand things we can’t see or can’t prove? We understand them by the ‘revealed’ word of God—His truth the Bible. We believe that God is the author of creation not because science proves or does not prove so—we believe it based on the truth of God’s word, His Rhema—the spoken Word of God.

5. What God is pleased with: [:6] God is ‘pleased’ when I believe (have faith) in Him and continue to ‘diligently’ seek Him in all matters of my life. God not only rewards those who ardently seek him—He Himself is the Reward.

B. Faith at the Dawn of History Heb 11:4-7

1. Abel: [:4 and Gen 4:3-5] The strong connection between divine approval (see verse 6) and faith means that the preacher can rightly speak of Abel’s faith even though the Old Testament text does not mention it explicitly.

(a) **Cain** is an example of one who thinks he can choose his own way to God. **Abel** is the example of one who chooses God’s way.

(b) **The blood sacrifice** did not make Abel righteous. Instead it was his faith, and the evidence of the his faith was that he offered the type of sacrifice God requires.

2. Enoch: [:5 and Gen 5:1-31] Enoch ‘pleased’ God and he “was not found.” God took him directly to heaven. Like the elders of verse :2, Enoch had a ‘testimony’ of faith and the fact that he ‘pleased God’ shows as, along with Abel and according to verse 6, he had great faith.

3. Noah: [:7 and Gen 6-10] With Noah we shift to the heart of faith...
...taking God at His word!

(a) **Response of obedience:** Noah’s response to the warning was one of obedience. He did not question God he simply went to work.

(b) **Response of godly fear:** This is better understood as ‘reverent awe.’ We serve an ‘awesome’ God.

(c) **Response that finished what was started:** In spite of persecution he finished what he started.

(d) **Response of evangelism:** 2 Peter 2:5 refers to Noah as a preacher of ‘righteousness.’ Besides living the Word of God he evidently told people why he was doing what he was doing!

(e) **Response of salvation:** He was responsible for saving his entire household.

Hebrews 11:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.